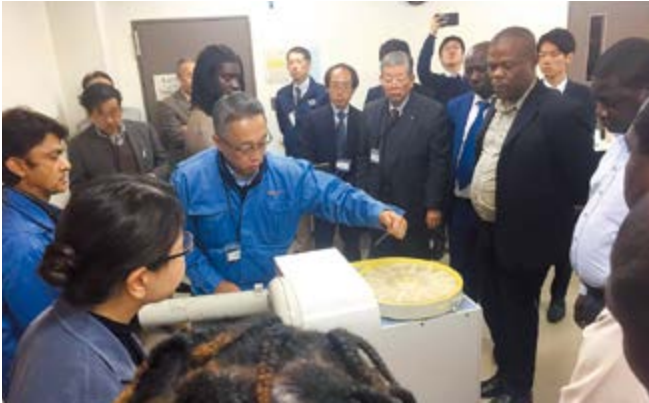


HIGHLIGHTS 2019

In Japan we entered a new era called “Reiwa.” In this milestone year, JICA renewed its commitment to continuing to take on new challenges and launched new strategies and initiatives, among other activities. The following are the main topics concerning JICA amid the year’s activities.

April 2019 — The JICA Platform for Food and Agriculture (JiPFA) launched



Officials at a Japanese agricultural machine supplier introduce its proprietary products to African training participants studying in Japan, followed by an animated exchange of views.

Providing a Platform to Share Experience and Promote Joint Activities among the Private Sector, Government, and Academia

JiPFA was established to provide an opportunity for stakeholders from the private sector, government, and academia to share information and experience on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as well as food and nutrition in developing countries—and bring about various joint activities toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During fiscal 2019, JiPFA organized 19 forums, which were attended by 1,340 participants, including private companies and experts in various areas. It is attracting attention as a new attempt to address agricultural and food challenges in developing countries through promoting collaboration among various stakeholders.

August 2019 — The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama, Japan

“Advancing Africa’s Development through People, Technology and Innovation” as the Overarching Theme

TICAD7 brought together delegations from 53 African countries, including 42 African leaders, to Yokohama, Japan. Co-chaired by then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, TICAD7 adopted the Yokohama Declaration as the main outcome document. The Japanese government announced a list of public-private actions for the next three years to support African development, titled “TICAD7: Japan’s Contributions for Africa.” Based on this list as well as the Yokohama Declaration, JICA will forge ahead with its cooperation for the development of the continent [→ see “Africa” on page 32].



TICAD7 was the first TICAD held in Japan in six years. (Photo: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

October 2019 — Former JICA President Sadako Ogata passes away



Mrs. Ogata, on her visit to a refugee camp school in Aleppo, Syria, in March 2008

The Humanitarian and Development Aid Giant Beloved by the World

Mrs. Sadako Ogata, former president of JICA, passed away on October 22, 2019. Mrs. Ogata led JICA for eight and a half years, from 2003. She exercised extraordinary leadership in many aspects. They included the instillation of the spirit of *gemba* (value working on the ground) within the organization; the practice of human security, a pillar of Japan’s diplomacy; the merger with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Operations of the former Japan Bank for International Cooperation; and the establishment of the JICA Research Institute (renamed “The JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development” in April 2020). By maintaining and building on the legacy of Mrs. Ogata, JICA will strive to achieve human security to respond to the threats and challenges of today.

Major Topics of Fiscal 2019

April	★ The JICA Platform for Food and Agriculture (JiPFA) launched
May	Basic partnership pact with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-Zenchu) for training farmers in Japan and developing countries
June	Kosovo: 20 years after the Kosovo Conflict, JICA's aid for the media in support of ethnic harmony pays off
June	Mongolia: The country's first university hospital completed with Japanese Grant (opened in October)
June	Renewal of memorandum of cooperation with the French Development Agency to promote collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region and Africa
July	JICA signs an MOU with Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance to enhance support for companies expanding business overseas
July	Seven Southeast Africa and Indian Ocean countries launch the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Platform
July-September	Democratic Republic of the Congo: JICA sends the JDR Infectious Diseases Response Team and relief supplies in response to the Ebola outbreak
August	JICA becomes the first Japanese signatory to the Operating Principles for Impact Management formulated by the International Finance Corporation
August	★ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama
September	Indonesia: JICA launches its first Transaction Advisory Services project in support of a government agency's PPP procurement
October	The JICA-Kosen Innovation Platform established to tap into flexible ideas and technologies
October	JICA signs a cooperation agreement with Kumamoto Prefecture for human resources development for regional revitalization and multicultural coexistence
October	★ Former JICA President Sadako Ogata passes away
December	Peru: JICA extends first subordinated loans to a credit union founded by Peruvians of Japanese descent; the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration ushers in a new partnership
December	JICA signs a comprehensive cooperation agreement with Nagasaki University to reinforce cooperation in tropical medicine and infectious disease control
2020	
January	★ 25th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
January	JICA delivers a training course in Japan aimed at building the policy formulation capacity for enhancing cybersecurity, the first project under the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement
February	★ JICA agrees with the Thai government on marine plastic pollution research
March	Emergency response to the spread of COVID-19

★ indicates a topic described at left.

January 2020 — 25 years on: The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

Passing on Lessons Learned from the Quake for the Future and the World



Program participants observing an erosion and sediment control structure (*sabo*) in the Mt. Rokko area of Hyogo Prefecture as part of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction

January 17, 2020, marked the 25th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. In 2007, JICA and Hyogo Prefecture jointly established the Disaster Reduction Learning Center (DRLC) within JICA Hyogo (now JICA Kansai Center) as a hub for effectively developing human resources engaged in BOSAI or disaster risk reduction (DRR) in developing countries. To date, DRLC has accepted more than 3,000 program participants from 121 countries, providing them with Japan's BOSAI knowledge, including the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, as well as the experience gained in coping with the disaster. JICA will continue to share Japan's DRR experiences with the world with a view to achieving the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

February 2020 — JICA agrees with the Thai government on marine plastic pollution research

Assessing and Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution



Marine plastic waste washed ashore in Thailand

Marine plastic pollution has recently been in the spotlight as a serious global environmental issue that requires urgent countermeasures. As its first attempt to resolve this problem squarely, JICA agreed with a Thai government agency to conduct a science and technology cooperation project aimed at assessing the state of marine plastic pollution in Thailand. Under the project, research institutions in the two countries will tackle addressing this problem through joint research designed to assess the pollution and build a framework of monitoring in the Southeast Asian seas.