

Preface



The world is now dynamically changing. We see, among others, accelerating globalization, rising newly emerging economies including those in Africa, ASEAN^{*1} integration and Myanmar's democratization process, and struggling Middle East following the Arab Spring.

In connection with the debates on a Post-2015 framework for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)^{*2}, Japan, jointly with the African Union Commission, UNOSAA^{*3}, UNDP^{*4} and the World Bank, will host the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)^{*5} in June this year. Thus, 2013 will be a significant year for trends on development cooperation. In this context, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as Japan's comprehensive development institution, is also committed to further implement cooperation programs and projects, with its partners, to tackle such issues as described above.

In addition, with these dynamic global developments, it is all the more critical that JICA should reinforce its strategic approaches to project formulation and to both *ex-ante* and *ex-post* evaluations for the projects and programs to bring about effective solutions to the challenges developing countries are currently facing. JICA's evaluations are designed to plan projects appropriately by effectively leveraging its know-how, lessons learned and those of local people, as well as to objectively verify the outcomes and draw the relevant recommendations and lessons for new projects. Project evaluations take on an essential role to strengthen JICA's functions as a solution provider and to hold itself accountable for the civil society and/or taxpayers.

This Annual Evaluation Report 2012 introduces JICA's project evaluation system and its efforts to further improve it, and also includes summaries on the results of *ex-post* evaluations conducted by external experts and of thematic evaluations.

I would be pleased if this report helps to deepen your understanding of JICA's activities. Thank you for your continued support for and trust in JICA.

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Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

*1 Association of South-East Asian Nations

*2 <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/publications/reports/annual/2012/c8h0vm00002qe6vj-att/16.pdf>

*3 United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (UNOSAA)

*4 United Nations Development Programme

*5 http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/pdfs/brochure_en.pdf