

**PROGRAM : The program is executed throughout Central America and the Dominican Republic**

## **SMEs improve processes with Japanese assistance**

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JICA has benefited 20 Salvadoran companies through its plan to increase the productivity and quality. Through the Japanese 5S and Kaizen methods, 20 small and medium Salvadoran enterprises (SMEs) have improved their productivity and quality of goods and services offered, with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The project aims to strengthen the support system for SMEs in Central America through a development network based at the Technical University of Costa Rica. Professionals of the region are trained in the implementation of these methods and then those professionals become facilitators who will attend each one, two companies.

According to Kenji Kaneko, Deputy Director of JICA in the country, support for SMEs is a key to the country, because they represent 99% of all firms in the nation.

The 5S system involves applying 5 five words in Japanese language, that start with the phoneme "S": Seiri, meaning organization; Seiton, meaning order; Seiso, which means cleaning; Seiketsu, standar; Shitsuke, self-discipline.

With the implementation of this system, the foundation of the operation are improved for realizing waste, reduce the excess in inventory and occupational hazards.

Such is the case of Nory Creations in Usulután, which also adopted the Kaizen system of continuously quality control. This reduces errors in the production, use of tools to control costs and strengthen teamwork.

Hand by hand with this project the company was separated from home, which both previously formed a one and only local.

Another company benefiting with the program is the mechanical workshop of Jose Benjamin Díaz, in San Miguel, which has recovered 81.49 square meters that were once considered "lost" by the disorder.

At the same time, they increased the production 20% while sales increased 10% due to the order of their facilities and labor integration.

### **About companies**

The workshop of Jose Benjamin Diaz has over 26 years of operating in the market for mechanical construction and assembly of machinery gears.

Nory Creations, located in Usulután, is engaged in the manufacture of sportswear, digital embroidery, wedding dresses, accessories, uniforms.



The workshop of José Díaz improved its production with the support of JICA's cooperation.



*With programs like this, we will release specific actions to help increase the employment and the economy in El Salvador.*

*Kenji Kaneko  
JICA Deputy Director*



*With JICA's support to implement 5S, now we work as a team and have recovered investment. This is a continuous improvement method.*

*José Benjamín Díaz  
Ownership Workshop*