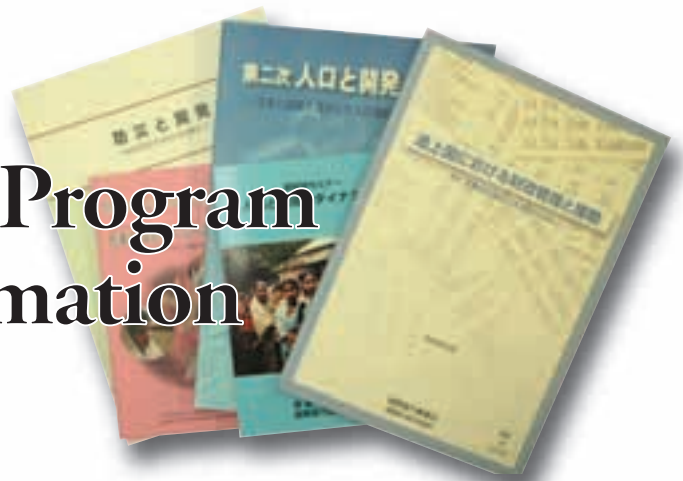


Chapter 4

1 Contribute to Program Guideline Formation

—Research—



Some of the research reports published in FY2002

Purposes of Research Activities

With the end of the Cold War and the progress of globalization, global issues* such as poverty reduction, peacebuilding, water-related problems, and HIV/AIDS prevention have been focused on. Over the last few years, there has been a need to provide ever more efficient and higher quality aid as a result of the tight financial situation in Japan, in addition to the increase in recipient countries and diversification of aid requirements. To achieve this, as an aid implementing agency, we have to accurately assess the needs of developing countries and respond flexibly to trends in the international community.

JICA's research activities play an important role in formulating guidelines for addressing these issues and for finding a way to respond to country-specific and region-specific needs.

These research activities are carried out by research committees that are built around external experts affiliated with universities and research institutes, with senior advisors* and staff members of JICA also participating. These activities contribute significantly to the formation of networks between JICA and these universities and institutes while also fulfilling their primary objective of assisting in the preparation of country, regional, and issue guidelines.

Results for FY2002

In fiscal 2002, a total of 25 research activities were carried out as follows.

- 1) Research on assistance strategies aimed at priority countries/regions and sector/issues (see Figure 3-16 for the flow of country studies): nine activities
- 2) Research on aid methods relating to aid skills and methods: eight activities
- 3) Research on important specific issues in the provision of

Table 3-15 List of Research Conducted in FY 2002

| Assistance Strategy Research | |
|---|---|
| | Nepal (country study for Japan's ODA) |
| | Africa (regional study for Japan's ODA) |
| | Bolivia (country study for Japan's ODA) |
| | Water Sector (sectoral aid research) |
| | Population and Development (sectoral aid research) |
| | Cooperation with NGOs (sectoral aid research) |
| | Thailand (country study for Japan's ODA) |
| | Pakistan (country study for Japan's ODA) |
| | Central and Eastern Europe (regional study for Japan's ODA) |
| Research on Aid Methods | |
| | Regional activities applicable to developing countries |
| | Financial management in developing countries and aid |
| | Sectoral evaluation method in mining and manufacturing industries sector |
| | Governance support in JICA's programs |
| | International cooperation in Shikoku |
| | Aid approaches: strategy trends and its characteristics |
| | Basic study on effective approaches to development issues (higher education, etc.) |
| | Japan's policies and approaches in education and health care sectors |
| Research on specific Issues | |
| | Volunteer activities in the 21st century |
| | Examination of aid framework for effective support of post-conflict reconstruction and development |
| | Disaster prevention and development |
| | Gender* and WID (phase 2) |
| | Evaluation of Japan's emigration policies and technical cooperation through ethnic Japanese in Latin American |
| | Case study of PRSP in Asia |
| | Sector-wide approach and its problems |
| | Basic study on aid for social safety net |
| International Conference on Technology Transfer | |
| | WSSD Type II: Preparatory meeting in health sector |
| | ASEAN infectious diseases information and human networking (tuberculosis) symposium |
| | Meetings related to the Water Forum |
| | OECD/ITC Forum in Paris |
| Guest Researchers | |
| | 15 guest researchers |

■ Research Category ■ Area of Research

aid: eight activities

In addition, research on 15 topics was commissioned externally under the guest researcher system, which aims to commission specialists to perform research in specific areas and to build a network with universities and research institutions.

We also held four international conferences on technology

transfer* to which we invited personnel from developing and developed countries and international organizations whose work is related technical cooperation. These conferences gave the participants the opportunity to take part in exchanges of information and opinions on themes such as infectious diseases and water, where coordination between a number of donor* countries and agencies is necessary.

Front Line

● Institute for International Cooperation Committee on Regional Aid for Central and Eastern Europe

From Support for Transition to a Market Economy to Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development

Research

Progress in transition to a market economy

After World War II, the socialist governments of Central and Eastern Europe maintained central economic planning systems for a long time and, as a result, inefficiency stagnated the economies. Starting in 1980, reforms gradually took place in many countries and a market economy system was fully introduced after the collapse of the socialist system in 1989.

Many countries that introduced market economy systems recorded negative economic growth up to 1993, because of confusion that accompanied the drastic economic system transition. However, the economies in many countries recovered due to the subsequent stabilization of macroeconomies and effective structural reforms. Ten countries, including Poland and the Czech Republic, where the liberalization of economic activities has been steady, will join the European Union (EU) in May 2004. Meanwhile, Romania and Bulgaria met only about half of the 31 standards (Acquis Communautaire) required to join EU as of December 2002. Development levels vary from county to county.

Conflicts and refugees

In the former Yugoslavian countries, ethnic confrontations became serious after 1989 and led to outbreaks of ethnic

conflicts. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) enforced air strikes and economic sanctions, and as a result, the economic activities in the countries were seriously damaged. Many tasks remain to be carried out in a variety of sectors, such as aid for refugees, building economic and social infrastructure for reconstruction, and basic living conditions.

In 1989 at the Summit in Arche, Japan expressed its desire to provide aid for Central and Eastern Europe for the purpose of supporting their efforts to achieve a market economy and began full-fledged aid. The number of recipient countries gradually increased and currently 18 countries in the region, including the former Yugoslavian countries, are subject to aid. In addition to aid for achieving a market economy, reconstruction of economic infrastructure, environmental conservation, humanitarian aid and aid for basic human needs (BHN)* are also provided for countries in the post-conflict reconstruction stage.

Support for transition to a market economy to post-conflict reconstruction and development

After reviewing and summarizing the political, economic, and social conditions of various countries at various developmental stages, and categorizing those



Reports of Committees on Regional Aid for Central and Eastern Europe

countries in groups, the Committee on Regional Aid to Central and Eastern Europe examined the way Japan and JICA should extend mid-term regional support. The Committee suggests that the current aid paradigm with focus on aid for transition to a market economy be reviewed by setting the advisability of joining EU as a divergent point in principle, and that the priority should shift to aid for the prevention of conflict recurrence and post-conflict reconstruction and development in the future.

At the same time, the committee mentions the need for consideration to countries which are not able to join the first group of the expanded EU (Bulgaria and Romania), the possibility of continued aid on a limited scale to countries with low needs for aid to consolidate the previously provided aid, and the potentials for methods of utilizing financing other than ODA.

(Institute for International Cooperation, JICA)

The results of research in fiscal 2002 is listed in Table 3-15.

Currently we are strengthening the system for implementing research, with the aim of disseminating results that are useful for programs in a more timely manner. As a result, research that better meets needs is being carried out more efficiently. This includes the completion of high quality reports within a short time of the establishment of a research com-

mittee. In addition, we are making new attempts to obtain comments about report drafts from various people and to present outcome through web-based media, such as the JICA homepage and mail magazines.

The results of these studies are utilized in such activities as formulation of guidelines for JICA programs, improvement of cooperation methods, and preparation of teaching materials used in the training of experts.

Figure 3-16 Flow of Country Studies for Japan's ODA

