

Inventory List for “Sport and Development”



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Myanmar “The Project for Curriculum Reform at Primary Level of Basic Education”

May 2014 to March 2021



Physical education is fun 🎵

Background/Issue

Myanmar regards enrichment of basic education as a key issue. While the overall school attendance rate for primary education has reached 117%, 23% of children leave school before their final year. In part this is influenced by factors such as household poverty and seasonal labor by parents, but it is also likely that the interest of children in learning declines due to the low quality of education content and lack of teacher ability.

Objective

- To enable even inexperienced teachers to teach physical education classes
- To provide Myanmar children with the activities they are familiar with and suited to their development stage.

Activity description

- Revised curriculum for a total of 10 subjects, including physical education, and supported development of textbooks and teacher instruction manuals for the entire years of primary education.
- Provided training on adopting the new curriculum for current teachers, and conducted training at teacher training schools. Prepared textbooks from a child's perspective enabling independent learning based on each child's interests through repeated discussion and trials.

Results

- By describing in the instruction manual matters such as how to respond to children who cannot fully achieve assigned tasks, teaching became possible even for the teachers without previous experience of teaching physical education classes.
- By including physical education demonstration exercises in teacher training, the project helped to improve the instructional abilities of teachers who have never taught a physical education class, and who themselves never received physical education when they were primary school students.

Cambodia “Making Teacher's Manual and Diffusion of Physical Education in Lower Secondary School”

January 2017 to September 2020



Class with mat exercises at Bassac Middle School, Svay Rieng province

Background/Issue

In Cambodia, people involved in education were massacred under the Pol Pot regime, and almost no educational documents remain. As a result, Cambodia lags behind, even today, in developing middle school physical education. Against this backdrop, cooperation was provided with primary school physical education from 2006 to 2016, and this had a major impact.

Objective

- To establish a basis for disseminating new forms of physical education based on government course guidelines and the instruction manuals for middle school physical education.
- To establish a system and implementation of human resource development for Department of Physical Education and Sport for Student (DPESS) and National Institute of Physical Education and Sports (NIPES), as central organizations for promoting middle school physical education
- To help teachers in the model schools and model provinces to master the ability to properly provide new physical education

Activity description

- Provided training in Japan to DPESS and NIPES, and helped them design new organizations
- Held physical education classes at model schools through workshops and monitoring at applicable schools

Results

- A foundation was established for disseminating new physical education enabling students to learn attitude, knowledge, skills, and cooperation.
- Teachers in the model province and model schools gained the ability to properly provide new physical education.
- A nationwide uniform physical education class program was established by drafting an instruction manual, holding workshops using the manual, and making proposals to the Ministry of Education.

Japan “Visiting Lectures on International Cooperation by JICA Ex-Volunteers”

Currently in progress
(as of September 2023)



Delivery lectures on international cooperation

Background/Issue

Access to information on the situation in developing countries and their connections with Japan is limited. Therefore, any stories told by the people with actual experience of activities in the field in developing countries are valuable experiences for the classroom students

Objective

- To inform the students with the situation in developing countries and their connections with Japan.
- To encourage the students to understand the problems of developing countries as if they were their own and to develop an attitude of considering what one can do and act on one's own accord.

Activity

- Delivery lectures on JICA's international cooperation are provided mainly to the school students to inform them of the current situation in developing countries and help them understand the need for international cooperation. Speakers are selected from ex-JICA volunteers who have experienced international cooperation activities in developing countries.

Results

- Ex-JICA volunteers with the experience of physical and sports education speak at many schools, organizations, events, and so on. Their presentations cover experience of physical education and sports in developing countries, international cooperation, aid by Japan's ODA, JICA projects, as well as the life in assigned countries, etc.

Democratic Republic of Congo

“The Project for Construction of Judo and Sports Center”

May 2018 to December 2022



Completed Judo and Sports Center (outside appearance)

Background/Issue

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, judo and karate rival soccer in popularity. In the capital Kinshasa, there are about 200 judo clubs, and there are estimated to be 7,000 judo players nationwide. However, public sports facilities are limited mainly to things like national stadiums built for soccer or track and field, and there are no indoor competition facilities for sports like judo and karate. As a result, it's difficult to hold or operate competitions for indoor sports like judo.

Objective

- Promote sports and youth development in the country through construction of a Judo and Sports Center.
- Contribute to the establishment of peace in the country.

Activity description

- A multi-purpose sports facility was constructed, focused on Judo and martial arts, and provided with equipment related to a sports facility.
- Support was provided for detailed design, bidding support, construction/procurement supervision, and operation/maintenance management.

Results

- The Judo and Sports Center was completed in December 2022. At the Francophone Games held in Kinshasa in August 2023, the center was used as the table tennis venue etc., and utilized by athletes from many Francophone countries.
- The facility is used by both government and private citizens, for purposes like judo practice by the national police and the Congolese Judo Federation.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Worldwide “Dispatching Volunteers in ‘Sports Fields’”

1965 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Volunteer coaching a child in baseball (Colombia)

Background/Issue

In developing countries, access to sports is limited for reasons such as shortages of both soft and hard infrastructure, constraints due to the cultural/social/economic background, and unstable conditions due to conflict, etc. Therefore, an environment must be put in place where all people can enjoy sports throughout their lives, regardless of sex, age, culture, socioeconomic status, disability, or other characteristics.

Objective

- Develop youth
- Improve practice environments
- Improve coaching skills of local coaches
- Increase number of players

Activity description

- Activities are being carried out to develop youth, improve practice environments, improve coaching skills of local coaches, increase number of players and so forth, by ministries, agencies, sports bureaus, and other organizations in the countries where volunteers are assigned.
- Coaching is provided for elite junior athletes and national teams by national sports federation and the Olympic/Paralympic Committee in each assigned country

Results

- Since 1965, a total of more than 3,000 sports volunteers have been dispatched in 28 sports, and they are contributing to development “of” sport and development “through” sport.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Central and South America "Training program for the Nikkei Community to Develop Personnel for Baseball Coaching"

2018 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Training in Japan in FY2022

Background/Issue

In South America, Cuban and American style baseball are the mainstream, but to develop youth in the local Nikkei community (community of Japanese descent), many are calling for Japanese style baseball that emphasizes courtesy and team play, and is faithful to the basics and fundamentals. However, with the change in generations in the Nikkei community, there are fewer personnel today who can provide coaching in Japanese style baseball.

Objective

- Nikkei baseball coaches learn Japanese style baseball, and get to know Japan through interactions with the people of Kochi Prefecture, who have deep connections with the Nikkei community.
- The trainees use their training results after returning to their home countries, thereby popularizing Japanese style baseball in the Nikkei community of South America.

Activity description

Many immigrants to Central and South America came from Kochi Prefecture. In collaboration with the Kochi Fighting Dogs, a professional baseball team in the Shikoku Island League Plus of Japan, training is provided in Kochi Prefecture, an area which sent many immigrants to Central and South America. The training covers baseball coaching techniques exploiting professional know-how, such as a practice menu based on techniques/experience of the team's coaches and scientific findings by trainers. It also covers community-based team management and operation.

Results

- Contributed to capacity-building of baseball coaches in the Nikkei community of Central/South America.
- After returning home, trainees held sports promotion events and carried out various initiatives based on know-how relating to sports business learned in their training.
- After returning home, trainees locally spread the word on the efforts and lessons learned from the Kochi Fighting Dogs, broadening the number of people who understand the Kochi Fighting Dogs. This promoted human exchange with relevant local people.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Worldwide “Olympic/Paralympic Athletes Coached by JICA Volunteers and Contribution to Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)”

1965 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Volunteer coaching the women's rugby sevens team (Madagascar)

Background/Issue

In developing countries, access to sports is limited for reasons such as shortages of both soft and hard infrastructure, constraints due to the cultural/social/economic background, and unstable conditions due to conflict, etc. The athletes who practice and stay active in such environments inspire many people with dreams and emotions.

Objective

- Coach to a wide range of generations
- Strengthen national teams
- Cultivate healthy minds and bodies
- Coach and promote sports for the disabled

Activity description

- Coach national teams with the aim of athletes appearing in the Olympics/Paralympics.
- Coach a wide range of men and women, from children to adults with the aim of further popularizing sports.

Results

- There have been 92 Olympic/Paralympic athletes coached by JICA volunteers since the 1988 Seoul Games, and they have won three gold and four silver medals (as of 2016).
- Through sports, we are contributing to the development of sound bodies and minds among the youth. This involves not only improvement of competitive abilities, but also guidance in courtesy and manners.

Madagascar “Cooperative Support for Girls Rugby”

September 2017 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Volunteer explaining strategy with a whiteboard

Background/Issue

In Madagascar, rugby is a popular team sport that both men and women can participate in. The Madagascan Rugby Federation is working to popularize and grow rugby as a framework for promoting sound physical and mental development of youth and promotion of participation in social activities. Aiming to promote rugby among younger generations, the federation particularly focuses on coaching national teams. Since the first rugby volunteer was dispatched in September 2017, two long-term and six short-term volunteers have been dispatched. The volunteers are mainly supporting women's rugby sevens national teams and are contributing to popularization of rugby.

Objective

- Realize a world where women can shine out, through support of women's rugby national teams.
- Contribute to popularization of rugby and growth of the number of player in order to develop human resources through rugby.

Activity description

- Coaching of women's rugby sevens national teams
- Activities to promote rugby through coaching in local rugby schools and coaching by visiting rural areas
- Guidance on issues such as social discipline through coaching of youth teams

Results

- The record of the women's rugby sevens national team in international competition has improved! They were third in the 2019 Africa Women's Sevens, a qualifier for the 2020 Summer Olympics, appeared in the 2022 Rugby World Cup Sevens Women's tournament (first appearance and first win by Madagascar in a world team sport tournament), and they won at the 2023 Indian Ocean Island Games!
- We are contributing to the popularization of rugby through local clubs and coaching in four rural provinces.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Worldwide “Dispatching Physical Education and Sports Volunteers through Collaboration with Universities”

Ongoing
(as of September 2023)



Judo enthusiasts and three coaches from Chukyo University at “Club ITALIANO” a site visited by volunteers

Background/Issue

In the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program, JICA dispatch volunteers to developing countries through collaboration with universities.

Objective

- Improve competitiveness of local competitors
- Improve coaching skills of local coaches
- Increase number of players
- Implement training, etc.

Activity description

The following activities are conducted by the sports bureaus and other departments of the ministries and agencies where volunteers are assigned:

- Develop youth
- Improve practice environments
- Improve coaching skills of local coaches

Results

- A total of about 600 volunteers have been dispatched for physical education, kendo, judo, baseball, football, rugby, volleyball, softball, and tennis!

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Brazil “Event Celebrating 60th Anniversary of Japan’s International Cooperation”

JICA Volunteers for Nikkei Community, International Goodwill Game by Baseball and Softball Volunteers

May 18 and 19, 2019



After game between JICA baseball volunteers and local adult team

Background/Issue

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Japan’s international cooperation in Brazil, 15 JICA volunteers (fields: baseball, softball) currently supporting Nikkei communities in 7 states and 15 cities there gathered in the suburbs of São Paulo, held an international goodwill game with a local adult team, and conducted baseball and softball classes.

Objective

- Popularize and develop baseball in local regions
- Strengthen collaboration with the Nikkei community
- Deepen mutual understanding between Japan and Brazil

Activity description

- International goodwill game between volunteers and a local adult team
- Held baseball/softball classes

Results

- A total of over 200 boys and girls gathered for baseball/softball classes, and listened seriously to the coaching by volunteers. In Brazil, there happened high recognition of the minor sports of baseball and softball, and efforts were made to improve the competitive level by acting as role models in the classes and goodwill game.
- The volunteers tried to “play like Japanese” throughout, hitting fungoes before the game, playing all-out during game, and maintaining the field after the game. In this way, they communicated at some level “what it means to be Japanese” in areas like emphasizing team play (spirit of thoughtfulness), always playing to the best of one’s ability (respect for the opponent), and maintaining the field after the game (an attitude of valuing things).

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Botswana “Support for National Softball Team Hoping to Make First Olympic Appearance”

January 2017 to July 2019



Volunteer coaching batting with a national team member

Background/Issue

Softball in the Republic of Botswana began at the grassroots level in the early 1970s due to the influence of the U.S. Peace Corps (volunteers). Today, various leagues are operating all over the country as a national sport with a player population of over 40,000. JICA volunteers were dispatched to the governing Botswana Softball Association from January 2017 to July 2019, and they provided skill coaching for the national team, and student/adult teams.

Objective

- Appearance of national team at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics
- Further popularization of softball in Botswana

Activity description

- Softball coaching for men and women in a wide range of categories, including the national team, primary school students, and working adults
- Coaching on courtesy and manners through softball, and developing youth with healthy minds and bodies

Results

- With the help of JICA volunteers the men's national team moved up to within the top eight in the world, its highest ranking ever, and the women's national team earned the right to appear in the World Championships (2018, Japan)! In 2019, the women cleared the Africa Qualifier for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with a first-place finish (unfortunately, they were knocked out in the final qualifier with Europe).
- There has been a change in the awareness and attitude of national team members, seen in things like maintaining the playing field on their own initiative after games. They are showing their pride as players to the nation, and inspiring Botswana with many dreams and emotions.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Botswana “Judo Support Continuing as Final Wish of First Judo Volunteer”

July 2018 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Volunteer travels to primary schools, coaching judo

Background/Issue

In the Republic of Botswana, the Botswana Judo Federation was established by Judo enthusiasts in 1996, and today there are about 800 judo players nationwide. A JICA judo volunteer was dispatched in 2013. He coached the national team, but passed away due to an unforeseen accident while posted in Botswana. Gavin Mogopa, one of the athletes he coached, took up the final wish of the first judo volunteer, and appeared as Botswana's first judo player in the 2016 Rio Olympics. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, judo volunteers have been dispatched to NGO facilities in rural areas, and popularization of the sport is moving forward nationwide.

Objective

- Strengthen the national judo team
- Develop healthy minds and bodies among the youth
- Popularize judo nationwide

Activity description

- Supporting the national team and traveling to coach regional club teams
- Coaching courtesy and manners through judo to a wide range of age levels
- Coaching at primary schools, NGO facilities, and other venues with the aim of introducing judo into educational settings

Results

- Popularization of judo in Botswana was achieved by coaching men and women in many different categories, from primary school students to working adults.
- Healthy development of mind and body among the youth was achieved through judo by building healthy bodies, providing coaching on courtesy and manners, and more.
- Botswanans coached by the first volunteer are currently coaches, and are contributing to the popularization of judo in rural areas.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Worldwide “Dispatching Volunteers with the Japan Rugby Football Union – JICA-JRFU Scrum Project”

July 2013 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Top) Friendship match between athletes coached by volunteers in India and Sri Lanka
Bottom) Volunteer with coached kids (India)

Background/Issue

In 2019, the first Rugby World Cup in Asia was held in Japan. JICA, aiming at increasing the number of sports volunteers, and the Japan Rugby Football Union (JRFU), aiming at success of the tournament, collaborated in launching the "JICA-JRFU Scrum Project" for dispatching rugby volunteers. With the support of JRFU at each stage of the JICA volunteer dispatching process, volunteers are being dispatched to countries in Asia and Africa, and healthy youth are being developed through rugby. At the same time, JICA looks forward to preparing successful rugby players with the rich volunteer experience.

Objective

- Communicate to the youth of developing countries the distinctively Japanese mindset of "No Side" and "One for All, All for One"—in addition to the five values established by World Rugby, the international governing body for the sport: integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline, and respect.
- Keep the Asian region in mind, and "connect Asia" through Rugby

Activity description

- Coaching at schools and universities, popularizing the sport through traveling coaching, and coaching national teams

Results

- 79 volunteers have been dispatched to eight countries, to engage in rugby popularization and coach national teams.
- Dispatching was done in collaboration with universities (Ryutsu Keizai University for Indonesia, Doshisha University for India).
- The Madagascar women's rugby sevens national team secured a place in the World Cup, and a volunteer accompanied them as coach.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Philippines/Bangladesh “Baseball Coaching by the Yomiuri Giants”

[Philippines] January 11, 2020, February 10, 2021, January 26, 2022

[Bangladesh] January 13 and December 12 to 18, 2022



Kids listening to the passionate coaching of Atsushi Kita (former Giants outfielder) in Mindanao, Philippines

Background/Issue

In developing countries, the environment to play baseball is not in place due to the factors such as difficulty in obtaining baseball equipment, lack of coaches, and relatively small playing population. However, there is a strong need for popularization of baseball and for support through baseball (and other sports). JICA and the Yomiuri Giants have signed a collaboration agreement with the objective of popularizing/promoting baseball in developing countries, and striving for the healthy development of youth through baseball. This partnership began in 2015.

Objective

Popularize/promote baseball, promote healthy development of youth through baseball, and contribute to the realization of a diverse and peaceful society through sports

Activity description

- Providing baseball coaching (online/on-site) in developing countries by Giants coaches, and opportunities to participate in sports like baseball classes
- Actively utilizing Giants' know-how in baseball coaching

Results

- Five Giants players were dispatched to the Philippines, including former pitcher Toshiyuki Yanuki, former outfielder Atsushi Kita, and former pitcher Shota Kimura. They held a baseball class for about 200 children, and also provided coaching in areas like training that can be done locally where there is a shortage of equipment (2020).
- As an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh, baseball coaching was done at the Japanese school in Bangladesh, and a send-off game was held between the Japanese resident staff team and the Bangladesh national team. Going forward, coaching will also be provided on a basic menu of skills that can be repeatedly practiced.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Uganda “TICAD CUP 2022”

August 19 to 21, 2022



Mixed team of refugees and host community members after their first victory, wearing cleats and uniforms donated by Japanese groups and companies

Background/Issue

Uganda is host to the largest refugee population in Africa, more than 1.5 million people. There is a lack of mutual understanding between refugees and the residents of host regions, and citizen awareness of refugees is low. Also, there is a strong preconception that "sports are for men," so it is important to improve recognition of women's sports, and promote women's empowerment through sports.

Objective

- Promote mutual understanding between refugees and the host community, and promote understanding of the current conditions of refugees
- Improve women's empowerment
- Improve recognition of TICAD 8 and JICA projects

Activity description

- Held women's soccer tournament “TICAD CUP 2022”
- Social events like plays and presentation of Japanese culture by JICA volunteers
- Donation of cleats and uniforms by Japanese groups and companies

Results

- Held event with the cooperation of government agencies, international organizations, private companies, and other groups. A total of 6 teams participated including a mixed team of refugees and their host community.
- With the cooperation of the South Sudan Office, three officials from South Sudan participated as observers including a vice-minister from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. During and after the tournament, the findings of the “Sports & Building Peace” program, previously implemented by South Sudan, were shared with JICA and government-related agencies of Uganda.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Sri Lanka “Event Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Sri Lanka (JICA Volunteers, Culture/Sports)”

November 27, 2022



Goodwill game of soccer with children

Background/Issue

In 2022, Sri Lanka suffered an extremely severe economic crisis. In May of that year, large-scale demonstrations erupted in Colombo, and the President fell from power. Besides the political turmoil, there were also economic repercussions, including a crash in the Sri Lankan rupee, severe fuel shortages, and a dramatic rise in prices. Many young people have worries about their future.

Objective

Seventy years ago, Sri Lanka was the country which opened the door for Japan to be accepted as a member of international society. The aim is to encourage the youth of Sri Lanka and make them smile through sports as far as much as Japanese people can do.

Activity description

- A World Cup game between Japan and Costa Rica was watched at two locations in Sri Lanka
- Activities of volunteers (environmental education, early childhood education, support for the disabled) and Japanese culture were presented at the Sputnik International Education Centre
- At a village school supported by an ODA loan project, a goodwill game of soccer was played by teams composed of children with different hometowns, sexes, ages, languages, and ethnic groups

Results

- Children from different environments developed closer relationships through soccer. Excitement at the venue was tremendous. Ties and solidarity transcending borders and ethnic groups were created by the powerful applause and cheers of “Nippon!” by the children and volunteers, resounding through the venue.
- Even in difficult areas like nations, politics, and economics, people at the event developed connections through sports, enabling cooperation toward goals, and sharing of emotion.

Worldwide “Collaboration of Four Organizations in Football”

September 2015 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Visit to Indonesia by former member of Japanese national team, Seichiro Maki

Background/Issue

In developing regions, there is a strong need to develop sound human resources and promote health through sports, promote social participation of people in vulnerable positions like refugees, women, and the disabled, and further regional development along the axis of sports. Sports are viewed as an important key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and we are promoting more efficient cooperation through an alliance of the Japan Football Association (JFA), J.League, WE League, and JICA.

Objective

The aim is effective implementation of international cooperation with developing regions, and further development of international cooperation through soccer, via a 4-way collaboration of JFA, J.League, WE League, and JICA.

Activity description

- International cooperation through football in developing regions (dispatching/receiving of coaches, collaboration with football volunteers, etc.)
- Regional collaboration between J.League / WE League and JICA domestic organizations
- Assistance in operating international football tournaments in developing regions
- Awareness raising and PR through football, both inside and outside Japan

Results

- Dispatching football coaches, referees and other help from Japan to developing countries as JICA volunteers, etc. (about 100 people total).
- Dispatching football players and others to international cooperation projects of JICA (e.g., dispatching Seichiro Maki to an earthquake recovery support event in Sulawesi in central Indonesia)
- Holding multiple events with objectives like international exchange through regional collaboration between J.League and JICA domestic centers.

Saga Prefecture “Sagan World Cup 2022”

December 3, 2022



All participants gathered together!

Background/Issue

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were few opportunities for non-Japanese people living in Saga Prefecture to get together and interact. The Saga Prefecture International Relations Association and a former interpreter for the Sagan Tosu Football Club who was working for JICA DESK as a promoter of Saga, planned a soccer event to coincide with the 2022 FIFA World Cup, and held a futsal tournament with the cooperation of Sagan Dreams Co., Ltd., the company operating Sagan Tosu.

Objective

- Interaction of non-Japanese living in Saga Prefecture, such as technical intern trainees and international students, and of non-Japanese and Japanese
- Enjoying the thrill of sports and fostering a sense of unity of participants and other involved people

Activity description

- Held international futsal tournament
- Holding this event involved a wide range of arrangements and preparations, including securing the stadium, recruiting participants, requesting the participation of Sagan Tosu former players, preparing prizes, requesting the cooperation of the soccer club of the Affiliated Saga Girls' High School of Saga Women's Junior College and the Tosu High School calligraphy club, publicizing the tournament on radio programs, and organizing a post-event reflection meeting.

Results

- This event was organized by JICA and the Saga Prefecture International Relations Association, and marked the first time a multicultural soccer tournament was held with the cooperation of a J.League club. It was proved that the participants can interact while enjoying soccer.
- This was an indication that it was possible to organize the same type of event with the 60 J.League clubs in Japan with the prefectural desks and JICA domestic offices serving as a focal point.
- For the 2nd tournament (2023) the plan is to incorporate reflections on the 1st tournament and to achieve an event that is beneficial for organizers, clubs, local governments, participants, and the region, thereby sparking a movement for multicultural soccer tournaments.

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Bangladesh “Dispatch of Prominent Athlete (Track and Field: Shota Iizuka)” November 13 to 16, 2022



Shota Iizuka sprinting with Bangladeshi primary school students

Background/Issue

Due to the security situation in Bangladesh, JICA has suspended dispatch of JICA volunteers since 2016. On the other hand, the Bangladeshi government has great expectations and trust in JICA, and recently security has become more stable, so we are currently considering the resumption of projects. 2022 was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh, and dispatching experts in the field of sports, where potential for cooperation is high, is beneficial for both countries.

Objective

- The aim is to dispatch volunteers in the field of sports, particularly, track and field sports after confirming government policy relating to development of athletes, confirming the skill instruction standards and support systems of athlete development organizations, dispatching experts to conduct PR activities relating to volunteer projects, and event implementation and PR activities relating to sports and development.

Activity description

Exchange was carried out at various levels by dispatching Shota Iizuka, silver medalist in the 400-meter relay at the Rio Olympics:

- Coaching of young track and field athletes
- Exchange of opinions with coaches, previous Olympic athletes, and people connected with the Olympic committee
- Interaction with Bangladeshi primary school students, street children, primary and middle school students at the Japanese school, and the Japanese expatriate association

Results

- Networking was strengthened with the Bangladesh Institute of Sports and the Olympic Committee.
- The importance of international exchange and cooperation through sports was transmitted to the Japanese and Bangladeshi media.
- Understanding was promoted of the importance of exchange through sports at the Japanese school and in the Japanese community

③ Improve Access to Sport – Promotion and Strengthening

Japan “EARTH CAMP Online Event (Two Events)”

January 2021



Event speakers

Background/Issue

In the run up to the Tokyo Olympics 2020, there has been a growing attention on sports in Japan, an effort was made to communicate to ordinary citizens the value of sports and contribution to society through sports, and thereby broaden understanding of the possibilities of international cooperation through sports, and help further promote civil participation in sports and development.

Objective

- Deepen understanding among ordinary citizens of international cooperation through sports.

Activity description

- Two online events were held as part of the international cooperation joint campaign “EARTH CAMP: Let’s get together and tell stories of our global future” cosponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), and JICA:
 - ① “Change the world! Pioneer the future! The power of sports”, a collaboration by the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) and Panasonic, and
 - ② “Spread your wings! Global women’s soccer! Breaking through barriers of gender and environment”, a collaboration of the Japan Football Association (JFA), J.League, and WE League

Results

- The Olympian Yuko Arimori, the Paralympian Yasuhiro Jimbo, Panasonic (a company with a pro sports team), and others highlighted the broad potential of sports by showcasing examples of social contribution through sports from various perspectives.
- Kikuko Okajima, first chairwoman of the WE League; Yuriko Saeki, who has experience coaching women’s pro teams in Spain; and Shota Aiba, who coached women’s soccer as a JICA volunteer in Sri Lanka and Myanmar, spoke on the current status and future possibilities of women’s soccer in Japan and the world, and provided an opportunity for everyone to consider “women’s sports and social issues” more deeply.

Chile “Popularizing Disabled Sports and Striving for Spots at Paralympic Games”

March 2014 to November 2024



Participation as an assistant attached to the Chile national team at the Parapan American Games (November 2023)

Background/Issue

The Pedro Aguirre Cerda National Rehabilitation Center is the only national rehabilitation center in Chile. Through disabled sports, the center strives to promote social participation of the physically disabled, and provide support for disability self-help groups in the community. We received a request from the Center for "new development in the disabled sports field," and a senior volunteer dispatched to the center provided coaching on swimming and other sports for the disabled.

Objective

- To promote social participation of the disabled through sports, and popularize disabled sports
- To coach and develop Paralympic athletes
- To develop disabled sports and train coaches nationwide in Chile

Activity description

- Popularization and coaching of various disabled sports (table tennis, boccia, etc.)
- Coaching of disabled swimming, from beginner level to training athletes, and development of coaches
- Planning/Implementation of events to promote social participation by the disabled (disabled sports tournaments, excursions, etc.)

Results

- Thanks to coaching by our volunteer, athletes placed in the Chile national para swimming championships and appeared in international competitions. One coached athlete, Christopher Durán, medaled at the 2019 Parapan American Games. Maximiliano Rodríguez (Class 4), who took up table tennis in 2017 in a table tennis class at the center and was coached by a JICA volunteer and local coaches, won at the 2023 Parapan American Games, and secured an appearance at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris.
- Judging from the increase in the number of athletes taking place in and medaling in the Paralympics, we are helping to popularize, raise the standard of, and develop disabled sports in Chile.
- The JICA volunteer devoted to para sports participated in the Chile Paralympic team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics and the 2023 Parapan American Games as a volunteer assistant.

Laos "Sports Promotion for Persons with Disabilities and Capacity Building of Sports Trainers and Sports Experts"

August 2016 to December 2021



Para powerlifter, Pia Phaolaktee

Background/Issue

Many disabled people in rural Laos live under the protection of family. They have limited contact with the outside world, and are closed off from opportunities for social participation. Disabled sports is a good opportunity to meet with other disabled people, and build confidence for achieving social self-reliance.

Objective

- To train coaches for disabled sports, develop competitive sports athletes in Laos, popularize inclusive sports at the grassroots level (universal sports), and promote social self-reliance of the disabled through sports.

Activity description

- Creating systems for training grassroots and competitive disabled sports coaches in Laos.
- Establishing an environment for popularizing competition (universal sports) and an environment for developing competitive athletes.
- Developing parasports athletes at the national level.
- Fostering understanding of disabled sports in Laotian society.

Results

- We established a system for certifying universal sports coaches and competitive disabled sports coaches, a curriculum for coach training, and a textbook for coaches.
- Groundwork was laid for developing disabled sports coaches and athletes by training competitive disabled sports coaches and referees, and formulating and implementing athlete development programs.
- Community understanding of disabled sports was deepened through social awareness-raising activities like school visits by competitive sports athletes, disabled sports PR activities directed at companies and mass media, and seminars to announce the specifics and results of disabled sports promotion activities to government ministries and agencies.

Shizuoka Prefecture “Multicultural SHIZU Cup — Community Development through Sports”

1st event (Hamamatsu City): October 30, 2022
2nd event (Iwata City): March 11, 2023
3rd event (Hamamatsu City): October 1, 2023



Winning team of Multicultural SHIZU Cup with Executive Committee

Background/Issue

Prejudice of Japanese toward non-Japanese living in Japan remains prevalent, and a key issue is how to reach out people with little interest in multicultural inclusion. Communities of non-Japanese also tend to be inward-looking and distance themselves from the Japanese society.

Objective

The aim is to gradually break barriers of prejudice and indifference between Japanese and non-Japanese residents, and develop communities that offer a pleasant living environment to individuals from diverse backgrounds by perpetuating and extending the concept of the Multicultural SHIZU Cup and making the multicultural society as a norm.

Activity description

- Five groups were formed, including community groups of non-Japanese and a Multicultural SHIZU Cup Executive Committee, and an event was held to facilitate exchange of different cultures using soccer as a catalyst.
- In addition to amputee football experiences, games for children, and mixed soccer that anyone could participate in, there were highlights like food booths and dance shows from various countries.
- Multicultural inclusion stickers were produced to raise awareness after the event, and these were distributed to all participants.

Results

- On the day of the event, about 300 local residents mingled across nationalities, appreciating each other and enjoying the rich diversity.
- About 150 local residents, primarily from Indonesia, Vietnam, Peru, Brazil, and Japan, played on the soccer teams. Japanese university students, who had not previously interacted with non-Japanese individuals, wholeheartedly embraced the games alongside people from diverse backgrounds. They displayed mutual interest and engaged in post-game conversations, enabling them to view non-Japanese participants as individuals rather than mere generic "foreigners."
- A major advantage of this kind of event is that, by using soccer as a gateway, both Japanese and non-Japanese were able to meet people they don't encounter at conventional international exchange events.

Japan “Universal Sports Festival”

2017 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Background/Issue

These events will be held to deepen understanding of universal sports, and serve as a good opportunity to consider the Goals 10 and 11 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): reduce inequality within and among countries, and make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) also has a project of disseminating "universal sports" in order to deepen understanding of disabilities through sports, and realize an inclusive society. This is a field where there are many issues and things to learn, even in Japan, and thus the results and experiences of these projects are returned to local communities in Japan.

Objective

- To contribute to building inclusive local communities by having people transcend differences, like age, sex, nationality, and disability/non-disabled status, and experience the fun of universal sports.
- To create opportunities to promote understanding of JICA projects, and raise awareness aimed at addressing issues such as inequality and achieving SDGs.

Activity description

In FY2022, events were held with the following contents in Nagoya, Gunma, and Tokyo:

- Quizzes for learning about universal design, online talks on experiences by JICA volunteers (involved in support of disabled children), and games to experience boccia and takkyu volleyball
- Team games of balloon volleyball, takkyu volleyball, and boccia (three universal sports)
- Presentations on JICA Partnership Program “Project to Help Popularize Disabled Sports in Laos” and activities of JOCVs

Results

- Various participants, regardless of age, sex, nationality, and disability/non-disabled status, enjoyed the experience of universal sports, and learned about achieving inclusive society through sports, thereby raising interest in universal sports.
- Understanding of international cooperation was deepened through presentations on JICA Partnership Programs (JPP), SDGs, and JOCVs.

Top) Volunteer speaks on experience
in Nepal and tips for boccia
Bottom) Balloon volleyball

Federated States of Micronesia

“Introduction of Weight Control Program for Obesity Prevention”

October 2017 to August 2021



Habit of exercise between classes

Background/Issue

Micronesia is struggling with the major health issue of increasing obesity. Dietary changes have been highlighted as the number one factor underlying the high obesity rate, and various approaches have been tried, yet they have been unable to curb growth of the obese population.

Objective

- To engage in health promotion involving children, parents/guardians, and other local residents, and thereby solve the obesity problem.

Activity description

- Carried out activities to promote understanding of obesity risks and diet modification, involving children, parents/guardians, and other local residents, in primary school district units.
- Provided guidance on exercise methods requiring no special facilities or equipment.

Results

- Parent-child classes on the health risks of obesity were held to enable participants to correctly understand how obesity impacts health.
- Diet counseling for weight control and obesity prevention allowed people thinking of losing weight to take appropriate action regarding food, such as improving their diet.
- Providing guidance on exercise methods that require no special facilities or equipment, in light of the local situation, made the program culturally acceptable to Micronesian people, and enabled health promotion through efforts that are reasonable for everyone.

Vietnam “Support for a Project to Prevent Nursing Care through ‘Fall Prevention Exercises’”

April 2022 to April 2025



Leaders in Bồ Đề ward, Long Biên district, Hanoi City demonstrating exercises at a meeting to report results

Background/Issue

Vietnam is predicted to show the fastest pace of aging among Asian countries. There is still a culture of mutual aid where family and relatives take care of the elderly, but that culture is fading due to urbanization driven by economic growth. From 2017 to 2021, JICA supported a project to prevent nursing care as one measure to help deal with societal aging, and this had a strong impact on the Ministry of Health of Vietnam.

Objective

- To develop leaders capable of instructing people on exercises to prevent falls, and revitalize mutual aid and cooperation in the community.
- To provide advice and guidance on the “elderly day-care projects to support self-reliance” that Vietnam is working on.
- To increase the number of government human resources involved in prevention of elderly nursing care.

Activity description

- Through training in Japan, knowledge is provided to the General Office for Population and Family Planning (GOPFP) of the Ministry of Health of Vietnam regarding the role of government agencies in promoting nursing care prevention projects, and the community-based integrated care that Japan is implementing.
- Guidance is provided directly to the elderly on exercises to prevent falls by dispatching experts to each community, and leaders are developed who can provide exercise instruction. Seminars and meetings to announce results are periodically held at local sites.
- In addition to on-site exercise guidance by experts, general guidance is provided in areas like improving nutrition and oral care.

Results

- Awareness was raised among managers in the elderly health and welfare field, and voluntary action was sparked in areas like promoting participation, reviewing future directions, and securing budgets.
- In seminars and result announcement meetings, exercise leaders look at efforts and results in other regions, and this creates a beneficial spirit of competition. Motivation is boosted, in areas like learning creative approaches and sharing opinions, and this evolves into the “citizen-led” activities which are the objective.

Bolivia “Sport Gomihroi (SpoGomi) -Sport Cleaning Up”

October 28, 2022



Participants holding garbage bags and doing radio calisthenics before the competition

Background/Issue

Like almost all local governments in Bolivia, Sorata City in the La Paz Department has sanitation problems pertaining to garbage collection, operation and maintenance of disposal sites, and water/soil pollution. Local governments and citizens need to work together to deal with waste, but citizen awareness of the environment is low, and thus issues like littering of cities/roads and illegal dumping have become normalized.

Objective

- To improve garbage awareness of the citizens of Sorata City in the La Paz Department, promote recycling, and reduce littering and illegal dumping.

Activity description

- While utilizing the knowledge of DIFAR, the NGO implementing the JICA Partnership Program, a Sport Gomihroi event (SpoGomi: a sport which originated in Japan where teams gather garbage at a designated location, and compete for points based on quantity and quality) was held in Sorata City, La Paz Department.
- On the day before the event, training in garbage sorting was provided to city hall staff, school officials, and students

Results

- About 250 kg of a garbage were collected, by about 70 ordinary citizen participants working with roughly 10 city hall staff, one national volunteer (a youth volunteer project in Bolivia carried out on a trial basis) in the area of “waste disposal” assigned by (NGO) DIFAR, one NGO staff member (ex JICA volunteer), one JICA staff member, and one project formulation adviser (volunteer projects).

Papua New Guinea / Paraguay “Observance Day Sports Events”

[Papua New Guinea] March 5, 2023

[Paraguay] March 11, 2023



Top) Walking in Papua New Guinea on a coastal road of the capital Port Moresby on International Women's Day
Bottom) Zumba experience in Paraguay for Health Day

Background/Issue

Sports events are held in various regions of the world as part of this project. In Papua New Guinea, a "Walking and Yoga Event" to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence is held every year on International Women's Day. In Paraguay, the JICA Paraguay Office has established its own "Health Day" where awareness is raised to improve lifestyle habits and foster understanding of disabled sports. This is achieved through sports experiences, medical checkups, talks on exercise and nutrition, and other activities.

Objective

- [Papua New Guinea] To use easily accessible sports to help raise awareness of gender equality and women's empowerment, the underlying themes of International Women's Day.
- [Paraguay] To raise awareness of healthy lifestyles among ordinary citizens.

Activity description

- [Papua New Guinea] Participants walked, holding banners and appealing for the elimination of gender discrimination and violence, for roughly 4 km from a stadium near the JICA Office to Ela Beach, where they did yoga for about 30 minutes with an instructor.
- [Paraguay] The event included a Zumba experience, talks on exercise and nutrition, blind soccer experience, badminton, body measurement, creative dance, and introduction to Japanese culture.

Results

- [Papua New Guinea] A contribution was made to greater health of participants! New networks were formed by bringing together participants from various sectors in one place. A strong statement was made toward addressing gender issues.
- [Paraguay] More than 100 ordinary citizens participated in courses given by JICA volunteers, returning trainees, experts, and counterparts!

Worldwide “JICA Volunteers Dispatched for Physical Education”

1965 to today
(ongoing as September 2023)



Playing “triangle tag” in physical education class
(Vanuatu)

Background/Issue

Physical education in school is required by the national curriculum in over 90% of the countries in the world. However, physical education is not being adequately provided in developing countries due to poor recognition and the lack of instructors and facilities.

Objective

- To train a next generation of human resources to assist developing countries through preparation of teaching aids, teacher training, class implementation, and training on physical education.

Activity description

- Advice for class instruction and improvement of physical education in primary, middle, and high schools, preparation of instruction manuals and teaching aids, support for holding extra-curricular activities and field days, and class support and advice for teacher training schools
- Support for revision of curricula, and for holding seminars and other events, by Ministries of Education and Departments of Sports, etc.
- Support for activities to raise awareness of sports among disabled people and residents by local Departments of Health and Departments of Sports

Results

- A total of over 1,500 JICA volunteers have been dispatched to 79 countries of the world.
- Education in physical education courses plays a key role in healthy physical and mental development of the children who are the future of each country. JICA is engaged in a variety of initiatives, such as planning *undokai* (field days) and other school events, developing teaching aids, and training teachers and other human resources.

Worldwide “Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) for Quality Physical Education in School Education”

September 2022 to February 2024



Trainees observing primary school physical education

Background/Issue

UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport states that access to physical education, physical activity and sport is a fundamental *right* of all people. Although physical education is a required subject in more than 90% of countries, implementation is uneven, and developing countries in particular face problems like poor recognition of the importance of physical education, and lack of instructors and facilities. This training aims to further disseminate physical education and improve its quality by formulating activity plans for each country while referring to the policies, measures, and experience of Japan.

Objective

- To ascertain the current situation and issues of physical education at school in each country, so trainees can learn methods of preparing lesson plans (unit plans and class plans) that can help improve the quality of physical education at school.

Activity description

- Training in Japan: School physical education in Japan (school physical education in the world and Japan, implementation of each physical education model, etc.), teacher education in Japan (research classes and class analysis), class development (methods of creating unit plans, lesson plans)
- Remote training (follow-up): Reports on lesson plan implementation by trainees, feedback by teachers

Results

- Understood and shared current situation/issues in school physical education in participating countries
- Understood education policy and efforts to improve the quality of school physical education in Japan
- Learned methods of preparing lesson plans to help improve quality of school physical education in participating countries, through sharing of instructional practice in representative countries

Tanzania “Ladies First - Women’s Track and Field Competition”

2017 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



4th Ladies First event (100-meter dash)

Background/Issue

In Tanzania, the idea that "sports are for men" is deeply rooted, and there are limited environment/opportunities for women to engage in sports. In rural areas, disparities remain between men and women, encompassing issues and domestic violence by men toward women and teen pregnancy prevail.

Objective

- To hold the first Women’s track and field competition, shine a light on women’s track and field athletes who have limited opportunities for training and appearance in competition, and uncover and develop buried talents who will shine out at international competitions in the near future.
- To help support gender equality and women’s empowerment, promote sports, and develop physical education.

Activity description

- A women’s track and field competition was held in partnership with the National Sports Council (NSC). Former marathon runner Juma Ikangaa (Public Relations Ambassador of the JICA Tanzania Office) served as advisor.

Results

- A contribution was made to sports promotion in terms of discovering athletes with a promising future and improving competitiveness by providing experience of international competition (participation in the Nagai Marathon) to top place-winners. In collaboration with JICA volunteers, new viewpoints and knowledge regarding physical education were shared through the efforts such as engagement in recreational sports.
- To raise awareness of gender equality and women’s empowerment, various side events were held such as a women’s empowerment workshop by Japanese experts, an awareness-raising program to prevent teen pregnancy and marriage with the collaboration of the JICA Partnership Program team, a course on how to use feminine hygiene products, and education to promote health.
- Events were observed by a vice-minister and a bureau chief from the South Sudan Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in charge of South Sudan’s “National Unity Day” (the national sports competition), helping to expand the effort to other countries.

⑥ Promote Social Inclusion and Peace – Promotion of Social Participation

Worldwide “Knowledge Co-Creation Program ‘Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities through Sports’”

October 2016 to March 2021



Top) Takkyu volleyball tournament in Kuji City, Iwate Prefecture
Bottom) At Saito Kobo Ltd.

Background/Issue

Sports has the power to help sweep away prejudice and discrimination toward the disabled. Through sports, the disabled themselves strengthen their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities, thus enabling self-reliance.

Objective

- To shine a light on disabled sports—a tool for promoting empowerment, and social participation of the disabled through interaction between disabled and non-disabled—and gain knowledge relating to disabled sports (including facilities and gear), the situation in developing countries, creative approaches suited to different categories of disability, and other topics.

Activity description

- Trainees stay in Japan for about 1 month, and learn about topics like the history and general profile of disabled sports in Japan.
- They gain practical skills through participation in a range of sports, including flying disk and bocchia.

Results

- Trainees gain the ability to articulate the role and importance of disabled sports in empowering individuals with disabilities and fostering social participation through interactions between disabled and non-disabled individuals.
- They acquire knowledge and skills pertaining to the rules of various disabled sports, instructional methods, training of instructors, development of teaching aids, PR, etc.
- They weigh the potential for using disabled sports in their own countries, and prepare action plans for after returning to their own countries.
- They share knowledge about implementing, popularizing, and raising awareness of disabled sports, using case studies from developing countries as a reference to generate ideas for application in their own nation.

⑥ Promote Social Inclusion and Peace – Promotion of Social Participation

Senegal “JICA Foundation Project: Project to Promote Empowerment and Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities through Sports”

November 2022 to June 2023



Experiencing boccia at the Special Olympics
Thiès Branch

Background/Issue

The 2013 census found that, out of Senegal's population of 13,500,000, there were 800,000 individuals with disabilities, including 200,000 with visual disabilities and 200,000 with physical disabilities. Actual numbers are higher than these statistics, and it is difficult to grasp the overall situation. In Senegal, disabled people have trouble accessing employment, welfare, education, and other private services.

Objective

- To strengthen human capital dedicated to disability advocacy, with sports serving as a catalyst
- To promote social participation of the disabled and development of a disability-inclusive society through development of inclusive communities that support connections between society and the disabled

Activity description

- A wide range of initiatives were carried out, including: boccia experiences and facilitator training at a school for the deaf, the Special Olympics Thiès Branch, and a daycare center for people with physical disabilities; periodic practice and development of the court environment for blind football at the national school for the blind; training to develop coaches; guidance on operating a national competition; and online disability equality training for persons involved with activities.
- Accessibility in the city of Thiès was investigated together with the visually-disabled athlete Hiroshi Ochiai, formerly a member Japan's national team for blind football. Actual conditions on the ground were also ascertained through dialog with Senegalese visually-disabled persons.

Results

- About 100 people with various disabilities (physical, intellectual, auditory, etc.) participated in the experience. Nine individuals engaged with disabilities received training in organizing and facilitating experience events. Those with qualifications were trained not just as facilitators, but as advocates for inclusive communities. They are currently putting their new knowledge to work, in tasks like dividing into teams, calling out, creating space, etc.
- Six coaches were trained (including women), and there was growth in female players (17% of female students at the national school for the blind participated.) A national competition has been held since 2015.
- Conversations among disabled individuals uncovered barriers to the social participation of the visually impaired, including obstacles to the dissemination of blind football.

Senegal “Diversity Education through Blind Football”

May 2018



Human resource development program
 (“SUPOIKU”) at a primary school

Background/Issue

JICA's efforts in the field of sports are expected to contribute to the goal (international contribution through sports to at least 10 million people in 100 countries by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic/Paralympic Games) set out in the Japanese government's Sport for Tomorrow (SFT) pledge for the Tokyo 2020 Games. The Secretariat of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers is working to dispatch Japanese sports experts to overseas destinations, and to invite key persons in sports from overseas to Japan.

Objective

- To dispatch experts and athletes to Senegal, and to disseminate and gather information on diversity education.

Activity description

- Experts from the Japan Blind Football Association and players from Japan's national women's blind football team were dispatched to Senegal, where they implemented a human resource development program “SUPOIKU” (sports education) based around blind soccer and worked to disseminate diversity education in Senegal.
- Information was gathered on disabled sports and blind football in Senegal.

Results

- Diversity education was provided as “SUPOIKU” (sports education) using blind football at three primary schools in the region where JICA volunteers were assigned.
- At an event held by the JICA Senegal Office to coincide with the National Education Ministry's “National School Week”, diversity education was provided at a blind football experience booth, and five activity booths relating to interleague play and blind football.
- Information was gathered on topics such as the current situation, issues, and future development of disabled sports and blind football in Senegal by listening to blind soccer players, coaches, and persons involved with the national school for the blind, and by engaging in discussions and seminars.

⑥ Promote Social Inclusion and Peace – Promotion of Social Participation

El Salvador “Debut Event of Takkyu Volleyball by Returning Trainee”

March 25, 2023



Experiencing takkyu volleyball with participants!

Background/Issue

Rafael Garcia, a returning trainee from the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program, wanted to popularize takkyu volleyball in his home country of El Salvador after his training finished. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was difficult to hold face-to-face seminars and events, and he was initially unable to carry through with his plans.

Objective

- To popularize takkyu volleyball, learned in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, in El Salvador.
- To improve quality of life and social participation of the disabled through takkyu volleyball.

Activity description

- A debut event of takkyu volleyball was held with Rafael Garcia playing a central role, returning trainee who participated in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program “Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities through Sports”

Results

- A contribution was made to social participation of the disabled through takkyu volleyball, and a first step was taken toward an “inclusive society” where all people show mutual respect for each other’s character and individuality!

Iwate Prefecture “Football Public Viewing in Rikuzentakata”

June 1, 2018



Public viewing

Background/Issue

After the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, the people in Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture, realized that anyone could become a “socially disadvantaged person.” As a result, the city adopted the slogan “building a community without need for the word ‘normalization’”, and residents are striving for a social model with mutual respect for all forms of diversity, including age, sex, and nationality. Colombia, meanwhile, is a country which experienced civil war and is now on the path to recovery. In Colombia, JICA is engaged in various forms of cooperation such as support for removal of land mines and social rehabilitation of the disabled.

Objective

- To build ties between Rikuzentakata City and Colombia, through their status as opponent countries in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.
- To foster understanding of cooperation with Colombia, build networks between Colombia and Rikuzentakata City, expand the possibilities for future cooperation with Colombia via relevant organizations in Japan, and publicize Rikuzentakata City’s slogan: “building a community with no need for the word ‘normalization’”.

Activity description

- A public viewing event was held to watch the World Cup game against Colombia. The event featured speeches by Secretary Quintero of the Colombian Embassy in Japan and Mayor Futoshi Toba of Rikuzentakata City, a talk event featuring Kota Matsumoto of the Yoshimoto Kogyo comedy duo “Regular”, and opportunities to experience blind football and amputee football.

Results

- Provided the event participants with the chance to think about “recovery” in both Colombia and Rikuzentakata.
- Blind football and amputee football experiences educated local children about inclusion, and helped realize Rikuzentakata’s slogan of “building a community without the need for the word ‘normalization’”.

⑦ Promote Social Inclusion and Peace – Peace Building

Yamagata Prefecture “JICA Booth and Tanzania Photo Exhibition coinciding with the Nagai Marathon”

October 2018
October 2019



Juma Ikangaa explains a women's track and field competition, one activity of the Tanzania Office

Background/Issue

At the JICA booth for Nagai Marathon held in Nagai, Yamagata Prefecture, photos of Tanzania's women's marathon were exhibited. Juma Ikangaa—a former marathon runner from Tanzania who currently serves as PR Ambassador for the JICA Tanzania Office—is explaining the visitors.

Objective

- To set up a booth and exhibit Tanzania's photos at the Nagai Marathon for showcasing JICA activities. The aim is to promote citizen understanding of and participation in international cooperation.

Activity description

- The JICA booth showcased volunteer activities and types of support, distributed pamphlets, etc.
- Activities of the Tanzania Office and Africa-related materials were presented.
- A JICA President Award Commendation was presented to Mr. Ikangaa.

Results

- A significant portion of the Nagai Marathon participants (3,300 people total), supporters, event participants, and other citizens (1,000 people total), and Roadside Station visitors (10,000 people total) visited the JICA booth, photo exhibit, and other points of interest.

Federated States of Micronesia “Inheriting ‘Thoughts for Peace’ through the Olympics”

July 2019 to March 2022



Cultural exchange at a high school in Pohnpei, capital of the Federated States of Micronesia

Background/Issue

The late Takashi Miyata, who hailed from the town of Ama in the Oki Islands of Shimane Prefecture, wrote the lyrics of the “Tokyo Olympics Ondo” to celebrate a peaceful era where the thundering sounds of bombing during World War II evolved into the vibrant beats of the taiko drum. To continue this legacy of “thoughts for peace”, three municipalities from the Dozen Islands (Ama, Nishinoshima, and Chibu) and one from Dogo Island (Okinoshima) served as Host Towns for the Federated States of Micronesia during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, furthering exchange between the two countries.

Objective

- To develop sustainable societies through exchange between the two countries, and by learning from each other.
- To strengthen ties of the three municipalities of the Dozen Islands through cooperative projects based on sports.
- To create a legacy rooted in collaboration with local governments, inside and outside Japan.

Activity description

- John Fritz, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to Japan, visited three municipalities of Dozen for cultural exchange (July 2019)
- Ama Mayor Kazuhiko Oe and five others visited the Federated States of Micronesia for exchange (August 2019)
- Prime Minister Abe, President Panuelo of the Federated States of Micronesia, and Mayor Oe of Ama held talks (November 2019)
- Classes were held in Gunma Prefecture and Fukuoka Prefecture, using teaching aids prepared mainly by the town of Ama (December 2019)

Results

- Mutual exchange programs were carried out, to serve as models for creating a sustainable society which develops gradually, while preserving nature and culture.
- An exchange project with former Olympians Ryuzo Morioka (Sydney Olympics, soccer) and Naohiro Ishikawa (Athens Olympics, soccer) was jointly held by three municipalities of the Dozen Islands, thereby creating memories in each region and strengthening ties of the three municipalities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina “The Project for Confidence Building through Physical Education”

January 2017 to September 2020



Primary school students playing *tamaire* at an UNDOKAI (field day) in Mostar

Background/Issue

The education system in BiH recognizes three official (ethnically driven) school curricula. In 2007, the BiH decided to create joint framework curricula for all school subjects, known as the Common Core Curricula (CCC), and the creation of CCC for the Physical and Health Education domain is needed. In addition, the City of Mostar has recognized a potential opportunity in using sports as a means of promoting tolerance and strengthening relationships within the ethnically diverse local community.

Objective

- To establish a common core curriculum (CCC) for the subject of health and physical education, so that the significance of sports education, emphasizing social inclusion, diversity, and fairness, is recognized inside Bosnia.

Activity description

- Support was provided for the development and introduction of CCC in target primary schools in the country.
- Efforts were made to strengthen the ability of the City of Mostar Sports Association to implement projects emphasizing social inclusion, diversity, and fairness.

Results

- A health and physical education CCC emphasizing social inclusion, diversity, and fairness was created with the participation of relevant people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The health and physical education CCC was adopted on a trial basis in the target primary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The City of Mostar Sports Association held events emphasizing social inclusion, diversity, and fairness.

7 Promote Social Inclusion and Peace – Peace Building

South Sudan “Project for Youth Empowerment through Sports for Peace Promotion (YES for Peace)”

January 2016 to today
(ongoing as of September 2023)



Girls from different regions getting along well and cheering (7th competition)

Background/Issue

South Sudan is dealing with inter-ethnic tensions and distrust due to the lingering effects of a past civil war and post-independence internal conflict. Peace and social cohesion are an important issue.

Objective

- Through sport, to promote respect for diversity among the nation's people, foster ethnic/social reconciliation and peace awareness, and support the realization of a society less prone to the reemergence of conflict.

Activity description

- Support to hold a national sports competition, “National Unity Day”, is observed with the sports events including men's and women's soccer, men's and women's track and field, and women's volleyball
- Support is provided for activities of sports clubs in Juba city, and for improving the capabilities of school physical education teachers
- Efforts of the Ministry of Youth and Sports to promote peace through sports have been supported since January 2016

Results

- After the event, participating athletes and spectators recognized that sports has a role in ethnic reconciliation and peacebuilding. A growing number of groups are holding sports activities, events, and the like to promote peace, community reconciliation, and social participation of youth and women.
- Athletes also participated in peace promotion workshops and other side events. Athletes from different regions and tribes ate and slept together for 10 days, and exchange continued even after the competition.
- Women's volleyball was added from the 3rd competition and women's soccer from the 7th competition to advance the cause of empowerment and gender equality through women's participation in sports. “Boruboru”, a women's sport that originated in South Sudan, also debuted.
- Consistent attention was given to improving inclusion, fairness, and transparency across all stages of athlete selection and preparation.
- The circle of financial and material support for “National Unity Day” is growing both inside and outside South Sudan.