

1. Report on the first half of 2026

As of July 2026, JICA Papua New Guinea (PNG) is implementing and/or supporting a diverse portfolio of development cooperation activities, including one ODA loan project, two grant aid projects (one of which is currently under preparation), ten technical cooperation projects (including three under preparation), eight individual experts and trainings (including three under preparation), the deployment of 17 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), one private-sector partnership project, and 27 long-term training participants in Japan.

We are pleased to report below on the major developments and progress achieved during the first half of 2026.

(1) Change in Chief Representative



Effective 15 April 2026, Mr. Shirouzu Kenichi succeeded Mr. Matsuoka Hideaki as Chief Representative of the JICA Papua New Guinea Office.

During his tenure, Mr. Matsuoka supported key milestones, including the opening of Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport and celebrations marking the 50th anniversaries of Japan's ODA and PNG's independence.

Under Mr. Shirouzu's leadership, the Office will continue working closely with its partners to advance development cooperation in Papua New Guinea. [More information](#)

(2) Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Grant Aid Project at the National Fisheries College

On 20 May, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Kavieng, New Ireland Province, for the Grant Aid Project

for the Improvement of Facilities and Training Equipment at the National Fisheries College.

Attended by representatives from the PNG Government, JICA, and the Embassy of Japan, the event highlighted the College's long-standing contribution to developing fisheries professionals in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region. [More information](#)



(3) International Women's Day Walkathon Event

On 8 March, an International Women's Day (IWD) event was held in Port Moresby with the participation of government representatives, development partners, women's organizations, and the public.

The JICA PNG Office supported the event by providing IWD T-shirts for participants. Chief Representative also delivered remarks on the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment. [More information](#)



(4) New Education Programme Officially Launched

On 25 February, the TOGETHER Programme, funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), was officially launched to strengthen Papua New Guinea's education system.

At the launch ceremony, Chief Representative delivered opening remarks, and the PNG Department of Education, UNICEF, and JICA signed a partnership agreement to support sustainable education reform. [More information](#)



(5) Presentation Seminar Held for Returning Training Participants



On 1 May, JICA held a presentation seminar in Port Moresby for returning training participants to share the outcomes of their training and research in Japan. Participants

presented their achievements and outlined action plans to help address development challenges in Papua New Guinea. The seminar also featured a returning participant who became the first beneficiary of the programme to earn a doctoral degree from a Japanese university, sharing his/her achievements and experiences.

(6) JICA Chair Programme Held



From 6 to 8 May, Dr. Kayashima Nobuko, Senior Research Advisor at the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development, visited Papua New Guinea and conducted JICA Chair lectures for stakeholders from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and the PNG Department of Education.

The lectures focused on Japan's modernization experience, particularly the development of its education system, and provided an opportunity to exchange views on future collaboration and educational development. More than 80 students and faculty members attended the lecture at UPNG, which was highly commended by the University's Vice-Chancellor. [More information](#)

(7) Technical Cooperation Project Holds Final Review Seminar

On 13 March, the final Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting for the Project for Strengthening Primary Mathematics and Science Teacher Training was held in Port Moresby. The project has supported improvements in mathematics and science education through the provision of teaching materials and the strengthening of lecturer capacity at teacher training institutions.

The meeting reviewed the project's achievements and discussed measures to sustain its outcomes. The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education described the project as a "highly successful technical cooperation initiative." [More information](#)



(8) Final Reporting Seminar Held for Electrification Policy Advisor



On 26 May, a final reporting seminar was held in Port Moresby for the **Advisor for the Promotion of Electrification Policy Implementation**. Since its launch in June 2024, the project has supported Papua New Guinea's electrification efforts through policy development and institutional capacity strengthening, contributing to improved access to sustainable energy.

The seminar reviewed the project's achievements and discussed future directions, reaffirming stakeholders' commitment to expanding energy access across the country. [More information](#)

(9) JICA Volunteers Conduct Teacher Training Workshop



On 19 March, three Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) working in primary schools in Papua New Guinea conducted a teacher training workshop in

Port Moresby for approximately 50 in-service primary school teachers. The workshop introduced teaching methods using science textbooks developed with JICA support, as well as approaches that incorporate hands-on science experiments.

Through model lessons and the creation of simple teaching materials using locally available resources, participants enhanced their understanding of effective textbook use and practical classroom instruction.

[More information](#)

2. Introduction of JICA Experts, Volunteers and/or Office Staff Members

Chief Representative (Sep 2023 ~ Apr 2026)

Mr. MATSUOKA Hideaki



My two years and seven months in Papua New Guinea have been both rewarding and memorable. Highlights included the opening of Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Japan's ODA, and the distribution of mathematics and science textbooks to primary schools.

It was also particularly meaningful to see that the water supply facility in Kwikila, which I helped develop as a consultant 25 years ago, continues to serve the local community. While I wish I could have stayed longer in PNG, I will now join the Environment Management and Climate Change Group, Global Environment Department of JICA HQs, where I hope to contribute to addressing environmental and climate change challenges in developing countries.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the people of Papua New Guinea, JICA colleagues, the Japanese community, and our development partners for their support and friendship. I hope our paths will cross again in the future. Tenk yu tru!

Chief Representative (Apr 2026 ~)

Mr. SHIROUZU Kenichi

(Apr 2025 ~ PNG Office Senior Representative)



After serving as Deputy of JICA Papua New Guinea Office for one year, I am honored to assume the role of Chief Representative. Having worked mainly in Southeast Asia such as Thailand and the Philippines, I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve in Papua New Guinea.

With its abundant resources and the largest population in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea has great potential, while also facing challenges in infrastructure, education, health, and other sectors. I believe Japan and JICA can make significant contributions to its development.

As ties between our two countries continue to deepen, including through the launch of direct flights between Narita and Port Moresby, I look forward to working with

our partners to further strengthen the trusted relationship built through 50 years of Japan's ODA.

[More information](#)

【JOCV/JICA】

In April 2026, four new JICA Volunteers (JOCV) arrived in Papua New Guinea, bringing the total number of volunteers to 17. After completing



orientation in Port Moresby and language training in Eastern Highlands Province, they were deployed to their respective assignments.

We wish them every success and look forward to their contributions while prioritizing their health and safety.

(from the left)

Mr. Nishigaki Shunichi Tourism, Tourism Bureau, Milne Bay Province.

Mr. KOYANA Naoto ICT, J.K McCarthy Museum, Eastern High Land Province.

Mr. YAMAGISHI Katsuhiko Math Education, Cameron Secondary School, Milne Bay Province.

Mr. Kanzaki Masanari Occupational Therapy, Alotau Provincial Hospital Rehabilitation Unit.

【JICA Staff】

Ms. Vivienne Boloti, Admin Officer



Konnichiwa everyone!! I began my journey with JICA in July 2024 as an Administration Officer, also supporting the Accounts, Public Relations, and Gender teams. My role involves

providing administrative coordination, financial support, and contributing to communication and gender-related initiatives within the office.

Working with JICA has been a rewarding experience, offering the opportunity to contribute to meaningful development efforts and collaborate with diverse teams. I am proud to be part of an organization that promotes professionalism, teamwork, and impactful partnerships.

3. Current Activities (As of July 2025)

3-1. Strengthening the Foundation of Economic Growth

(1) Economic Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

- (YL) Ramu Transmission System Reinforcement Project
L/A signed in August 2013, JPY 8,340 million [More information](#)
- (TCP) Project for Public Investment Management
Duration: December 2024 to March 2027 [More information](#)
- (TCP) Project for Enhancement of National Land Use Information Management System Towards Sustainable Land Use Management
Under preparation.
Duration: February 2026 to May 2029 [More information](#)
- (TCP) Project for Capacity Development of Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems using the SHEP Approach in East New Britain Province
Under preparation.
Duration: February 2026 to May 2029 [More information](#)
- (EXP) Electoral Commission Capacity Development (Voter and Civic Education) Duration: February 2026 to February 2029
- (CTC) Electoral Management in Democratic Countries
Under preparation
- (RT) Enhancing Customs Capacity through Master Trainer Program Phase 2 Duration: July 2024 to June 2027
- (RT) Community Policing Seminar for the Pacific Island Countries
Duration: November 2026 to October 2028
- (EXP) Gender Mainstreaming
Duration: April 2026 to March 2028
- (GA) The Project for Landslide Risk Reduction on the Kokopo-Rabaul Coastal Trunk Road
Under preparation
- (YL) Survey for Tokua Airport Rehabilitation & Upgrading Project
Under preparation
- (EXP) Development Planning Advisor
Under preparation
- (TCP) The Project for Capacity Development in Bridge Engineering, Management and Maintenance
Under preparation

(2) Industrial Promotion

- (TCP) The Project for Improving Resource Related Revenue Management Phase 2
Duration: March 2024 to February 2027 [More information](#)
- (PSC) Survey for Creation of Outboard Motorboat Market by Connecting Small Scale Fishers to Value Chain in Papua New Guinea
Duration: November 2023 to February 2026
- (GA) Project for the Improvement of Facilities and Training Equipment of National Fisheries College
Duration: June 2025 to December 2030

3-2. Improvement of Social Services

(3) Education

- (EXP) Education Policy Advisor
Duration: February 2022 to January 2027
- (TCP) The Project for Improving the Quality of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education
Under preparation

(4) Health

- (TCP) The Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Phase 2
Duration: April 2023 to April 2027 [More information](#)
- (GTCP) Project for Improvement of Maternal and Child Health Care in Highland Region of Papua New Guinea
Duration: November 2025 to November 2028

- (SAT) The project for acceleration of malaria elimination and development in the Southwest Pacific: a multi-pronged strategy tailored to local characteristics
Under preparation

3-3. Environment and Climate Change

(5) Environment and Climate Change

- (TCP) Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase 3 (J-PRISM3)
Duration: July 2023 to July 2028 [More information](#)
- (EXP) Enhancing Forest Management Capacity for Addressing Climate Change
Duration: November 2025 to November 2028

3-4. Training Courses

- Knowledge Co-Creation Program
In Japanese Fiscal Year, 61 trainees in 59 courses are to be trained.
[More information](#)
- Long Term Training
The following numbers of trainees are under Master's or Doctor's degree courses as of January 2026.
SDGs Global Leader: 11 trainees [More information](#)
KIZUNA Program: 2 trainees
Agri-Net Program: 1 trainee
Road Asset Management Platform: 1 trainee
Project for Human Resource Development (JDS): 12 trainees

3-5. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer

Currently, there are 15 volunteers are working in PNG, and another 3 will be coming in March. [More information](#)

3-6. JICA Chair

The fifth JICA Chair to learn the history of Japan's modernization and international relationship was carried out at UPNG in April 2026.

3-7. Gender Main Streaming

JICA PNG Office conducts various activities to promote gender main streaming, such as seminars to prevent sexual harassment, PR activities to promote gender equality, and events co-organized with NCDC and UNWOMEN, etc.

3-8. JICA Alumni Association

The JICA Alumni Association consists of more than 4000 ex-trainees and carries out various activities such as publishing newsletters etc.

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YL: Yen Loan Project
L/A: Loan Agreement
GA: Grant Aid Project
TCP: Technical Cooperation Project

EXP: Expert
PSC: Private Sector Cooperation
GTCP: Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project
SAT: Science and Technology Research Partnership
for Sustainable Development

RT: Regional Training
CTC: Country Training Course