



A Message from JICA President On 70 Years of Japan's ODA

Japan's Unwavering Commitment to Development and Future

October 6, 2024 marking 70 years since Japan's commencement of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 1954. Over these seven decades, as a major global partner, Japan has extended its cooperation programs to 190 countries and regions, contributing to their economic and social development as well as peace and prosperity in the global community.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA, is responsible for administering Japan's ODA, offering a wide variety of cooperation programs, including finance and investment cooperation, technical cooperation, and other services including emergency aid and the dispatch of volunteers.

In synergy with the domestic initiatives of recipient countries, JICA's cooperation programs, such as those for infrastructure development and human resources development, have laid a solid foundation for their development.

It has been the fundamental principle of JICA to respect ownership and self-help efforts of the partner country and to put strong emphasis on unwavering commitments with a long-term vision.

JICA highly values people-to-people interactions, bringing strengths together through dialogue, rather than the unilateral transfer of technology and knowledge. This approach enabled us to offer solutions tailored to local contexts and foster human resources necessary for the sustainable growth of a country. It has also deepened mutual understanding and trust, and thereby strengthened bilateral relations between JICA's partner countries and Japan.

JICA's vision is "Leading the World with Trust". Our development cooperation has been focusing on human security, equal partnerships, and self-ownership by developing countries. We are committed to continued cooperation with developing countries and like-minded development partners. In a world of disruptions, it is important to maintain the values we consider essential, and that we respond to new challenges in a new way together, building on the trust that Japan has built over the years.

President,
TANAKA Akihiko

In a significant move to elevate the quality of medical services in Iran, JICA organized two key trainings for the medical experts in Iran in August 2024, focusing on non-communicable diseases (NCD) and cancer control and management. These trainings, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MHME) of Iran, within the framework of JICA technical cooperation project entitled "Project for improving medical services in the Islamic Republic of Iran through Japan's medical management models."

The training on "NCD Control and Management" introduced the Iranian experts to Japan's comprehensive

Empowering Health Sector:

JICA and Ministry of Health Unite for Seminars on NCD and Cancer Control



approach, including public health campaigns, early detection programs, lifestyle interventions aimed at reducing the incidence of diseases, and Japan's e-health solutions that leverage technology to enhance healthcare delivery.

The training on "Cancer Control and Management"

showcased Japan's advancements in cancer management including diagnostic procedures, personalized treatment plans including precision medicine, integrated care modes and insurance policies. Emphasis was placed on the importance of early detection and the role of precision medicine in tailoring treatments to individual patient profiles, thereby improving outcomes.

Both training programs were designed and lectured by Dr. ISONO Mitsuo, a senior advisor of the health sector at JICA, and underscored the vital role of international collaboration in tackling global health challenges. JICA's commitment to sharing knowledge and best practices with Iran exemplifies the power of such partnerships in driving healthcare improvements. By fostering a collaborative environment, JICA and MHME aim to build a healthier future for the people of Iran and beyond.

Together, we can address the pressing health issues of our time and pave the way for a healthier, more resilient society.

JICA's Unique Cooperation Scheme "Technical Cooperation Training Program"



JICA extends various forms of development assistance schemes to meet the diverse needs of the developing countries around the world. JICA's Training Program is one of the most unique and important activities of JICA.

The purpose of JICA's training is to support government officials and experts in leading their countries for future development through transferring the knowledge and experience of Japan in various fields.

In this regard, JICA has fully equipped domestic centers in different cities to accept training participants from all over the world. In 1957, Japan began accepting training participants from Iran, and by the end of 2023 JFY, the



number of Iranian participants accepted under JICA programs had exceeded 3,856 people. The training programs address various topics from different fields such as disaster risk reduction, waste management, water management and energy.

It is very gratifying to see that many of the participants of JICA training programs are utilizing what they learned in Japan after returning to Iran to carry out various activities that contribute to development of the country!

A glimpse into one of our initiatives for natural environment conservation

THE PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN OF QESHM ISLAND TOWARD “ECO-ISLAND” IN IRAN

This JICA technical cooperation project aimed at promoting sustainable development of Qeshm Island toward an eco-island concept by making the best use of the island's potential and comparative advantages, namely its natural resources and geographic location through formulating the new master plan.

Various objectives were central to the master plan, including improvement of the livelihood of local communities, conservation and management of natural resources, and promotion of the development in an environment-friendly manner.

One of the notable aspects of the project was its participatory approach, which involved active engagement of local communities in the planning and implementation of the project activities. This approach helped to ensure



that the project's goals were aligned with the needs and aspirations of the local people.



Interview with Mr. Ali Pouzan

Ex-JICA Training Participant in the Qeshm Project and Head of Gouran Cooperative

The JICA cooperation project promoted community development through a participatory approach, implementing pilot projects in various regions on the Qeshm island. A notable example is the “Lenj Open Air Museum Project” in Gouran village, managed by Mr. Pouzan, the head of the Gouran Cooperative.

In 2011, traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats in the Persian Gulf has been inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Alongside the benefits of the Qeshm project, Gouran Cooperative has been dedicated to preserving this tradition for future generations and promoting it as a tourist attraction. In 2024, the Gouran Museum was recognized and honored as the best museum on International Museum Day due to its outstanding achievements.

What did your cooperative do for ‘Lenj Museum’ during the project?

During the project, we created experiential tours, such as the Lenj-building workshop tour, in which tourists get familiar with all stages of Lenj building to recognize the value and importance of this valuable heritage. We also

revived the construction and use of wooden vessels for tourist visits. Additionally, we began the restoration of wooden vessels known as 'Tartari,' which have been very popular in our tours.

For what purpose did you carry out those actions?

Our main objective was to safeguard the heritage of Lenj-building and bolster the livelihoods of Lenj craftsmen and villagers by fostering a market for their products. To this end, we undertook the revitalization of lenj-building workshops on the brink of closure.

In the past, Lenjs were used exclusively for commercial fishing, but we sought to repurpose them for tourism. Therefore, by emphasizing the economic aspect, we also aimed to raise the awareness of the local communities to preserve their cultural heritage and assets.

The development of sustainable ecotourism was another key focus. This involved educating both locals to be receptive to tourism and tourists to be mindful of the region's resources.

In essence, we sought to maximize returns with minimal

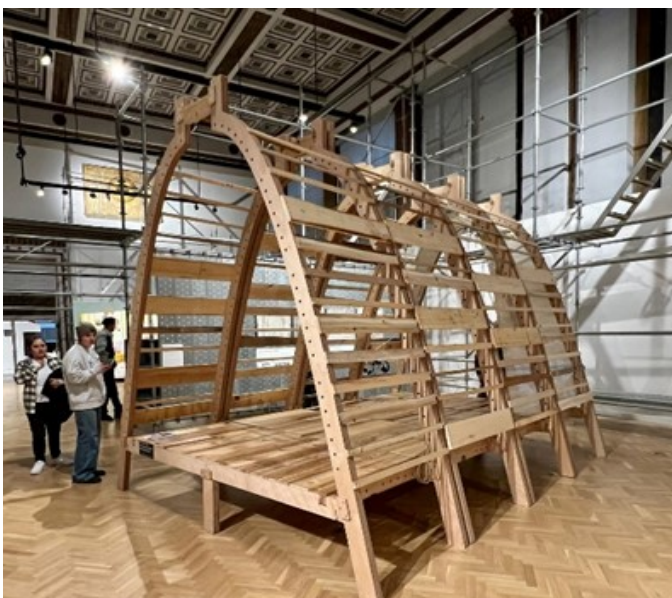
environmental disturbance. Furthermore, we endeavored to disseminate these initiatives beyond Gouran village to other communities. Ultimately, our vision was to establish a large maritime museum in Gouran to celebrate this 6,000-year-old heritage and to pioneer future trends in the tourism industry.

How did the JICA's "Participatory Approach" initially benefit your community?



JICA's participatory approach to the Qeshm project offered us a unique opportunity to learn about tourism, environmental protection, and more, fostering responsible behavior. It encouraged us to consider the long-term implications of our actions. Through our partnership with JICA, we developed our skills in planning and management, with a patient manner. Most significantly, we learned to recognize and utilize our own resources. The project's brainstorming sessions and JICA's technical insights provided us with a hands-on learning experience, allowing us to draw on the expertise of Japan. As a result, the Gouran Museum project continues to be one of the most successful pilot projects in Qeshm.

After the project's official completion, how will you extend the skills or knowledge gained from the Qeshm project?



Leveraging the teamwork skills we learned from JICA, we were able to attract individuals passionate about this field. By harnessing their expertise and knowledge, we developed a plan as the "Sandbad Boom Project", aimed at revitalization of the traditional wooden sailing boats. We are currently in the process of securing funding to start this project.

Another project, "Sarzurzuma," also launched in 2018, focuses on environmental conservation, architecture, and tourism, with a specific focus on protecting Hara mangrove forests. In this project, inspired by Lenj and using recycled wooden materials, a pavilion was designed and constructed by renowned architect Ms. Esmaeili in collaboration with Gouran Lenj-building masters.



Thanks to this project, we were granted membership in Iran International Council of Museums (ICOM). In 2019 and 2022, we were awarded the Creativity and Innovation Award among private museums in the country, and in 2024, we received three more significant awards for the Gouran Museum. Other ongoing activities include the design of the Gouran Museum building and the construction of a recreational wooden Lenj. Additionally, some graduates of our successful training courses are now tour guides and have established eco-lodges and Lenj-cafes on Qeshm Island, welcoming tourists.