

• TRENDS •



Zimbabwe

Improving small-scale farm productivity through irrigation development



In November 9, 2015, JICA signed a Grant Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe to provide grant aid up to 1,791 billion yen for the Project for Irrigation Development for the Nyakomba Irrigation Scheme.

The annual rainfall of Zimbabwe is concentrated in the rainy season from November through April with 100 to 200 millimeters of monthly precipitation. This decreases significantly during the dry season from May through October to less than 50 millimeters per month, making irrigation play a crucial role in ensuring a stable supply of agricultural water.

Of the 4.3 million hectares of farmland, however, the irrigated farmland is only about 200,000 hectares, of which 35,000 hectares are cultivated by small-scale farmers who produce staple crops

Image of irrigation waterways

for the country. Given this background, irrigation development for the small-scale farmers has been a pressing issue in order to respond to the ever-increasing demand for food.

The Project for Irrigation Development for the Nyakomba Irrigation Scheme aims to improve the agricultural productivity of the small-scale farmers by securing a stable supply of irrigation water through improving and repairing irrigation facilities in the Nyakomba Irrigation Scheme in Manicaland Province, where the annual precipitation is a maximum of 600 millimeters.

In addition to this Project, JICA has dispatched experts in irrigation development and management since 2012 in ongoing work to provide technical support for irrigation development, maintenance and management, and for the general rural development implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development of Zimbabwe.



Malawi

Expanding Malawi's largest international airport



In November 4, 2015, JICA signed a Grant Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Malawi for up to a maximum of 3.675 billion yen for the Project for Expanding the Terminal Building at Kamuzu International Airport.

This project expands and improves the passenger terminals and aviation safety equipment at Kamuzu International Airport in a capital city of Lilongwe, the largest international airport in Malawi. The project aims to increase transportation of domestic and international passengers from Malawi. The points are: increasing the capacity of the airport so it can manage more passengers, improving the passengers' convenience while they are at the airport and on the plane, and assuring the security of the aircrafts' operation.

Kamuzu International Airport was built with

Signing ceremony

Japanese ODA loans in 1978 and 1980. From 2003 to 2013, airport passengers increased by approximately 100,000. During peak terminal hours, the additional aircraft landings and departures cause congestion at the airport's check-in and immigration counters in the passenger terminals. In addition, introducing a new aircraft monitoring system to ensure safe aircraft operation is necessary.

It is estimated that this project will increase airport passenger capacity from the current 215,000 to 306,000, which will greatly shorten the average waiting time during peak hours. In addition, introducing the aircraft monitoring system will improve airport safety and reliability. Such improvements will promote industry, and improve tourism and the investment environment. JICA will provide comprehensive support to improve the aviation infrastructure by complementing the project with a Technical Cooperation to develop human resources involved with navigational control.



Chile

Minimizing loss of lives through disaster prevention assistance



In October 13, 2015, designated as International Day for Disaster Reduction by the United Nations, the kick-off seminar for the Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program for Latin America and the Caribbean in Chile (KIZUNA Project) was held in Santiago. About 200 people from Japan, Chile and 10 other countries from the region attended.

The KIZUNA Project was officially announced at the 3rd U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, to establish Chile as a hub in the field of disaster risk reduction. The project aims to develop and create a network of researchers and administrative officers engaged in disaster risk reduction in the region. JICA will invite researchers and administrative officers from Latin America and the Caribbean to Chile.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet (2nd left) and Naoto Nikai, the Japanese Ambassador to Chile (2nd right).

2,000 personnel are expected to improve their competency in 5 years. JICA will also dispatch Japanese experts to introduce technology and experiences.

At the kick-off seminar, Masahiko Murata, research director of the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, conveyed the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and emphasized the importance of self and mutual help and community bonds in dealing with disasters, and more than ten Japanese and Chilean experts made a presentation.

Since 2012, JICA has been assisting Chile with development of accurate tsunami warning methods and programs to develop tsunami-resilient communities and residents, through the SATREPS project*. JICA will continue to provide disaster risk reduction assistance to create disaster-resilient communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

* SATREPS: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development Project.