

COLUMN 1

Contributing to the enhancement of evaluation capabilities of developing countries (capacity building)

Strengthening the institutional capacity of the developing country government and the executing agency is critical to implementing ODA loan projects more effectively and efficiently. Since FY 2001, JBIC has been holding "ODA Project Evaluation Seminar" in cooperation with JICA, providing training for officials in departments responsible for evaluation in developing countries. In FY 2002 19 people were invited from 18 countries, in FY 2003, 17 from 17 countries, and in FY 2004 17 from 17 countries. The seminars include presentations on the JBIC evaluation system and methods (the five DAC evaluation criteria, PDM, etc.), economic and financial analysis, and case studies, which helped to enhance the evaluation capacity of participants. The JBIC "Evaluation

Text" is used as a teaching material. In terms of results, the participants developed action plans on application of evaluation techniques to the projects of which they are in charge, as well as on expanding use of what they learned through their organizations. To facilitate the implementation of these plans, JBIC provides continuous support in the form of follow-up activities, such as joint evaluation with developing countries.



The convivial party after the seminar, participants mentioned, "The seminar was highly valuable because we could not only learn about the importance of ex-ante and ex-post evaluations in the public sector, but also become acquainted with aspects of Japanese culture and thinking."

Sharing our knowledge on and experience of poverty reduction with the global community

In May 2004, the World Bank sponsored a "Conference on Scaling Up Poverty Reduction" (attended by approx. 600 people, including heads of state and policy makers from developing countries, aid organizations, academics, municipal groups, etc.) in Shanghai, and JBIC also participated the conference. Using case studies of successful poverty reduction initiatives, the factors needed to ensure that policy/development planning and development projects at national, regional and global scales effectively achieve poverty reduction were discussed and analyzed by conference participants. JBIC gave presentations on evaluation results of the "Transport Infrastructure Projects in the Northern Vietnam" and the "Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project (Philippines)" as examples of

cases in which economic infrastructure had contributed to poverty reduction. In this way, JBIC shares the knowledge and experience on poverty reduction that it has accumulated through ex-post evaluations with the global community. Furthermore, JBIC has been making efforts to gain the world's approbation for its contribution to poverty reduction in developing countries.



Participants reported on successful cases of poverty reduction, and there was lively discussion and analysis on the factors needed to effectively achieve poverty reduction (participation of the poor in market economies and society, institutional reforms, etc.).

Following up on ex-post evaluation results ~assistance based on evaluation results~

The objectives of Afforestation Project in Aravalli Hills were to restore forestland in the Aravalli hills in the state of Rajasthan in northwest India and to improve the living standards of local residents. The project was implemented between 1992 and 2000, in which trees were planted over an area of approximately 150 thousand hectares (approx. 70% of Tokyo Metropolitan that has 220 thousand hectares). While the ex-post evaluation result was favorable, revealing that major project objectives (afforestation, creation of employment opportunities and wildlife habitat protection) had been achieved, the continuous participation of local residents was necessary in order to ensure the sustainability of project effects. Therefore, JBIC conducted a Special Assistance for Project

Sustainability (SAPS), recommending the state forest department "to develop a forest management program and promote the women's forest associations" and "to prepare guidelines on a partnership with NGOs". This was the result of exchanges in SAPS between Rajasthan and other Indian states that JBIC undertaken in support of the afforestation project.



The participation of local residents is the key to the sustainability of project effects.