

# TOHOKU PROFILE

Japan International Cooperation Agency Tohoku Center

# FOREWORD

We are at a turning point in history. The international order based on the rule of law, which has fostered stability and prosperity around the world since the end of the Cold War, is buffeted by severe stresses due to increasingly unbridled global geopolitical competition. Moreover, the severity of climate change continues to escalate, and compounded crises—including the global spread of infectious diseases, sharp rises in food and energy prices, and debt crises—also impose a heavy toll. In addition to threatening all humankind, these complex challenges disproportionately impact vulnerable people in developing countries and therefore jeopardize achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the target date of 2030.

The fact that the world is in the midst of compounded crises means that the welfare of people in Japan is also threatened. However, they cannot be resolved by Japan or any other country acting alone; rather, the whole world needs to cooperate in overcoming them. As chair of the G7 in 2023, Japan is well positioned to vigorously drive forward required collective action in this regard.

To be sure, the role of JICA, which is in charge of administering Japan's development cooperation, is more important than ever in an era when the international community must cooperate to safeguard our shared well-being.

Recognizing this, we sought in fiscal 2022 to swiftly restore JICA activities to pre-pandemic levels. I myself visited 13 countries and met leaders of governments and international organizations to affirm that we will collaborate as reliable partners in pursuit of the SDGs.

For fiscal 2023, we will augment our efforts to bring the world a step closer to achieving the SDGs by 2030. Pursuant to Japan's new Development Cooperation Charter, we will collaborate based on the mission of human security that underpins JICA projects so all people can live with dignity, free from fear and want. At the same time, we will support quality growth aimed at realizing sustainable economic growth that reduces disparities without harming the natural environment.

Specifically, JICA will strive to maintain international order based on universal values like the rule of law, freedom, democracy, and respect for fundamental human rights. As part of these efforts, we will proactively provide support to Ukraine as well as nearby countries and focus on extending development cooperation that advances the Japanese government's foreign policy of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

Furthermore, we will support vulnerable countries and those susceptible to the impacts of compounded crises while redoubling our efforts to address global issues; namely, climate change, health and medicine, and disaster risk reduction. We firmly believe that Japan, as a disaster-prone country, can offer useful knowledge in support of reconstruction and recovery in Turkey and other places affected by natural disasters.

To resolve such weighty issues, we will strategically promote projects according to the JICA Global Agenda (cooperation strategy for global issues), launched in 2021, and uphold peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community.

On the domestic front, as Japan's birth rate falls and its society ages, acceptance of foreign nationals is necessary to maintain the country's vitality. Utilizing the developing-country networks and talent that JICA has cultivated through our cooperation, we will help to create an inclusive society and make Japan a country in which people from abroad choose to work and live.

JICA also needs to reform itself to be able to most effectively support developing countries in achieving the SDGs. In line with this aim, we will reexamine our organizational management practices and implement sustainability management by swiftly making improvements where needed and undertaking various initiatives.

To this end, in April 2023, we established an Office for Sustainability Management and are enhancing related internal systems.

JICA's guiding vision is "leading the world with trust." Through collaboration and the co-creation of knowledge and value alongside an expanding array of partners, we will not only restore and strengthen the connections between people and between countries that weakened during the pandemic, but also endeavor to create new bonds in the name of building trust with developing countries and contributing to a better world.

December 2023 TANAKA Akihiko President Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



# JICA, Playing a Core Role in Japan's ODA

Various organizations and groups, including governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private companies, carry out economic cooperation to support socioeconomic development in developing countries. The financial and technical assistance that governments provide to developing countries as part of this economic cooperation is called Official Development Assistance (ODA).

ODA is broadly classified into two types: bilateral aid and multilateral aid. Multilateral aid consists of financing and financial contributions to international organizations.

JICA, in charge of administering Japan's ODA, is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies. It supports developing countries in addressing their development challenges through flexible combination of various cooperation modalities, such as Technical Cooperation, Finance and Investment Cooperation, and Grants.\*<sup>1</sup> JICA has 96 overseas offices.<sup>2</sup> and operates in approximately 140 countries and regions of the world.

JICA also has 15 domestic offices<sup>\*3</sup> across Japan that serve as a nexus linking developing countries with regions in the country. These domestic offices promote international cooperation that takes advantage of the characteristics of these regions and contribute to their development through such cooperation.



**Technical Cooperation** 

Finance and Investment Cooperation

1

1

Grants\*1

Other

\*1 Excluding Grants that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides due to diplomatic necessity. \*2-3 As of July 2023

**Offices in Japan** 

# Role of JICA offices in Japan

With its headquarters in Tokyo, JICA has many offices throughout Japan. These offices play a key role in promoting JICA's work in international cooperation. They provide hosting agencies for training programs and encourage locals to participate in international cooperation.

In addition to these training programs, the domestic offices support a wide range of projects, such as providing information about international cooperation, developmental education, and citizen participatory projects for local governments, NGOs and universities.

As a bridge between developing countries and Japan, JICA's domestic offices will continue to serve as the regional centers for promoting international cooperation, utilizing the skills, knowledge and experiences nurtured by local communities. JICA carries out diverse projects via domestic offices throughout Japan in cooperation with various local entities. <sup>(1)</sup> JICA Hokkaido (Sapporo) (Obihiro) <sup>(2)</sup> JICA Tohoku <sup>(3)</sup> JICA Tohoku <sup>(3)</sup> JICA Nihonmatsu <sup>(4)</sup> <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> <sup>(1)</sup> 

- ⑤ JICA Tokyo
- <sup>®</sup> JICA Global Plaza
- ⑦ JICA Yokohama
- <sup>®</sup> JICA Komagane
- ICA HokurikuICA Chubu/Nagoya
- Global Plaza
- 1 JICA Kansai
- <sup>(2)</sup> JICA Chugoku
- <sup>13</sup> JICA Shikoku
- <sup>(i)</sup> JICA Kyushu
- 15 JICA Okinawa

Websites of JICA offices in Japan https://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/organization/ domestic/

# **JICA's Work** PROFILE

# JICA's Vision and Efforts to address priority issues

Vision: Leading the world with trust

JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

### Efforts to address priority issues

- (1) Secure a foundation and driving force for economic growth
- (2) Promote human-centered development, which supports basic human life
- (3) Share universal values and realize a peaceful and secure society
- (4) Build a sustainable and resilient international community by addressing global challenges

### Types of Assistance

Through its three major schemes of assistance (Technical cooperation, Loan aid and Grant aid), JICA takes effective and efficient approaches to providing developmental assistance to developing countries.

Other projects include emergency disaster relief overseas, and citizen participatory cooperation programs that encourage Japanese citizens to participate in international cooperation.



### Dispatch of experts



This cooperation tool contributes to human resources development and institutional and systematic formulation by dispatching experts to developing countries, providing technology required by respective countries and making recommendations to key administrators and technicians f economic and social development in respective countries for





In cases of the occurrence of a large-scale disaster overseas, JICA dispatches Japan Disaster Relief teams in response to requests from the governments of affected countries or international organizations and in accordance with the decision of the Japanese government. These teams search for missing people, engage in rescue efforts, and provide first aid and medical treatment for victims with injuries or illnesses, as well as guidance on how best to achieve recovery JICA also provides ship-ments of emergency relief supplies such as blankets. tents and medicines

### Research

Under its three missions, the JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) onducts research for the purpose of solving development issues of developing countries and contributing to JICA's aid strategies for supporting the resolution of such issues. • Policy-oriented, academically solid studies and substantive

- Analysis of issues of developing countries and contribution to JICA's aid strategies
- Strengthening information disclosure in Japan and overseas and enhancing Japan's presence

### Cooperation through citizen participation



JICA dispatches volunteers such as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), manages donation projects via the JICA Fund and enhances development education (education for international understanding) to assist in understanding issues faced by developing countries. JICA cooperates in diverse ways with NGOs, local governments universities and other organizations that participate in international cooperation activities

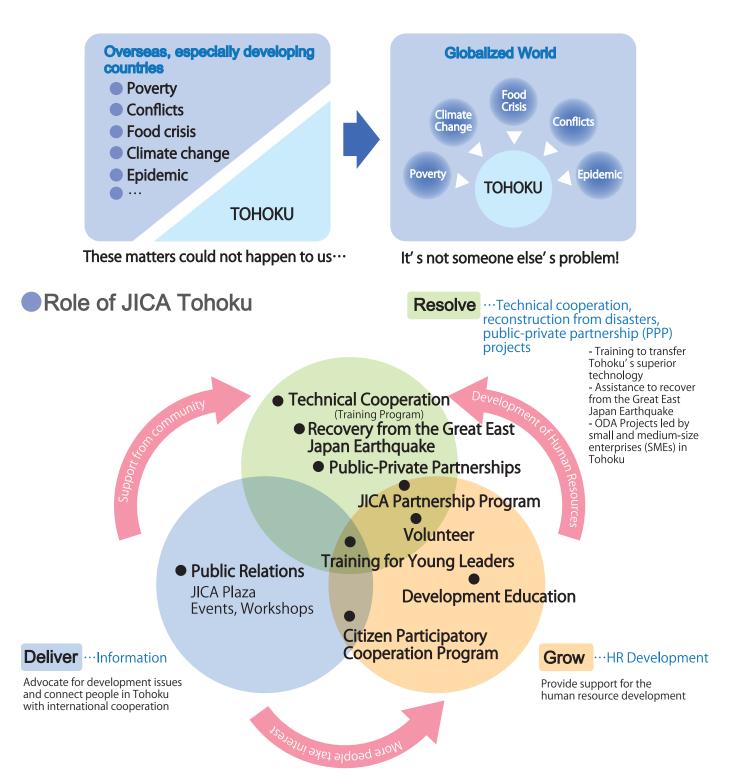
JICA Global Plaza in

# **Role of JICA Tohoku**

# Why in Tohoku?

In March 2011, Japan was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake. However, we were fortunate to receive considerable support from all over the world. This has helped the disaster affected areas move toward reconstruction. When Japan was experiencing hardships in the post World War II period, kind support from all over the world enabled us to rebuild the social infrastructure. We are living in an interdependent world.

The Tohoku region proudly offers superior technologies for agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The region has accumulated know-hows for mining and experience of "build back better" from disasters. With such regional strengths, JICA Tohoku contribute to address the various development issues. Public understanding is essential for Official Development Assistance. JICA Tohoku works on the people in Tohoku to understand the importance of the international cooperation.





# Resolve

# Knowledge Co-Creation (Country & Group and Region Focused)

Acceptance of training participants is one of JICA' s technical cooperation initiatives. This program invites government officials and specialists from developing countries to Japan, and give them the opportunity to participate in technical training courses. There are two categories of programs: "Group and Region Focused" and "Country Focused." Making a full use of the abundant resources in Tohoku, JICA administers various training programs such as Disaster Risk Reduction and mining.



Participants apply the knowledge and skills learned in Japan to resolve issues in developing countries after returning to their own countries.

Point 2

JICA provides training courses in collaboration with various entities, such as the national government, local governments, universities, nonprofit organizations, private enterprises and NGOs.

Point 3

A wide range of topics, such as disaster risk reduction, health care, education and resource development, are covered.

# **Case Study**

Training on Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction



Site visit to reconstruction house



Training on Medical Equipment Management and

Learning about a radiologic device

# Knowledge Co-Creation (Young Leaders)

Similar to the Region Focused and Country Focused programs, the Knowledge Co-Creation (Young Leaders) is another form of technical cooperation initiatives of JICA. JICA invites young leaders, who will become nation-building leaders in the future, and provide them with basic training to develop their specialties through experiencing and learning technologies and skills in Japan, and strengthen their motivation to resolve issues on their own.



Young leaders, who will become nation-building leaders in the future, who are between 20 and 35 years of age are invited.

The program aims to improve the participants' knowledge and skills in the specialized field, and to deepen their understanding for the Japanese history, experience, culture and society.



The training period is for  $18 \sim 25$  days.

# Case Study

Training on Tourism Promotion Training on Regional Course for Africa



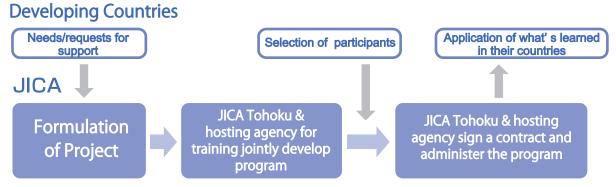
Learning about the role of international tourist information center from East Japan Railway Company





Making dumplings with citizens at NPO in Otsuchi Town

# Process Flow of Knowlege Co-Creation Programs



The majority of training participants are government officers or staff from related organizations. After returning to their home countries, the participants are expected to implement action plans to address issues they face, based on the knowledge and skills acquired in Japan.

# Build Back Better from the Public-Private Partnerships Great East Japan Earthquake

JICA Tohoku: serving as a bridge to link disaster affected areas with developing countries

JICA Tohoku cherishes the relationship we built with local residents in Tohoku. We strive to assist people in the tsunami affected areas to rebuild their lives, utilizing the knowledge and experience in disaster relief and reconstruction projects, human resources and overseas networks.



Point 2

JICA Tohoku disseminates information on community-led reconstruction projects to the international community.

JICA Tohoku facilitates collaborative reconstruction between disaster affected areas in developing countries and the Tohoku region.

Point 3

JICA Tohoku supports recovery efforts by utilizing its experience overseas.

Projects include dispatching community reconstruction facilitators to support recovery efforts; compiling lessons through studies to identify means to improve recovery support efforts in disaster affected areas; promoting collaborative reconstruction with countries that experienced recovery from massive disasters, by sharing lessons and co-creating new reconstruction models; and implementing training programs to share the lessons from disaster recovery experiences with developing countries.





Community reconstruction facilitators participating in meetings with local residents to discuss reconstruction

Officials from Banda Aceh, Indonesia touring supply warehouses for disaster preparedness in the city of Higʻashimatsushima



Touring disaster-affected areas

JICA seeks to solve development issues in developing countries and revitalize the Japanese economy, by promoting private sector-led growth. JICA Tohoku provides assistance based on the readiness of the private enterprises to seek expansion to overseas market.



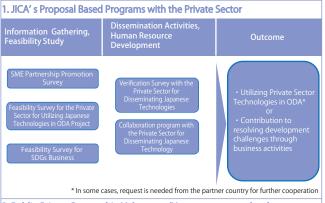
Point 2

JICA seeks to resolve development issues through private business models.

JICA assists expansion of business in developing countries utilizing ODA



JICA provides a wide range of resources such as assistance from JICA local offices in the target country and information on human resources.



2. Public-Private Partnership Volunteers (Human resources development program for employees who can play an active role globally

In the public-private partnership project, we work on many other activities such as the human resources development program for the future of private enterprises, collecting information and consulting about developing countries.

# Case Study

Overseas Expansion Support Project for Private Enterprises Case Survey to provide a transport service to enhance the functionality of CAI MEP Port in Vietnam (Shirogane Transport Co., Ltd., Oshu city, Iwate)

Shirogane Transport Co., Ltd. surveyed the issues faced by the transport industry in southern Vietnam through JICA' s Overseas Expansion Support Project for Private Enterprises (Case Survey) and considered the possibility of utilizing their transport technology and know-how. Then in November 2016, Shirogane Transport established a locally incorporated company in Ba Ria - Vung Tau to run a freight-forwarding and logistics business. In addition, they will create a distribution center in the future which will help attract Japanese enterprises through both public and private organizations and encourage further use of CAI MEP Port.



CAI MEP Port where the survey was conducted

The background is CAI MEP Port.

# What We Do

# JICA Partnership Program

JICA Partnership Program is a collaborative program jointly implemented with organizations such as nonprofits, local governments and unviersities. These organizations prepare project proposals, and JICA provides support while projects are implemented in developing countries.

Point 1	The project must of local people in	

directly contribute to improving the lives developing countries.

The target can be any of the 90+ countries where JICA Point  ${f 2}$ overseas offices are located.

Three project types are available, based on the scale of Point 3 project and the eligibility of applicant.

Туре	Partners	Amount of Funding	Application Period
Support	Nonprofit organizations, universities or public service companies, that wish to gain experience in the filed of international cooperation	Under 3 years Up to ¥10 mil	Twice a year (June and Dec)
Partner	Nonprofit organizations, universities, public service companies or private enterprises (nonprofit) with two or more years of experience in international cooperation	Under 5 years Up to ¥ 100 mil	Twice a year (June and Dec)
Local Government	Local governments	Under 3 years Up to ¥ 60/30 mil	Once or twice a year (any time)

\*Contents may be subject to change. Please refer to the JICA website for details.

# **Case Study**

Local Government Type: Food security enhancement project utilizing the traditional technology of Marumori-machi (Koya Council) for small farmers

Utilizing the knowledge, originality, and ingenuity developed in the environment of Marumorimachi, a mountain village, mainly farmers from both Zambia and Japan conduct joint community development to improve the nutrition and income of small farmers who live in rural areas in Zambia. This project will lead not only to eliminating poverty in developing countries but also to rediscovering regional values such as the re-examination of traditional Japanese technology.



Okonomiyaki made from local ingredients received favorable comments.

### **Project Process Flow**



# **Case Study**

Local Government Type: Mutual reconstruction by the City of Banda Aceh, Indonesia and Higashimatsushima city (Higashimatsushima Órganization for Progress and Economy, Education, Energy)

The Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The cities of Banda Aceh and Higashimatsushima, both disaster areas and both living with the sea, bring their fishermen and administrative officials, they dispatch experts, and conduct model activities in Banda Aceh such as joint farm management, the local product market in the tsunami evacuation building, and a bicycle rally which visits the remains of the earth-quake, while in Higashimatsushima there are activities such as disaster prevention walking events, in order to build an economy activation model which enhances the region's disaster prevention abilities.



Training participants from Banda Aceh accumulating field experience of oyster farming in Higashimatsushima

For more details, please visit the Facebook page of Higashimatsushima Organization for Progress and Economy, Education, Energy (HOPE), http://hm-hope.org/

# Volunteer

JICA' s volunteer programs dispatch volunteers who wish to contribute thier knowledge and experience to the development of developing countries. So far, approximately 3,700 volunteers participated from Tohoku. JICA Tohoku holds recruiting events and promotional campaigns to recruit more participants from Tohoku. In addition, JICA Tohoku provides career consultation to volunteers who return from their assignments.

\*Contents may be subject to change. Please refer to the JICA website for details.



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers working at an elėmentary school in Morocco

# Grow

# Development Education

Development education is defined as learning how our society and everyday life are related to global problems, such as poverty, conflicts, environmental destruction and human rights violations, through participation and experience based education. It encourages each student to understand and think about solutions to these problems.

JICA Tohoku hosts various events and seminars for children, students, and local residents to learn about the relationship between Japan and developing countries, as well as what is happening in those countries. Would you like to get closer to the world and think together about how you can contribute?

# **On-site Lectures for International Cooperation**

Former JICA volunteers and staff members who have served in the field of international cooperation in developing countries tell you about their experience of different cultures, volunteer activities, and international cooperation in developing countries. These lectures are held during comprehensive learning periods and foreign language activities in elementary schools, and during such periods as comprehensive English and in homerooms in junior and senior high schools. It helps pupils and students increase their international understanding and is also good for their career education.

%If you have a specific request for an instructor or lecture topic, region or country, please contact JICA Tohoku.

# **JICA Tohoku Classroom**

Why don't you come to JICA Tohoku? JICA staff members will introduce JICA's work and international cooperation for you to easily understand. Please feel free to ask any questions such as "I want to know about water issues in Africa," "I want to know about international cooperation in the field of disaster prevention," and "I want to think about what I can do now." In addition to JICA Tohoku, the contact desk in each prefecture also holds a Classroom.



An on-site lecture at an elementary school



Junior high school students learning about international cooperation in a workshop

# **Study Tour for Teachers**

Teachers at elementary, junior and senior high, and special schools visit developing countries and learn about international cooperation. After returning to Japan, they make use of what they experienced in their Development Education classes. Why don't you tell your pupils and students what you felt and learned at the place you visited through a subjective class?



Exchange at an elementary school which teachers visited during the Study Tour

# Seminars for International Understanding and Development Education

JICA Tohoku hosts events and seminars for local residents throughout Tohoku to share information about the situation in developing countries and the connection between Japan and the rest of the world. We hope local residents, children and teachers rethink their everyday lives and make good use of this information in such places as schools and their communities.

Seminar for International Understanding and Development Education

# **Essay Contest for Junior and Senior High School Students**

This contest is for future leaders, namely for junior and senior high school students. The main goals are to promote a deeper understanding of the situation in developing countries and their relationships with Japan, and to provide the opportunity to think about how Japan and each of us can contribute to international society.



# Deliver

# JICA Tohoku Website

JICA Tohoku' s website provides information about events and publications related to international cooperation in Tohoku. https://www.jica.go.jp/tohoku/

index.html JICA Tohoku facebook https://www.facebook.com/Jica

https://www.facebook.com/J tohoku

Brochures

Brochures are available on JICA Tohoku' s website. You can download them from: https://www.jica.go.jp/tohoku/office/pr.html



# JICA Tohoku Plaza

JICA Tohoku Plaza, a facility attached to JICA Tohoku office, is open to everyone free of charge. Books and brochures related to developing countries and international cooperation are available.

### Office Hours weekday 9:30∼17:30



# Citizen Participatory Events and Workshops

JICA Tohoku hosts events and workshops to promote deeper understanding for international cooperation and developing countries.

CZ JICA

### **Case Study**

### 📕 JICAfe Tohoku

JICA invites training participants and JOCV members as guest speakers to share their experience in developing countries. In the event, exotic food and drinks are provided in a warm welcoming environment.



A Malawi training participant explains the geography, culture, history and food of the Republic of Malawi in Africa.



Interacting with people with a cup of coffee in one hand "What Japanese food do you like?"

### Aomori

International Cooperation Photo Exhibition 2017 — We and the World are Connected — (Hirosaki city)

Jica



Exhibition of over 100 photographs of developing countries taken by a JICA volunteer from Aomori Prefecture.

### Akita

Intercultural Understanding Workshop "Knock on the Door to the World ~ Let' s Learn About Living in Syria ~" (Akita city)



In addition to showing a movie, ex-Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in Syria explained about the conditions in Syria before the civil war.

lwate



At the JICA booth, there was a quiz to promote a deeper understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Yamagata

"International Understanding Forum ~ Let' s See the World from Yamagata! ~" (Yamagata city)



A variety of fields such as multicultural symbiosis, international cooperation, and education for international understanding were chosen as topics.

# Organization

### Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

President:	TANAKA Akihiko
Headquarters:	Nibancho Center Building, 5-25 Niban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8012, Japan
Tel:	+81-3-5226-6660 through 6663
Date Founded:	October 1, 2003
Objectives:	Established as an Incorporated Administrative Agency under the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency - Japan International Cooperation Agency (Act No.136, 2002), JICA aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation as well as the sound development of Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions.
Capital:	¥8,366 billion (as of July 2023)
Full-Time Employees:	1,968 (as of July 2023)

### **History of JICA Tohoku**

July	1962	Japan Emigration Service (JEMIS) established an office in Sendai. After JICA was
		founded in 1974, the office administered projects in all 6 prefectures in Tohoku, as
		the Sendai branch. In 1980, it was renamed as the Tohoku branch.
July	2018	It was renamed as the JICA Tohoku Center.

### History of Agencies Administering ODA

Oct	1954	Japan joined the Colombo Plan and initiated technical	Sept
		cooperation programs	May
March	1961	Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (OECF) was established and took over the Southeast Asia Development Cooperation Fund from the Export-Import Bank of Japan	Oct
June	1962	Overseas Technology Cooperation Agency (OTCA) established	Oct 2
July	1963	Japan Emigration Service (JEMIS) established	May 2
April Aug	1965 1974	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program launched Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) founded	Oct 2

- ept 1987 International Emergency Relief Team formed
- y 1994 Number of Japan-trained technical trainees reached 100,000 t 1999 Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) was
- established through the merger of the Export-Import Bank of Japan and OECF
- 2003 JICA re-launched as an independent administrative institution
- y 2007 Number of countries receiving ODA loans reached 100 t 2008 JBIC's overseas economic cooperation operations and part of
- the grant aid under the jurisdiction of Japan' s Ministry of Foreign Affairs were integrated into JICA operations
- Jan 2015 Number of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers exceeded 40,000



### To learn more about JICA

We invite you to visit our website. Publications that include brochures, JICA' s World PR magazine and our annual report are available on JICA' s website and at offices in Japan.

### **JICA Global Plaza**

Various exhibitions and events are held at the JICA Global Plaza, which was established as a center for providing information on international cooperation, seminars and deepening meaningful forms of exchange.

JICA

Search

### PARTNER Participatory Network for Expert Recruitment website

The website connects those who are interested in international cooperation to JICA and other international cooperation organizations. Information about recruitment, training and seminars, career consultation and resume posting are available. For details, go to:

https://partner.jica.go.jp/

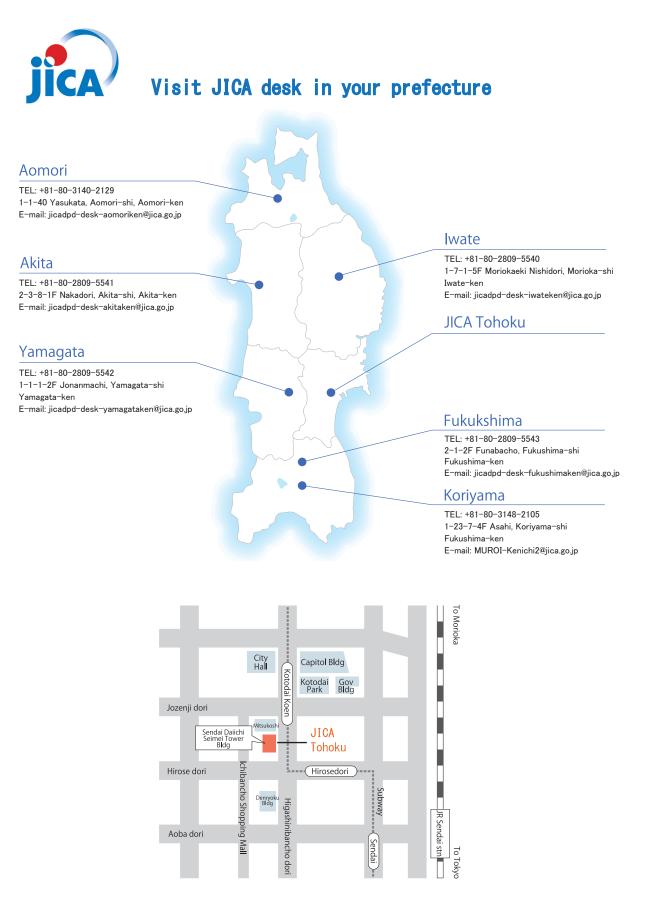
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You lube

JICA Channel 02



### JICA Tohoku

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