

## **Preface**

In 2015, the Government of Japan adopted the Development Cooperation Charter, thereby marking a new start in our development efforts. At the international level, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reached their target date that year, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted as the new agenda for 2030. The SDGs lay out a set of comprehensive development goals, and I believe that JICA should play an essential role in achieving them.

JICA evaluates projects for two main purposes: 1) to gather lessons learned to improve individual projects and strengthen our cooperation strategy, and 2) to ensure accountability and transparency by making evaluation results publicly available to stakeholders. Project evaluations are an effective way to enhance the quality and strategic focus of our cooperation.

This JICA Annual Evaluation Report 2015 summarizes the results of evaluations that we conducted. This year, we placed particular emphasis on learning, such as deriving more practical lessons from the evaluation results from four sectors and statistical analysis of ex-post evaluation data. JICA will apply these lessons to a range of projects and strengthen the "learning and improvement" capability of professionals involved in development activities.

JICA often supports development projects in very challenging environments, such as in conflict affected areas or post-disaster zones. As such, we must be innovative and flexible in our efforts to promote economic and social progress in the countries we work in. As the objectives of these projects are challenging and ambitious, it is sometimes difficult to get a high score in our rating system. We, however, will challenge ourselves and make the best use of the lessons learned through these evaluations to improve the quality of our cooperation.

We hope that this report helps deepen your understanding of JICA's activities.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in JICA.

March 2016 Shinichi Kitaoka, President Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)