

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

● Globally Unique Knowledge Co-Creation Program

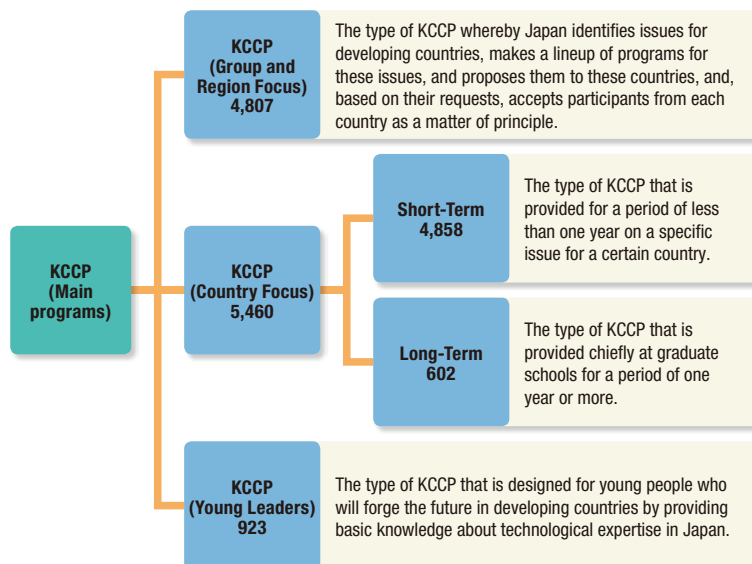
Implementation methods of JICA's technical cooperation can be divided into two approaches. One is overseas cooperation by dispatching experts and volunteers in various development sectors to developing countries; the other is domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. The latter method is the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, formerly called a Training Program, and it is one of the core programs carried out in Japan. By inviting officials from developing countries and with cooperation from domestic partners, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program provides technical knowledge and practical solutions for development issues in participating countries.

JICA hosts approximately 10,000 participants every year in cooperation with its nine international centers and three branch offices across Japan. The majority of the participants are affiliated with the partner governments and are decision makers, technical advisors and practitioners, concerned strategic personnel, and so forth. Moreover, there has been an increase in NGO-affiliated participants and academic participants, reflecting the diversified needs of developing countries and capacity expansion of Japan's cooperation programs. The Knowledge Co-Creation Program is undertaken in cooperation with universities, research institutes, private-sector enterprises, public-interest organizations, NGOs, and other organizations as well as central and local governments.

Implementation of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program has significance with regard to the utilization of Japan's development experience and know-how by adapting them to each partner country, rather than only sharing Japan's advanced technologies and skills. To learn and understand Japan's knowledge, skills, and experience, it is often required that on-site experience concerning Japan's institutional know-how is put into practice, as well as the background and the transitions underlying Japan's social system.

One of the specific characteristics of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program is to provide an opportunity for participants to become aware of and reexamine the issues and challenges of their own countries from outside by experiencing Japan. Hence, participants get to be able to tackle various development issues in their home countries with a different perspective. Among the courses of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, the Group and Region Focus courses, in which participants are from several different countries, provide opportunities to participants to examine a variety of issues not only from the perspectives of Japan and their own countries but also from multifaceted

Number of Participants in KCCP in Fiscal 2016



Participants work on Japanese fishing lifestyles and challenges at Himi Fishery Network Gallery Totoza in Himi City, Toyama Prefecture, in the Fishery Using Resource Management Approach Course under KCCP (Young Leaders) for French-speaking countries in Africa. (Photo by Chubu Branch Office, Japan Overseas Cooperative Association)

viewpoints among all participating countries by exchanging opinions and information. Group and Region Focus courses thus offer valuable insights and discoveries to each participant.

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program, a globally unique program in terms of its scale and diversity, is an essential tool of JICA's technical cooperation utilizing Japan's own knowledge, skills, and development experiences to promote human resource development and to solve development issues in partner countries.

● Multifaceted Benefits of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program

The goal of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program is to contribute to solving development issues in partner countries; meanwhile, the program also has achieved many other benefits.

To date, over 340,000 people have participated in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, and the participants have met numerous Japanese people during their stays in Japan and



Participants learn how to build good partnerships with community members on the farm of the NPO Saihara engaged in community revitalization in Uenohara City, Yamanashi Prefecture, in the course on Community Based Development with Local Residents as Main Actors under KCCP (Group and Region Focus).

returned home with a deeper understanding and familiarity of Japan by learning about it. Meanwhile, on-site activities designed in the program also benefit Japanese society. For instance, private sector and public organizations can obtain direct information about developing countries and build relationships that may lead to expansion of their overseas operations and capacity. In addition, university students and researchers can acquire a greater global perspective by interacting with the participants. As a result, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program creates additional benefits of invigorating various regions of Japan and fostering its people with global attitudes and knowledge.

Again, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program contributes to solving issues in developing countries. In addition, promotion of understanding of Japan, revitalization of Japan's regional communities, and fostering global human resources are other important benefits of the program. Consequently, JICA implements the Knowledge Co-Creation Program by being aware of these



Participants experience blind soccer at JICA Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture to learn about the mutual benefits of persons with and without disabilities playing sports together in the course on Promotion of Inclusive Education / Special Needs Education under KCCP (Group and Region Focus). (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)

significant benefits.

● Implementation of the Strategic Knowledge Co-Creation Program

For implementation of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, JICA has strived to establish the program to emphasize the multifaceted aspects of its outcomes. Meanwhile, to strengthen the quality of the program with better effectiveness and efficiency, JICA ascertains the trends in other cooperation modalities and also examines all development issues, such as education, agriculture, etc.

In 2015, JICA reviewed the significance of its Knowledge Co-Creation Program and redefined it as three main functions: (1) a fundamental role in realizing effective international cooperation; (2) an opportunity to encourage participants, who will forge the future in developing countries, to understand Japan; and (3) a contributor to globalizing Japan's regional communities. Along with the current remarkable growth of developing countries, JICA understands them as important partners and will improve and enhance the Knowledge Co-Creation Program based on the concept of "co-creation," which produces new values through interactive learning among the participating countries and Japan. JICA will further strengthen the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, which can tackle newly emerging issues, crosscutting issues and Japan's policy challenges.

In addition to the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, JICA is working on organization-wide efforts to provide a more flexible and strategic approach mainly for senior officials and policy makers. This approach aims to deepen the participants' understanding of Japanese technologies, development experiences, and principles through conversations and discussions with Japanese high officials and concerned agencies.