

Our Long History of Cooperation in Asia

Japan has supported the economic and social development of Asia for more than half a century, responding to the needs of the ever-changing society. The stories in this section describe four major areas of cooperation in Asian countries, where JICA's proactive contribution has strengthened the foundations of society.



ACTIONS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Responding to Global Trends in Climate Change

In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted to set targets for greenhouse gas emission reduction for major emitting countries. Following this, in 2015, member countries signed the Paris Agreement, which requires all nations including developing countries to follow a common set of measures against climate change.

Over the years, JICA has carried out development assistance projects that help countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. In Asian countries, these projects have focused on developing renewable sources of energy, establishing public transportation systems, and preserving forests to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as on flood control and irrigation development to help vulnerable areas adapt to the effects of climate change. For instance, in India, the metro system of the greater Delhi area has adopted an energy-saving braking system that was developed and used in Japan for subway vehicles. The system is contributing to the improvement of the city's environment and, consequently, to the mitigation of climate change.

In recent years, the government of Japan has been promoting the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), a scheme in which Japan provides low-carbon technologies and other means of reducing greenhouse emissions to developing countries; in return, credits attained by the host countries for greenhouse gas emission reduction can be used by Japan to meet its emission reduction goal. JICA is currently working to develop the capacity of the Indonesian government to smoothly implement the JCM in Indonesia. As part of these efforts, in February, JICA held a seminar in Tokyo inviting Indonesia's senior ministry officials. The seminar complements other forms of assistance that JICA has extended to Indonesia, including technical cooperation and ODA loans.



In 2015, JICA carried out a project aimed at sustainable forest management in a reservoir area in the northwestern part of Viet Nam. Local residents participated in this forest preservation effort.



HEALTH

Helping Countries in Asia Achieve Sustainable Health Care

Ever since one of JICA's predecessors, the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA), started an international tuberculosis control training course in 1963, JICA has been actively involved in efforts to improve health care across Asia. In the 1970s and 80s, Japan provided grants as well as technical cooperation to implement numerous aid programs for developing countries, such as hospital construction and procurement of medical equipment.

In 1971, Japan supported the construction of a new building of Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. In the 1990s, Japan again provided funds and technical cooperation to renovate the aging facilities and improve hospital management and clinical work. With this long-term development cooperation in mind, JICA is currently conducting a feasibility study on the construction of a second Cho Ray Hospital through a ODA loan.

In the 1980s, JICA began pro-

viding technical cooperation for the control of infectious diseases, especially diarrhea and malaria; in the 1990s, it further increased its assistance aimed at fighting global infectious diseases including polio and AIDS as well as improving maternal and child health – topics of growing international concern at that time.

Many volunteers including nurses, midwives, and nutritionists have been sent to developing nations all across Asia through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program. They work side by side with local people, helping local communities cope with the challenges they face.

Recently, the need for regional medical care has been increasing and the importance of primary health care has become widely recognized. In response to these trends, JICA has diversified its health sector assistance and has enhanced its support for developing human resources.

Since 2000, JICA has been working to achieve the UN's MDGs and SDGs. Currently, it provides support to many countries in Asia, helping them achieve universal health coverage and popularize the use of mother and child health handbooks. JICA plans to expand its health-related programs even further.



A project aimed at professional development for nurses in Bangladesh.



TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Quality Transport Infrastructure Contributes to Widespread Development

Roads, railways, ports, and airports – all are important types of transport infrastructure that underpin national economies. From the preparation of master plans to actual operation and maintenance, JICA has been providing comprehensive infrastructure support for Asian countries, including human resource development. In Indonesia, a railroad project has been implemented in a four-city region known as JABOTABEK, with Jakarta at the center. JICA started supporting Indonesia's plans to enhance its existing facilities, such as railway stations and signals, in 1981. Since then, cooperation has taken varied forms, from training programs to improving the operation and management skills of railway officials, to elevating and double-tracking the railways.

Cross-border infrastructure that spans two or more countries has the important potential to spread development over wider areas. JICA believes that wide-area cooperation will promote socioeconomic stability and modernization in the ASEAN region, and therefore has been proactive in supporting this type of initiative. JICA has long seen ASEAN countries as one regional community and has been working to improve ports, harbors, power plants, and highways in the region in order to get the idea of the East-West Economic Corridor and the Southern Economic Corridor in

the Greater Mekong region off the drawing board and into reality.

It has become a prevailing opinion in the international development community that it is the quality, and not merely the quantity, of infrastructure that matters for sustainable development. In 2015, in response to the demand for high-quality infrastructure in Asia, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, an initiative aimed at promoting investment in quality infrastructure across the region. To implement this initiative, JICA is working to expand its range of support mechanisms and deliver them even faster by improving its project systems and boosting partnerships with ADB and the private sector.



National Route 9, a part of the Mekong East-West Economic Corridor, has been refurbished and improved through the support of JICA.



INDUSTRIAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting Human Resource Development as the Foundation of National Development

Japan has been supporting the promotion of industrial development, vocational training, and technical education under the principle that nation building starts with human resource development. Under this principle, Japanese specialists share Japan's expertise and knowledge with technical and administrative personnel in partner countries. This cooperation contributes to human resource development by transmitting appropriate knowledge, technology, and know-how and at the same time allowing participants to deepen mutual understanding through direct interaction. Over the past three decades, JICA has focused considerable resources on helping workers in developing countries acquire the skills that are necessary to build a robust workforce and a strong national economy.

The Center for Vocational and Extension Service Training (CEVEST) was built and outfitted with equipment by JICA. Currently training programs use equipment that was donated in the 1980s.



In the 1970s, JICA launched a full-scale development cooperation project to help partner countries create training programs and courses that would equip workers with the technical skills needed to work effectively in factories or at manufacturing sites. For example,

JICA established an operation and management program at the Metal Industry Technology Center in Malaysia and a sustainable development training course at the Center for Vocational and Extension Service Training (CEVEST) in Indonesia. In the 2000s, JICA continued to support the training and capacity development of highly skilled workers, preparing them to respond to the needs of relevant industries in their countries.

JICA provides support for the development of highly skilled human resources for business at "Japan Centers," human resource development centers that the agency has set up in nine Asian countries. These centers provide specialized business courses to improve the skills of business managers and production site managers. In addition, JICA supports the expansion of engineering and research programs at universities and graduate schools across Asia. For example, in 2003, it started project for the Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (SEED-Net), a consortium of 26 top engineering universities in ten ASEAN countries. The network was established to provide opportunities for exchange programs and joint academic research as well as to teach engineers research and other job-related skills.

In 2015, the Japanese government announced its Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative, which will provide industrial training to 40,000 people in Asia in the next three years. To fulfill this initiative, JICA will further expand its support to meet the needs of private companies.