

Promotion of a Healthy Environment in Urban Areas (Healthy City Programs)



Project Sites Kuala Lumpur

1. Background of Project

As countries in the Asia-Pacific area achieve economic development, they come to face significant population concentration in their urban areas. At the same time, various environmental problems such as air pollution, water pollution in rivers, and waste disposal have become issues of monumental concern in urban areas. There is a pressing need for human resource development to respond to such issues. Since Malaysia has experience in strengthening and improving administrative measures for environmental control, urban management, public health, and many other related areas, it is expected to have the potential to conduct technical cooperation with interregional countries. Having such background, the Government of Malaysia has asked Japan for a Third-country Training Program that enables them to operate training for restoring the urban environment in the countries concerned.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1998 – FY2000

(2) Type of Cooperation

Third-country Training Program

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

National Institute of Public Administration, Malaysia (INTAN)

(4) Contents of Cooperation

1) Overall Goal

The planning administration's ability to handle the physical and social aspects of the urban environment is improved, as well as its knowledge in public health.

2) Project Purpose

- Necessary general concept and knowledge on building a healthy and educated city are acquired.
- The activities in each country for improving the city environment are researched.
- Action plan for each city is established.
- The experience of the people responsible for countermeasures for urban problems are shared, and a network is established.

3) Outputs

- The purpose of this training course is understood.
- An action plan that meets the needs of each country is established.
- The plan is enforced in each country.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Short-term experts	6
Training expenses	approx. 15 million yen

Malaysian Side

Instructors	54
Training expenses	approx. 7 million yen

(5) Participant Countries

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

3. Members of Evaluation Team

JICA Malaysia Office
(Commissioned to IC Network (M) Sdn Bhd)

4. Period of Evaluation

1 February 2001 – 30 March 2001

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Relevance

Countries participating in the training have significant population concentrations in their urban areas, caused by differences in wages and job opportunities between urban and rural areas. This condition triggers deterioration of the urban environment such as water and air pollution. Since this training program aims at meeting the countries' needs, the relevance of this project is highly regarded. Moreover, efforts to restore urban environment are in line with the priority area of cooperation, environmental protection, from Japan to Malaysia.

(2) Effectiveness

Training was executed once every fiscal year, with a training period of approximately one month. A total of 69 people from 18 countries participated, and a survey on returned trainees was held. Answers were received from 18 out of total trainees of the project. All answers indicated that the training contents were as expected, and were assessed to be useful. 67% recognized remarkable improvements in their own skills, and 61% stated that the knowledge and skills obtained from the training have been effectively utilized in their offices. As the survey results showed, trainees were highly satisfied, thus the project was highly evaluated in terms of its effectiveness.

(3) Efficiency

The trainees highly evaluated the purpose and contents of this training course. Thus the training has been well-operated in terms of its efficiency. The results of the survey showed that the lecturers were highly evaluated. According to the post-evaluation of trainees who participated in the 1998 courses, all 31 courses (there were 18 lecturers, and 10 study tours were included) were evaluated as either "satisfactory" or "very satisfactory." However, since the training course was covering large areas, the training period of approximately one month was pointed out to be rather short.

(4) Impact

70% of the training participants who replied to the questionnaire use the same textbook at work as the one used in their training. 72% of them share the newly acquired knowledge with their colleagues, and 83% independently conducted training and seminars based on this

training. 27% of them wrote reports. Moreover, 82% answered that the completion of this training led them to promotions and/or personnel changes to the related departments. Considering all of these aspects, those who participated in the training are considered to be actively involved in diffusing what they had obtained.

(5) Sustainability

INTAN is an institution that provides training opportunities for all personnel in all public service sectors for both the central and local governments. They have a rich resource of lecturers through their connections with universities and other research institutions. Related organizations are highly committed to the trainings operated by INTAN as well. Based on these facts, INTAN is capable of executing related projects as this training without outside support.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

It is necessary to have comprehensive measures for urban environmental management. Therefore, it is important to operate training that provides various case studies in order to help trainees get a clear image of their work.

(2) Recommendations

Since countries that have participated in this training project have different levels of development, the urban environmental issues that they face are respectively different. Considering this, it would be more effective for a better understanding of the unique conditions of each country, if field research were conducted in each participating country as a part of training. Moreover, a follow-up system should be established to realize each country's action plan, which has been drafted during the training, after the trainees return home.