Urban Development: Shaping a Better Future with People
The situation around the globe

Rapid urban population growth in developing countries

Over the next 45 years, urban populations in developing countries are estimated to increase by 5.5 million people every month. (This is equivalent to a new city the size of Greater Paris being built every other month.)

Urbanization and the emerging problems

- Economic inequality
- Natural disasters
- Lack of infrastructure

- Redressing economic disparities
- Increasing vulnerability to natural hazards
- Improving the urban environment

JICA's effort for urban and regional development

As a center of commercial, social and cultural activities, cities serve as the growth engines of a country. However, rapid urbanization accompanied by economic growth often leads to deteriorating living environments, traffic congestion, air pollution, floods, and waste-disposal problems. JICA tackles these problems, utilizing Japanese experience and expertise attained over years of managing rapid urbanization and recovering from major natural disasters. At the heart of JICA's work on urban development are integrated efforts to create a virtuous circle of economic prosperity and poverty reduction.

JICA and the framework for urban development

A step-by-step approach from planning through implementation

JICA provides a variety of cooperation schemes, including technical cooperation, loans and grant aid. Using the best mix of these tools to meet diverse needs in developing countries, JICA helps solve problems efficiently and effectively. This represents JICA's flexible platform in coordinating necessary and timely assistance according to the progress of a project.

JICA values making a master plan on urban development

As a comprehensive, long-term strategy, JICA elaborates on a "master plan on urban development." This framework provides a sustainable development path, allowing coordinated implementation of an array of projects, not only by JICA, but also by the developing countries' governments and other international agencies. What is unique about JICA's approach is that it makes such road maps through consolidating local partnership and consultation with various stakeholders.

JICA’s perspectives

In order to improve city management, JICA proposes and technically supports the organizational strengthening and capacity development of implementing agencies.

A comprehensive vision

JICA's urban planning presents a vital vision for the urban future, accommodating spatial configurations in and around cities.

A wider scope of development

In addition to physical structure such as land use and infrastructure, JICA takes social dimensions into consideration, including poverty reduction and civic empowerment.

Making a plan into a project

In accordance with a Master Plan formulated with developing countries, JICA helps prioritize where to facilitate access to public goods and services.

JICA's Approach

Evidence-based planning

JICA's planning is built on a variety of available data sources. In addition to analyzing traffic surveys and other studies, socio-economic frameworks and traffic models are used as tools to anticipate trends.

Participatory planning

JICA values dialogue and coordination with citizens in urban planning. The planning process incorporates consensus-building by seeking public comments from various social groups or taking opinion polls in local communities. This participatory approach enhances the public’s awareness as being stakeholders playing a role in the planning process. Also, communities informed of urban risks tend to be more prepared to cope with natural disasters and other emergencies.

Implemenation of a plan

- Infrastructure development through financial assistance
- Development of legal and institutional frameworks

Operation and maintenance

- Improvement of management skills

Urban development that benefits all, bringing about a virtuous circle of economic growth and poverty reduction
Human resource development

Scale up good practices

By following the concept of a master plan, S4U contributes to creating a legal and institutional framework that underpins essential urban functions. This is illustrated by a new conception of S4U.

Develop infrastructure

From the research and grant to its impact on S4U, this framework will guide the creation of a legal framework and institutional reforms in local governance necessary to create conditions for S4U. This is an example of a new conception of S4U.

Legal and institutional framework for urban management

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Collect data and information

Make maps

Create scenarios

Propose an urban design

Incorporate sector planning

Develop infrastructure

Infrastructure, legal system and institutions

Operation, maintenance and management

Master plan

Desirable urban paradigm

3G’s cooperation starts as the expansion of a development projects program: 3G develops the urban guidelines, taking into account existing spatial and infrastructural conditions, to propose a master plan through detailed discussions with a partner government. Positioning suburban residents and long-term needs, 3G provides a proposal for 3G’s cooperation plan that outlines the requirements that partner government and its counterpart agencies must meet. 3G’s cooperation plan is sent approximately one every six-month. The 3G’s cooperation plan can then receive a full-time support from 3G to review master plans as necessary.

3G serves as a catalyst for developing the capacity of local governments and institutions in the legal and institutional framework that underpin essential urban functions. This is illustrated by a new conception of 3G’s cooperation.
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a bilateral agency for implementing the Official Development Aid (ODA) of Japan in developing countries around the world. Working for a vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development,” JICA addresses multiple challenges in these countries, with thematic, regional and country strategies.