

JICA's Support for South-South Cooperation

Challenge to Inclusive and Dynamic Development with New Partners



Japan International Cooperation Agency

Why is JICA supporting South-South Cooperation?

JICA recognizes South-South Cooperation among developing countries contributes to global development in two aspects.

First it complements North-South Cooperation. A country in the South sometimes has a better chance to find solutions to its development challenges in the experiences of other Southern countries with similar economic, social and cultural conditions. Flexible Triangular Cooperation can enhance South-South Cooperation by sharing experiences of the North on development assistance and increase the impact of development by creating synergies between North-South Cooperation and South-South Cooperation.

Second it provides an opportunity for a Southern country to enhance its capacity and gradually transform itself into a donor of assistance. When Japan joined the Colombo Plan

and began providing technical assistance to other countries in 1954, it was still rebuilding itself in the wake of World War II as a recipient of a large amount of assistance from overseas. Japan's own history of development cooperation has shown that a recipient of development assistance can also be a provider of cooperation to other countries.

Based on these experiences and views as a pioneer of South-South Cooperation, JICA has supported South-South Cooperation since 1975 in an effort to promote the self-help efforts of developing countries and to prioritize their own development strategies, which is one of the most important philosophies of Japan's ODA. JICA will actively support South-South Cooperation in order to tackle global issues, including MDGs, and to promote Capacity Development of developing countries.

What is South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation?

South-South Cooperation is support provided by developing countries whose development has advanced in certain fields to the development efforts of other developing countries.

Triangular Cooperation is a kind of support for South-South Cooperation by developed countries and/or international organizations.

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Making the South-South Cooperation Demand-Driven through “Japan-Southeast Asia Meeting for South-South Cooperation (J-SEAM)”

J-SEAM is an attempt to promote South-South Cooperation based on the beneficiary countries' needs for technical cooperation. It aims to formulate and implement well-prepared South-South Cooperation, improve South-South Cooperation quality and maintain and enhance the network between JICA and the member agencies in Southeast Asian countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Timor-Leste).

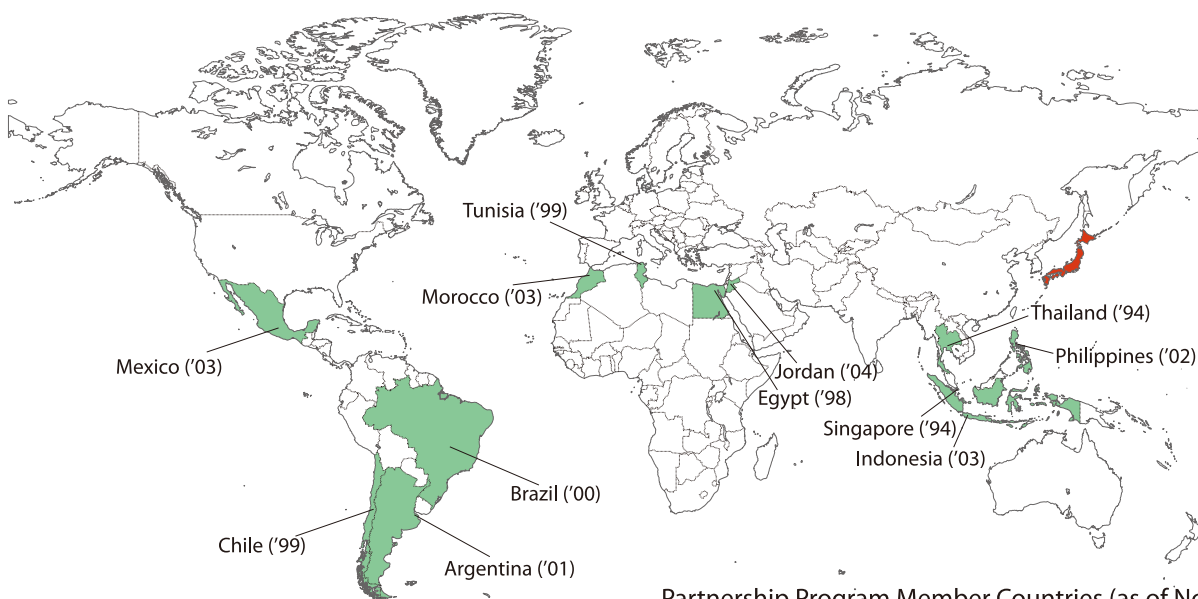
How is JICA promoting South-South Cooperation?

In the traditional approach to Triangular Cooperation, JICA first starts with a bilateral cooperation project in a country. When the project reaches maturing, JICA encourages the country to disseminate the results to countries with similar conditions.

In recent years, JICA's support for South-South Cooperation has no longer been confined to recipients of JICA's development assistance, as many organizations in the South have demonstrated excellent development achievements that are worth sharing with other countries. In such cases, JICA has begun not only to provide them

with financial support, but also to participate in the planning and monitoring stages and to provide input in the form of Japanese expertise, if needed.

JICA has enhanced partnerships with Pivotal Countries to make Triangular Cooperation more efficient and effective. As of November 2009, JICA has concluded Partnership Programs with 12 countries. JICA has also supported the formulation of intra/inter regional cooperation frameworks to promote regional integrations and scale up development effects.



Main activities of J-SEAM

1. Conduct of an annual meeting at the practical level
2. Dispatch of project formulation study missions
3. Conduct of workshops and seminars to facilitate project formulation
4. Coordinating activities between beneficiary countries and resource countries to facilitate project formulation