

Annual Evaluation Report

2002

Japan International Cooperation Agency

PREFACE

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the main implementing agency for Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), carries out a wide variety of international cooperation projects that focus predominantly on technical cooperation in developing countries and regions. For some 40 years, JICA has carried out these cooperation activities under the motto: "Human development, national development. Bringing people together".

Even as we enter the 21st century, many issues of major concern in developing countries such as poverty, conflict and refugees, environmental destruction, and infectious diseases still remain. Furthermore, these issues have not only increased in severity but have also increased in diversity and become more complex. The role of ODA in supporting the sustainable development and reconstruction of the economies and societies of developing countries is therefore as important as ever for the prosperity and stability of the entire international community.

Against this background, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were announced at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. Since then, the international community has been engaged in intense discussions at global fora such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in September of this year in Johannesburg, on how to achieve these goals. Accordingly, Japan now faces increased pressure to promote more effective, results-oriented cooperation activities, making the greatest use of our experience in international cooperation to actively contribute towards the achievement of the MDGs.

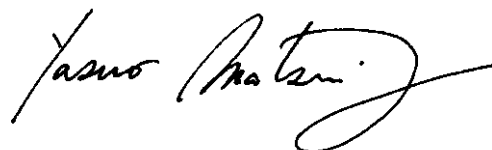
In addition to these international demands, JICA faces pressures at home. Due to Japan's protracted economic stagnation and severe fiscal situation, the Japanese public is increasingly calling for the more efficient and transparent implementation of ODA. It was under these circumstances that JICA therefore decided to proceed in becoming an Independent Administrative Institution (IAI), based upon the Cabinet decision in December 2001 on the Reorganization and Rationalization Plan for Special Public Institutions. The bill to turn JICA into Independent Administrative Institution is currently under deliberation in the Diet.

In response to this movement of change, JICA established an Advisory Committee for Evaluation composed of external experts in June 2002. Utilizing advice from the Committee, JICA is striving to strengthen its evaluation system and transparency in its activities in order to improve its cooperation projects. Moreover, in view of the forthcoming transformation into an IAI, JICA is making efforts to reform its project management system in order to further increase accountability and to establish results-based management.

This report, the eighth report on these issues published to date by JICA, presents findings from all JICA evaluation studies carried out in FY 2000. In the course of implementing these studies, we received valuable cooperation from a large number of outside personnel. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them.

Finally, in closing, it is my hope that this report will help readers gain a deeper understanding of JICA projects and their evaluation. I would like to add that your comments and suggestions regarding the content herein would be most welcome.

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