



Children in the constructed  
21.Marta Elementary School  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina, GA)



Grant Agreement signing ceremony for  
donation of medical equipment  
(Albania, GA)



Donated medical equipment in Clinical  
Center Serbia (Serbia, GA)

## Western Balkans

- Republic of Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Republic of Kosovo\*
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Republic of Serbia

\*The Government of Japan recognized Kosovo as an independent country on March 18.2008

### **Aiming for Consolidation of Peace, Private Sector Development and Tackling Environmental Problems in the Western Balkan Region**

Formally established in October 2006 in Belgrade, the JICA Balkan office now covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

It is important to note, however, that JICA had already started to support this region since 1970s for human resources development. After the collapse of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the middle of 1990s, JICA mainly focused on emergency humanitarian assistance, while taking into consideration Japanese Diplomatic Policies. Once this initial emergency stage was completed, JICA then gradually shifted their support towards projects that involved the development of the region.

In April 2004, the Government of Japan organized the Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans. This conference would be the starting point that would bring key support to the region. Taking into account the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, JICA began its assistance by promoting ethnic reconciliation, supporting the social-political capitals, nurturing economic growth and encouraging environmental conservation, all towards the objective of attaining human security and sustainable economic development.

JICA's steadfast aim is to act as a bridge between the people of Japan and its partner countries by sharing a common pool of knowledge and experience.

In its unyielding pursuit towards the consolidation of peace and contributing to economic development, JICA intends to keep its commitment by providing active assistance to the region.

### A Message from Resident Representative

More than three years have passed since our office was shifted from Vienna to Belgrade. We have also opened our branch offices in Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana and Prishtina, in order to strengthen our field operation and closely work together with partner countries.

With these arrangements now in place, we can take regional and comprehensive approaches to properly address the evolving needs of the Western Balkan region, which has experienced remarkable changes over the past decade. I myself have visited this region several times in the late 1990s for reconstruction assistance. After 10 years of absence, I was assigned to Belgrade, and was extremely impressed to witness the development that had occurred throughout the region.

Having said that, this region still has a wide range of various issues that must be addressed, i.e., political and economic problems, displaced people, ethnic minorities, environmental degradation, etc.

The stability and development of the Western Balkans has a big impact on the international community as a whole. Therefore, I believe that Japan, with its neutrality and vast experience for development assistance in many countries, can play a very important role in tackling these various issues and can further contribute to the stability and development of this region.

**Satoru Kurosawa**  
**Resident Representative**  
**JICA Balkan Office**  
黒澤 啓

The Government of Japan recognized Kosovo as an independent country on March 18, 2008



Donated bus running in the city of Belgrade  
(Serbia, GA)



Daily maintenance of donated buses in Sarajevo  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina, GA)

### Japan International Cooperation Agency Balkan Office

Poslovni Centar Ušće 17.sprat, Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 6, 11070 Beograd, Serbia  
Tel: +381-11-2200-750, Fax: +381-11-2200-761, Email: [bk\\_oso\\_rep@jica.go.jp](mailto:bk_oso_rep@jica.go.jp)  
<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/>

