

SUMMARY

| Content of the Project | | | |
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| Country | Dominican Republic | Project title | Medical Education and Training Project in the Dominican Republic |
| Issue/Sector | Health | Cooperation scheme | Technical cooperation |
| Section in charge | Human Development Department | Total cost | 594 million of yen |
| Period of cooperation | 1999–2004 | Institution related in the country | Secretariat of State of Public Health and Social Assistance (SESPAS) |
| | | Support Organization in Japan | Oita University |
| Related cooperation | Construction of Dominican-Japanese Friendship Center for Medical Education (CEMADOJA) | | |
| 1.1 Background of the Project | | | |
| <p>The government of the Dominican Republic promotes socioeconomic and public health policies that are implemented by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (SESPAS). JICA provided a technical cooperation program in the Gastroenterology Center of the Dr. Luís E. Aybar Health and Hygiene City hospital complex from 1990 for a period of seven years. The project was successfully implemented, and its clinical and research capabilities were improved, as expected. However, the lack of capable medical staff was still a serious issue for the Dominican health sector, and the government requested further cooperation in this respect. In response, the government of Japan approved a technical cooperation program to create the Dominican-Japanese Friendship Center for Medical Education, which was to be focused in the area of medical imaging and epidemiology in the Dominican Republic, during the period 1999–2004.</p> | | | |
| 1.2 Description of the Project | | | |
| <p>The government of the Dominican Republic, through the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (SESPAS), requested grant aid from the government of Japan for the purpose of constructing the Dominican-Japanese Friendship Center for Medical Education (CEMADOJA) within the Dr. Luís E. Aybar Health and Hygiene City hospital complex. Through invaluable studies by Japanese missions, the need for technical cooperation in the form of specialists in the area of medical imaging and epidemiology was implied. Finally, in October 1990, an agreement was made between the two countries, and since then medical training programs have been carried out in Japan for Dominicans, and Japanese experts have worked at CEMADOJA as their counterparts for the transfer of technology.</p> | | | |
| General Objectives | | | |
| To contribute to strengthening the national health system and medical education in the health sector in the Dominican Republic. | | | |
| (1) Purpose of the Project | | | |
| To strengthen the national health system and medical education of the health sector in the Dominican Republic focused in the area of medical imaging at CEMADOJA, located in the Dr. Luís E. Aybar Health and Hygiene City hospital complex. | | | |
| 2. Evaluation Team | | | |
| Team members | JICA Office DR: Dr. Abel Hernández, Coordinator; Bienvenido Núñez Ramírez, Economist; and Dr. William Hernández, MD, Epidemiologist, Assistant | | |
| Period of evaluation | 28 December 2007, to 28 February 2008 | Evaluation type | Post-project evaluation |
| (3) Outputs | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of training in diagnostic imaging has been improved. • Epidemiology has been introduced into the curriculum as basic education. • Management capabilities in the area of training resident doctors have been improved. | | | |

(4) Inputs (as part of the termination of the project)

By the Japanese:

- Long-term experts (15)
- Short-term experts (36)
- Training received (23)
- Equipment: 1.39 million yen
- Local cost: 3.84 million yen

By the Dominican Republic:

- Counterparts (39 counterparts trained in Japan)
- Equipment: NA
- Local cost: NA
- Land and facilities: Provided by the Dominican government

3. Evaluation Results

3.1 Summary of the results of the evaluation

3.1.1 Impacts

- Strengthening medical service at the third level of attention in the Dr. Luis E. Aybar Health and Hygiene City hospital complex, other hospitals, and private clinics in the national health system.
- Strengthening the interinstitutional network among entities of the health sector by cooperation among different universities and SESPAS through CEMADOJA. • Increase of the medical services offered by the Center with the laboratory analysis and image diagnosis of high quality.
- Increase in medical services offered by CEMADOJA with laboratory analysis and image diagnosis of high quality.
- Increase in training specialists in medical imaging and contribution to other specialties in family and community medicine and epidemiology.
- CEMADOJA is used as the national core center in medical imaging for the JICA Training Program for Third World Countries for medical education in medical imaging for technicians and physicians coming from countries in Central America and the Caribbean.
- Access to CEMADOJA services by the lower-income population.
- Contribution of CEMADOJA to the progress of Dominican medicine. • Income increment and better work opportunities for the physicians and technicians.
- Income improvement and better work opportunities for physicians and technicians.
- CEMADOJA's laboratory is in the process of being designated a national reference laboratory at the recommendation of the OPS/OMS and SESPAS for analysis of morbidity from the dengue virus and human influenza.

3.1.2 Sustainability

- CEMADOJA is under the organizational structure of SESPAS, which is the institution responsible for the selection and designation of technical and administrative personnel for CEMADOJA in coordination with CEMADOJA authorities; however, a certain degree of instability in personnel is perceived every four years as the government changes, which affects CEMADOJA's institutional sustainability.
- CEMADOJA is under the organizational structure of SESPAS, which tends to reduce CEMADOJA's budget. However, CEMADOJA realized the upgrading of equipment and facilities with its own budget, using the increase in income due to the rise in the number of patients served at CEMADOJA.

3.2 Factors promoted by the project

(1) Impact

- An important issue is to improve the level and technique of diagnostic imaging. The Program for Diagnostic Imaging, organized by the project, is incorporated in the national medical training program.

(2) Sustainability

- CEMADOJA's income has increased through improvement in diagnostic imaging techniques and a rise in the number of patients served. It allowed CEMADOJA to upgrade its facilities and equipment.

3.3 Factor that have affected the project

(1) Impact

- Utilization of the financial resources created for equipment upgrading and maintenance for other activities.
- Lack of upgrading of imaging and computer equipment.

(2) Sustainability

- Delay in disbursement of CEMADOJA's budget by SESPAS.
- Instability of trained personnel every four years due to the change of government.
- Lack of budget for maintenance and upgrading of equipment.

3.4 Conclusions

The Program for Diagnostic Imaging, which was organized by the project, is incorporated in the national medical training program, and is attributed to efficient execution of medical education. It shall achieve this general objective because SESPAS and the Dominican School of Medicine admit that CEMADOJA is the national model for diagnostic imaging and personnel training.

Regarding the impact of the project, it has improved diagnostic imaging techniques at CEMADOJA and has made it possible for vulnerable people to receive modern diagnosis at lower cost. It brings an increase in the number of patients to CEMADOJA and raises CEMADOJA's income.

CEMADOJA holds a congress on diagnostic imaging every year, and CEMADOJA instructors participate in courses to renew and upgrade their knowledge.

The sustainability of the technical and financial aspects of CEMADOJA are assured.

3.5 Recommendations

- To obtain a major budget for CEMADOJA in order to guarantee the continuity of the institution's services in all areas; and to keep the continuity of medical education programs, research, upgrading and actualization of medical equipment, computers, and the electricity generator.¹
- To strengthen collaboration and communication within CEMADOJA and with the Health and Hygiene City hospital complex.
- To improve the coverage of the agreement on provision of services with public and private health institutions in order to guarantee the financial sustainability of CEMADOJA, according to the Social Security Act 87-01.

3.6 Lessons obtained from the Project for JICA

- Technical cooperation for personnel training and equipment, as in the case of the CEMADOJA project, has a great impact on strengthening health education in the national system as well as in institutions of the private sector as a result of the improvement of human resources.
- The possibility of taking advantage of the experience of CEMADOJA, which allows trained technologists and physicians from CEMADOJA to participate in triangular cooperation programs for the countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

¹ The electricity generator is used to provide power during blackouts of the national electric service.