

JICA's WORLD

MAY 2013 VOL. 5 • N° 2 THE MAGAZINE OF THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY WWW.JICA.GO.JP/ENGLISH



Japan International
Cooperation Agency

JICA's Vision

Inclusive and Dynamic Development

JICA's Mission

- Addressing the global agenda
- Reducing poverty through equitable growth
- Improving governance
- Achieving human security



Africa

A Brighter Future

JICA and Africa

Building a Brighter Future Together

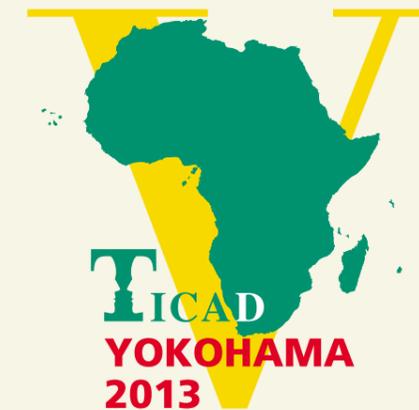
This is an age of dramatic and exciting change for Africa, with a population boom underway and many countries experiencing rapid economic growth. The years of stagnation and decline are a thing of the past, and a youthful and vibrant new Africa is looking to the future with a growing sense of optimism.

JICA experts and volunteers are at work in villages and cities all over the African continent, sharing knowledge, insights, and technology with our African partners. At JICA, we believe that Japan and Africa can work to build a better, brighter future together.

(Photo by Takeshi Kuno)



The History and Significance of TICAD



The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was initiated by Japan in 1993, right after the end of the Cold War. The conference meets for the fifth time this year, marking the twentieth anniversary of the TICAD process. TICAD V this year welcomes the African Union as one of the co-organizers of the conference for the first time.

Africa is blessed with abundant reserves of oil, natural gas, rare metals, and other natural resources. The continent's population is expected to grow by 50 % over the next 20 years, to 1.56 billion. Since 2000, Africa's economies have been growing at an average annual rate of 5%. The working-age population is projected to reach 1.4 billion by 2050, surpassing China and India. With resource development progressing, some are predicting the beginning of an "African century" within the next few decades.

Japan was one of the key players in supporting this African economic development. The first conference, TICAD I, was held in Tokyo in October 1993. This was when the focus of the developed coun-

tries had shifted to former republics of the Soviet Union, coupled with "donor fatigue," when the international community was showing signs of losing interest in Africa and African development. Organized through the cooperation of the United Nations and Global Coalition for Africa, an NGO, the first TICAD attracted participants from 48 African countries, including five heads of state.

The Tokyo Declaration on African Development, adopted at TICAD I, put aid and development in Africa back on the international agenda. At a time of growing Afro-pessimism, when many people were starting to suspect that African countries would never develop no matter how much assistance was provided, Japan's initiative as one of the largest donor countries was a vital part in the efforts to keep the assistance flowing.

A Focus on Human Security (2003)

TICAD II followed in 1998. At this second meeting, the Tokyo Agenda for Action was adopted. The conference agreed on policies and priorities, including concrete

quantitative targets, in three areas: (1) Social development, (2) Economic development, and (3) Good governance, conflict prevention, and post-conflict recovery.

TICAD III, held in 2003, adopted the TICAD Tenth Anniversary Declaration. This set out three development pillars: (1) Consolidating peace, (2) Reducing poverty through economic growth, and (3) Achieving development through grass-roots participation.

For TICAD IV, held in 2008, the venue moved to Yokohama. This meeting took place against a backdrop of a newly vibrant Africa experiencing soaring growth rates of 6%-7%. With development projects buoyant, the gathering was the biggest international conference of its kind ever held in Japan, with more than 3,000 participants including 41 African presidents and prime ministers.

The Yokohama Declaration articulated three main priority areas for international development cooperation: (1) Boosting economic growth, (2) Ensuring human security, and (3) Addressing environmental issues and climate change. At the same

time, the Yokohama Action Plan was adopted to provide a roadmap of specific measures to be implemented. Japan doubled its official development assistance to support the realization of the targets of the action plan.

The TICAD process has played an important part in supporting Africa's transition from a continent mired in stagnation to a place brimming with hope and opportunity. The fact that this international conference has continued to fulfill this important role for 20 years is in itself a remarkable achievement, made possible by the follow-up mechanism, in which ministers from African states meet each year to monitor the pledges made during the TICAD process.

The Target for TICAD V: Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

Many contributing factors have helped to support growth in Africa. These include

high prices for natural resources and commodities, increasing private investment, and political stability following resolution of conflicts. But challenges remain. Efforts must now be made to ensure that recent growth turns into spontaneous and ongoing development. This is the thinking reflected in the basic message of TICAD V, to be held June 1-3 in Yokohama this year: "Hand in hand with a more dynamic Africa: transformation for inclusive and sustainable growth."

The conference has three major aims: establishing structures for a robust and sustainable economy to lessen reliance on primary products, building an inclusive and resilient society with fewer inequalities, and achieving the peace and stability that provide an indispensable foundation for growth.

Ownership is an essential part of the TICAD philosophy. We are convinced that people in Africa are the best qualified to

find solutions for the issues facing Africa. Reflecting this belief, the African Union Commission will join as one of the co-organizers of the conference for the first time this year. This brings the list of organizers to five: the government of Japan, the UN, the UN Development Programme, the World Bank, and the AUC. The aim for this year's conference is to respect African ownership and to work together on plans proposed by partners from African countries.

TICAD I
October 1993

African development reaffirmed as a key task on the international agenda.

TICAD II
October 1998

Agreement reached on key policies and priority actions.

TICAD III
September 2003

A new focus on human security.

TICAD IV
May 2008

Agreement reached on a roadmap of measures to achieve a vibrant Africa.

TICAD V
June 2013

This year's key theme: "Hand in hand with a more dynamic Africa: transformation for quality growth."

Message from JICA President Akihiko Tanaka

Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth—Encouraging Synnovation—

African economies have steadily achieved average annual growth rates of 5% since the beginning of this century. This growth is expected to continue in the coming years. The current economic growth is, however, largely attributed to the thriving mining sector. The percentage of GDP held by the industrial sector has been declining since the 1980s. As the population grows, youth unemployment will become a serious issue for sustainable growth as well as political stability. Furthermore, recently such threats as terrorism and armed conflict are growing, especially in the Sahel region of West Africa. These threats could hamper economic growth. To make the current growth sustainable and more inclusive, the keys are human security, agriculture and infrastructure.

The concept of human security encompasses efforts to make all segments of society secure and free from want and fear. Many of the vulnerabilities facing Africa, such as poverty, unemployment and conflicts, are in fact threats to human security. JICA pursues the enhancement of human security through its operations. This will bring to the region peace and stability, which are preconditions to sustainable economic growth.

Agriculture is a potential driver of African growth. While 60% of the labor in Africa is in the agricultural sector, Africa is a net importer of foods. Improvements in agricultural productivity are crucial for food security as well as employ-

ment. JICA is engaged in an initiative of doubling rice production in 10 years in 23 countries, as well as efforts to increase smallholdings' income.

Development of infrastructure, broadly defined, is crucial for sustainable development in Africa. "Hard" infrastructure includes such things as roads, ports and power stations. In addition to hard infrastructure, "soft" infrastructure is also important. Cooperation in soft infrastructure includes developing human resource capacity for business, enhancing the rule of law, and promoting foreign direct investment.

Because the world and Africa are changing rapidly, past developmental models and experience alone will not be adequate for inclusive and sustainable development. The experiences of Asia as well as the West are useful for Africa. But we need to find out, together with our partners and other stakeholders in Africa, solutions most appropriate to Africa. I call this approach "synnovation." Synnovation means innovating new approaches and solutions in concert with global partners. I strongly believe that TICAD V will be a milestone on the path to ensuring Africa's sustainable and inclusive economic growth in cooperation with all development partners.



(Photo by AFP-Jiji)



Building a Continent

(Photo by Akio Iizuka)

FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR AIDS AND SLEEPING SICKNESS

There are more than 3,000 wild herbs in Ghana with potential medicinal benefits. Until now, active components have been identified in only one-third of these plants, but Ghanaian and Japanese researchers and experts are involved in a five-year collaborative project to further unlock their secrets and perhaps provide new remedies for scourges such as HIV/AIDS and sleeping sickness.

The program is centered at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Accra, the capital of Ghana, which in itself is symbolic of several decades of cooperation between the two countries. Hideyo Noguchi was a prominent Japanese bacteriologist who was struck down with the yellow fever virus in Accra in 1928 while studying the disease. In 1979 the government of Japan funded the construction and opening of the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in his memory to further research and strengthen bilateral ties.

The institute is now one of the most important of its kind in Africa and is seen increasingly as a symbol of close relations with Japan.

The Potential of Medicinal Plants

The JICA project, launched in 2010, involves about 50 medical researchers from the NMIMR and Center for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine (CSRPM), and experts from the Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Nagasaki International University to try to develop more effective drugs to combat HIV/AIDS and trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness.

In Sub-Saharan Africa alone 23.5 million people are stricken by AIDS, and as many as 50 million people are infected with the little-known and generally ignored sleeping sickness pathogen.

Traditional medicine involving local plants has been widely used in Ghana for centuries, but only recently has modern research explored their possibilities.

The first task of the current project is to extract bioactive components from wild plants and then to conduct analysis to investigate the effects of those compounds. A “eureka moment” would be the discovery of compounds which could ward off the HIV/AIDS virus and the sleeping sickness protozoa.

“We are keen to discover the hidden gems that can become a base for developing actual drugs,” according to principal investigator Professor Shoji Yamakoka of the Tokyo Medical and Dental University.

The researchers have centered their studies on 100 to 150 plants, many of them with some known history through their use as traditional medicines, and after a relatively slow start, one JICA expert, Dr. Mitsuko Suzuki, said her coworkers were “excited” about progress being made, though all such research could take many years to reach practical fruition.



A workshop in Ghana on the prevention of HIV/AIDS between mother and new-born children

Twenty-three countries are participating in the Coalition for African Rice Development

PUTTING RICE ON THE AFRICAN DINNER TABLE

A rice farmer in Ghana



Fifty years ago 85% of Africa’s population lived in rural communities. Within the next few years more than 50% of the continent’s more than 1 billion people will be urban dwellers in the biggest mass movement of people in the region’s history.

As they move into cities Africans are changing the entire pattern of their daily lives, including their eating habits.

Rice is not a staple food on the continent, but because it is easier and quicker to prepare than many traditional meals, more and more people are adding it to their diet.

In 2008 the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) began an initiative to

double rice production to 28 million tons by 2018, and today 23 countries are participating in the project known as the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD).

The overall project embraces various approaches to boosting output, including the introduction of new hybrids, programs for both lowland and upland production, improving irrigation systems and extension services, pilot projects and training for both farmers and local officials.

In Ghana, a five-year project was launched in 2009 to improve rain-fed lowland rice production to help meet the government’s own target of doubling rice production.

“Harvesting” Rainfall

Kenji Tsujishita is the team leader of five Japanese experts who have targeted more than 1,000 small-scale farmers in the central and northern areas of the West African state.

“This is a rain-fed and not an irrigation project, so we are teaching farmers how better to ‘harvest’

the natural rainfall, which often just flows away and is lost,” Tsujishita said. “We want to keep everything as simple and as inexpensive as possible.”

Farmers have been taught procedures common in Asia, such as enclosing the paddies with low mud walls, or bunds, planting in straight lines and at specific intervals and undertaking regular weeding with simple wooden push weeders.

The approach is already paying dividends. Yields in the Ashanti region, which averaged 1.3 tons per acre just a few years ago, have in places already achieved the project target of 4 tons. In the Northern Region, where the target was also 4 tons, one pilot plot has already topped 7.5 tons.

Danful Seth, who joined the project in 2012, has 10 acres under rice cultivation and wants to increase the area to 20–25 acres. He estimates that he has already increased yield by 20%.

“I have four children aged from 3 to 12, and hopefully this rice is going to pay for a better education for them,” he said—as well as introducing some new dishes on the dinner table.



A four-year JICA project to help schoolchildren in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou

EDUCATING AFRICA'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN

The primary school children were eager to impress. Crowded around tiny wooden tables, some 60 youngsters scribbled on tiny black slates and noisily answered questions on basic mathematics as their stern teacher rapped the class to order with her wooden baton.

Japanese visitors to the Gounghin Nord primary school in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou watched the proceedings closely.

JICA is closely involved in helping to raise the standard of education throughout Africa, for both teachers and students, at all levels from primary to university and adult classes.

Since early in the new millennium, starting in

the West African nation of Niger, the development agency has undertaken projects in some of the poorest and least educated countries in the world.

A key component of such efforts is the establishment of so-called school management committees, similar to parent-teacher associations in some Western countries.

An Unqualified Success

The recent visit to the Gounghin Nord primary school was part of a four-year project launched in 2009.

Since then, according to project formulation advisor Tomoko Ebihara, a singular success has been the establishment of management committees in some 1,400 schools in three regions.

Generally the committees consist of teachers and school administrators, parents, local authorities and, where applicable, a pupils' representative. An official of the local authority meeting with the Japanese experts recently said the management committee had been an unqualified success.

"Parents never really cared before what happened at school," he said. "Now they have become deeply involved. And this has created a much better and closer community spirit. And because the parents care, the children take more interest in their lessons as well." Teachers point to specific progress. In 2006, the pass rate among more than 400 children was 67%. In 2010, the pass rate reached the magical 100%.

For any country, educating the next generation is a crucial part of building toward the future. JICA and its volunteers will continue to play their part in building a brighter future for Burkina Faso and other countries in Africa.

Japanese experts and teachers discuss a four-year JICA project to help raise the standard of education in the West African nation of Burkina Faso.



ETHIOPIA: AN INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE THE KAIZEN BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY

Ethiopia is one of the star performers in a newly burgeoning Africa, having registered double-digit growth for the past eight years. The current five-year plan aims to double the gross domestic product between fiscal 2010-11 and 2014-15. But several issues need to be addressed before Ethiopia can achieve further growth in exports and investment. Private-sector development remains sluggish, and low levels of quality and productivity remain a problem.

It was the late prime minister Meles Zenawi who had the idea of adopting *kaizen*, a Japanese business philosophy meaning "continuous improvement" that promotes quality and productivity improvement as well as human resource development. In response to a request from the prime minister, JICA launched a technical assistance project to introduce the *kaizen* concept to Ethiopia in 2009.

In November 2011, the second phase of the project began, and work is currently underway to build a framework for spreading the concept nationwide. The main aim of this second phase, which will run for three years through October 2014, is to help build a more vigorous private sector.

A Government Agency to Promote Kaizen

Efforts to promote *kaizen* in Ethiopia received a major boost in 2011, when the Ethiopian Kaizen Institute (EKI) was established under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry. Having been successfully applied in many countries in Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, *kaizen* is no longer just a Japanese concept. Even so, Ethiopia is probably the first country in the world to name a government agency specifically for the concept. The establishment of the new agency reflects the strong example shown by Prime Minister Meles, who was one of the most influential opinion-leaders in Africa.

The absence of abundant resources makes incremental improvements in quality and productivity indispensable if companies are to develop. Small improvements can go a long way to achieving larger goals. *Kaizen* is both a tool and a philosophy to make this happen.

"*Kaizen* is not about trying to bring about innovation overnight," notes Toru Homma, a JICA senior advisor who has been involved in Ethiopian industrial development for many years. "The important thing is to make small but steady improvements over time." Homma was one of the organizers of the Africa Kaizen Event held in March to coincide with the ministerial meeting to prepare for TICAD V in Addis Ababa. "You need the right sort of framework so that improvements can take

place spontaneously from the bottom up. Officials and business leaders have been very responsive to the idea that *kaizen* can be an effective tool in turning workers' and managers' mindsets around. The concept was one that Prime Minister Meles was very interested in on a personal level."

Lowering Costs and Defect Rate

The EKI spearheaded a *kaizen* project whose first phase involved 30 companies, applying the basic principles of "small improvements," "bottom-up," "teamwork," and "continuity," implementing the "5S" workplace improvement practices (*seiri* = organization, *seiton* = neatness, *seiso* = cleaning, *seiketsu* = standardization, and *shitsuke* = self-discipline), and using tools to eliminate waste and improve workflow. The project had an immediate impact, resulting in average savings equivalent to \$29,000 per company and a dramatic reduction in the number of defective products.

The Africa Kaizen Event seminar in March attracted some 160 participants from countries throughout Africa, Homma notes. Panel presentations were held at the African Union headquarters, where the TICAD ministerial preparatory meeting was held, piquing the interest of many African officials. Representatives from several countries expressed a desire to emulate Ethiopia's success, suggesting that *kaizen* practices could be highly effective in helping not only Asian but also African countries to improve their productivity.



A JICA expert explains the *kaizen* concept to workers at a furniture factory. (Photo by Kenshiro Imamura)

Kaizen principles can boost productivity and improve workers' morale. (Photo by Kenshiro Imamura)



BUILDING A CONTINENT'S NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

The border town of Namanga between Tanzania and Kenya is a colorful and chaotic place.

A constant stream of human and vehicular traffic moves across a no-man's land between two frontier posts on foot, bicycle, beaten-up old buses, tourist coaches and tough, four-wheel-drive vehicles. Heavily laden trucks are parked everywhere, many with a sheen of dust which suggests they have been there for days or weeks.

Herd of goats bleat loudly and hawkers sell everything from currency to maize cobs.

It is a scene reminiscent of virtually every border crossing in Africa, and it is also a major impediment to the continent's economic well-being.

Such frontier crossings are so inefficient, time consuming, and often corrupt that they are a major reason why the African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates continental transportation costs

can be two-and-a-half times higher than in Asia, effectively stifling national and regional development.

But something is stirring at Namanga on both sides of the border, where new buildings are under construction and vast areas are being cleared for access roads and truck parking.

One Stop Border Post

When completed, the facilities will be part of a Japanese concept known as the One-Stop Border Post (OSBP), which aims to eliminate the daily border crossing nightmare with a sleek and efficient system embracing all border procedures, such as customs, immigration and vehicular clearance.

As some of the trucks at Namanga attest, crossings can literally take days or weeks. Officials estimate that an efficient OSBP system could cut the transit time to as little as half an hour with truck drivers or tourists able to clear all formalities at just one stop on either side of the border.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), together with local authorities and such partners as the AfDB, has introduced the border concept in various parts of Africa as part of an overall concentration to improve the continent's basic infrastructure, such as roads, ports and energy supply, which in turn should lead to higher economic performance and improved social conditions.

In addition to the frontier crossing, JICA and the AfDB have already helped finance the rebuilding of the major trunk road from the Tanzanian city of Arusha to the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

In addition to accommodating the faster and more efficient movement of vehicular and human traffic, the OSBP and the new highway are also already spurring economic growth in and around Namanga itself and along various sections of the highway.

It is already far easier to move along the highway to places even further away, such as the Ugandan capital of Kampala.

An Urbanizing Africa

JICA is also assisting in other forms of highway development in other areas.

Africa for years has been transforming itself from a predominantly rural region to an increasingly urban setting, and in the next few years, for the first time in history, more of the continent's 1 billion population will live in towns and cities.

This mass migration is putting major pressure on all forms of urban infrastructure, such as roads and highways.

In the bustling Tanzanian port city of Dar es Salaam, JICA has provided grant assistance of some US\$53 million to widen to four lanes and build three new bridges for one of its most heavily overloaded road arteries, the New Bagamoyo Road.

Across the continent in the West African nation of Ghana, JICA has provided ¥8.3 billion in

grant assistance and teams of Japanese consultants and experts to upgrade a large section of the vital Trunk Road N8 running through the center of the country's economic heartland, or the so-called Golden Triangle.

The highway is not only a vital artery for Ghana's own economy but is expected to grow in importance—and use—in the coming years as a major transit highway for neighboring landlocked countries, such as Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.

According to Japanese engineering consultant Suelo Hirose, the history of Trunk Road N8 underlines another problem facing the continent in its efforts to upgrade infrastructure.

Japan helped finance an earlier reconstruction of the road in the early 1990s, but in the intervening years "There has been little maintenance," he said. "The road has deteriorated more rapidly than expected," particularly due to the heavy traffic and the harsh climatic conditions of West Africa.

New infrastructure projects capture public headlines, but as in many regions of the world, governments have constraints in allocating funds for long-term and "unexciting" maintenance. Unless this obstacle is removed, according to experts like Hirose, Africa's efforts to improve the continent's economic performance will be constantly undermined.

**One-Stop
Border Post will
eliminate the
daily border
crossing
nightmare with
a sleek and
efficient system
embracing all
border
procedures**

A new one-stop border post on the Kenya-Tanzania border



TURNING ON THE POWER

The Japanese and Tanzanian engineers carefully checked the electrical dials on the panels in front of them. Using long, insulated rods, they gingerly tested the overhead cables. Satisfied, a key was turned, and a new electrical substation was activated.

In the background shimmered the most iconic geographical feature in Africa, the gleaming snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the continent.

The experts recently were putting the finishing touches to a two-year, US\$27 million grant aid project by JICA to upgrade electricity supplies in Tanzania's Kilimanjaro region, which included rehabilitating three existing electricity substations and various transmission lines and building two new substations, including the KCMC substation that the engineers were commissioning during a recent visit.

Kilimanjaro is not only one of the most spectacularly beautiful regions in Africa but also one of the most important economic centers for Tanzania, being an important tourist hub, farming center and growing industrial base.

But like most areas of Tanzania, regular power supplies are fragile, and homes, businesses and even hospitals suffer almost daily electricity failures. Boosting output, improving basic infrastructure and strengthening personnel training are keys to the country's economic and social well-being.

Among the visitors to the KCMC inauguration were representatives from the nearby hospital, one of the largest and most important in Tanzania, which will be a major recipient of the improved electrical grid, providing the complex with more sustainable and ultimately cheaper power supplies.

Providing Training

From the perspective of human resource development, JICA has also been conducting a five-year training project with the country's sole power and transmission company, TANESCO, which began in 2009.



Japanese and Tanzanian experts make a final inspection before the inauguration of a new electricity substation in Kilimanjaro.

For almost a decade from the mid-1990s, the organization, which employs 6,000 people, did not have its own training system and facilities, though electric power is key to Tanzania's economic well-being.

JICA started the work from the ground level; curriculums, syllabuses and text materials were developed for the target technicians to inject the right knowledge and encourage high performance, and so far training courses have been conducted for more than 400 personnel—engineers, technicians and "artisans"—running from several weeks to several months. Japan's famed *kaizen* industrial approach has also been introduced to the organization.

The eventual aim is to increase both the number of personnel and the scope of the training itself and to have the workers apply the outcome of the training to their workplace.

In practical terms, more qualified personnel will guarantee more sustainable electrical supplies and improved economic and social conditions.

For instance, currently the country as a whole suffers from some eight electricity outages each month. The aim is to reduce that figure to two per month, which is the average in South Africa, the continent's leading power supplier.

Around Africa

JICA and its teams of volunteers and experts provide wide-ranging development assistance in countries throughout Africa. These efforts include support for democratization and nation-building as well as micro-level projects that aim to promote community-based grass-roots development.

EGYPT

Supporting Democratization in the Wake of the “Arab Spring”



Two years have passed since the mass democratization movement known as the “Arab Spring” swept through North Africa. As Egypt goes through a transitional phase, people are focusing their energy and ambition on building a new state. In its search for a model of state-building, Egypt has turned its eyes to Asia, where many countries have achieved economic growth and embraced western values without losing touch with their individual cultures and traditions.

Since the change of government in Egypt in February 2011, JICA has provided support in drafting the “National Development Master Plan” (July 2012–June 2022), a roadmap for the creation of a new state. This is the first time in 40 years that Egypt has looked outside its borders for help in creating a development plan

A man casts his vote at an Egyptian polling booth. (Photo by Shin'ichi Kuno)



concerning the nation's core interests. In June 2013, JICA will launch a new technical support project that will help to improve the mechanisms necessary for implementing this plan. JICA will also help to develop the skills of personnel in the Egyptian Ministries of Planning and International Cooperation.

Egypt has also turned to Japan and the Japanese electoral system as it sets its sights on fair and democratic elections. From September 4 to 12, 2012, JICA welcomed to Japan Hatem Bagato, the General Secretary of Egypt's Supreme Presidential Electoral Commission. Secretary Bagato learned about the Japanese election system, participating in JICA informational programs and conversations with relevant stakeholders.

In the past, Egypt has not had a permanent Electoral Commission. Instead, ad hoc committees have been set up and then dissolved after each election. This has made it difficult for the commission to build on its own experience, leading to concerns about efficiency and fairness. As part of Egypt's drive toward a fully democratized society, this system was discontinued and a standing Electoral Commission established through a constitutional amendment passed in fall 2012.

MOROCCO

“South-South Cooperation” for Road Maintenance and Construction



Japan's cooperation in Morocco has centered on the agricultural and fishery industries and marine resources. Assistance in these fields has brought significant results, particularly in terms of human resource development and technology transfers.

Morocco has been a leading participant in “south-south cooperation,” a movement that encourages countries receiving development assistance to provide mutual cooperation in other developing countries at the same time. Morocco has been involved in this kind of cooperation since 1998, primarily by hosting technical trainees.

JICA supports “third-country group training” in Morocco for road maintenance and construction. One such initiative got underway in July 1993, with the establishment of the Institute of Training on Road Maintenance and

Training with machinery from Japan's Komatsu (Photo by Shin'ichi Kuno)



Construction Equipment (IFEER), a project that provides training for the technicians needed for road building and maintenance. The institute was established with grant aid provided by Japan. The establishment of IFEER coincided with the launch of a five-year technical cooperation project aimed at training personnel, as well as technical assistance to set up and operate training courses.

IFEER has provided third-country group training to other French-speaking countries in Africa to assist road maintenance and construction since 1999. The project is currently in its fourth phase (fiscal 2012 to 2014). So far, the project has provided assistance to 10 countries.

The institute has developed into a major center for skills training in road construction and maintenance in Francophone Africa. Over the years, technical cooperation projects funded through Japan's grant aid have turned Morocco into a base for transmitting know-how to other countries with which it shares cultural affinities and a similar level of technical development. The training at the institute makes use of machinery provided by the Japanese firm Komatsu, which also dispatches senior volunteers to Morocco to serve as technical advisors.

MALAWI

Introducing the “One Village, One Product” Movement from Japan



Malawi is one of the first countries in Africa to implement the “One Village, One Product” movement, which was originally pioneered in Oita Prefecture in Japan. The idea behind the concept is that each municipality should have at least one competitive product that is distinctively its own to offer to the market. Since 2003, Malawi has promoted the initiative as part of its official government programs for economic development in cooperation with JICA.

Malawi is a predominantly agricultural country. Its main agricultural products include tobacco, sugarcane, and tea, along with a variety of fruit and vegetables. The country also has a modest fishing industry, centered on Lake Malawi, and dairy farming in the highland regions. In spite of these resources, the country has limited capabilities when it comes to food processing and marketing. It is necessary for Malawi to cultivate the technology and know-how necessary to add value to products and make them marketable.

One of the most popular items to come out of Malawi's “One Village, One Product” initiative is *moringa* powder. Made from the leaves of the highly nutritious *moringa* tree, the powder is said to contain twice as much protein as yogurt, vita-

min C levels seven times the amount of oranges, and four times as much calcium as milk. The powder can be boiled and then applied to the body as a medicine, drunk as tea, or added to food. Another Malawian product is the 100% natural *mapanga* honey, which comes from the nectar of mango flowers in the south of the country.

Another noteworthy example is the growing lineup of products made from the baobab tree. In Malawi, oil extracted from the fruit of the baobab tree is commonly used as a cooking ingredient. In Japan, the vitamin-rich oil is popularly used as a moisturizing ingredient in cosmetics. A sweet-and-sour jam made from the fruit is also popular.

A JOCV* gives her support to peanut oil producers. (Photo by Katsumi Yoshida)
*JOCV: Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer



MOZAMBIQUE

Upgrading the Nacala Port to Boost Imports and Exports



In March 2013, JICA announced that it will provide Mozambique with a loan worth up to ¥7.89 billion to develop the port of Nacala as an import-export hub in the north of the country. The aim is to improve the performance and capacity of the port, and thus contribute to the economic development of the whole country. It is also hoped that the project will stimulate the economy and alleviate poverty in the Nacala Development Corridor, which encompasses parts of Malawi and Zambia as well as the north of Mozambique.

Nacala is an excellent natural harbor, and it is hoped that the port will serve as a gateway to the Nacala Development Corridor. Once the improvements to the port have been completed, economic activity in the corridor should expand rapidly as the amount of cargo handled increases, given the area's rich agricultural potential and the mineral deposits that have been discovered there. According to some forecasts, the volume of goods handled by the port will increase tenfold by 2030. Rehabilitating and upgrading the aging port and increasing its operational efficiency are therefore urgent priorities.

Along with loans to fund these facility upgrades, efforts are moving forward to train the

human resources necessary to ensure that the port functions effectively. The Overseas Coastal Area Development Institute of Japan invited personnel from Mozambique to attend a training course from August 21 to September 1, 2012. The trainees visited cargo-handling facilities at the ports of Yokohama and Oita and learned about how port facilities are maintained and managed in Japan.

Nacala Port (Photo by Mika Tanimoto)



Around Africa

SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

Assisting Postwar Recovery and Development



Following the 2005 peace agreement that finally brought the long civil war in Sudan to an end, the independent Republic of South Sudan came into being in July 2011. JICA resumed assistance to both north and south shortly after the peace agreement was signed, and has since provided a cumulative total of ¥36 billion in assistance.

JICA has provided Sudan with assistance to foster peace-building and support Basic Human Needs (BHN) and agricultural development. JICA has also given assistance to South Sudan to support new nation-building (through improvements to infrastructure and governance), BHN, and food security.

These efforts include initiatives to improve government provision of services in such areas as in-



The lively port of Juba, in South Sudan

frastructure, agriculture, water supply, health, vocational training, and waste management.

JICA is helping the governments (especially the local governments) of both countries to formulate and monitor development plans, helping them to allocate budgetary and other resources and providing grant aid to improve facilities and equipment. Building on this work, JICA is also implementing a number of other projects in conflict-affected areas and assisting peace-building efforts.

As well as providing aid to both countries separately, JICA has also been engaged in cooperation projects to improve ties between North and South Sudan. For instance, in the summer of 2007 JICA carried out an emergency survey on basic infrastructure in the city and suburbs of Juba, and rehabilitated the Juba River Port. At present, strained relations between north and south have brought river trade to a halt, but the port will have an important role to play for both countries once relations improve.

In 2012, grant aid from the Japanese government also funded work on a 200-meter extension of the pier in Juba harbor. Infrastructure like this that links north and south benefits both countries and helps to develop their common interests.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Helping to Build a National Police Force



Japanese economic cooperation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo dates back to the 1970s, when the country was still known as Zaire. Over the decades that followed, Japan extended vital support in building the country's infrastructure, including water supply, health services, and human resource development. Japan also extended its seismic expertise to the country's volcano monitoring projects. Unfortunately, these activities came to a halt in 1991 as a result of civil war. Following the presidential elections in 2006, Japan decided to resume full-scale bilateral assis-

tance to the DRC. Since then, JICA has provided reconstruction support in three main focus areas: human resource development aimed at developing a national police force to secure the peace, infrastructure construction and job training for economic development, and assistance to help develop adequate health services and a safe water supply, as well as improving access to social services.

Supporting training for the Congolese National Police is central to JICA's work in the country. Developing a viable police force is vital for consolidating the peace and is a prerequisite for sustainable economic development. Activities include refresher courses for police officers and long-term basic training for new recruits (including many enlisted from former armed insurgent groups). These programs are operated in partnership with the UN Police (which prepares the curriculum and dispatches instructors) and the UN Development Programme (which has handled logistics since 2009). These programs thus represent good examples of successful collaboration with UN agencies. To date some 18,000 police officers have received training, and the programs have been credited with substantially improving the attitude and morale of police officers.

Police officers in training (Photo by Shin'ichi Kuno)



SENEGAL

Securing Access to Safe Drinking Water

For over 20 years, JICA has been working to improve the rural water supply in Senegal and ensure a supply of safe drinking water to villages. JICA also provides training support to ensure that community members can maintain the water facilities on their own in the future.



One of the villages provided with a water supply system (Photo by Kenshiro Imamura)

In many Senegalese villages, residents traditionally had no choice but to walk long distances to fetch water from wells or rivers. Thanks to JICA's assistance, more than 300,000 people now have access to safe drinking water. As well as liberating women and children from the chore of hauling water, this has improved sanitation in the villages.

One concrete example of this progress can be seen in the village of Taiba Ndiaye. In the past, villagers depended on wells, but a water supply system constructed with JICA assistance now provides clean, safe water directly to households. Liberated from the need to fetch water, women now have time to learn how to read and pursue other activities.

RWANDA

JICA Volunteers Working on the Frontlines

Rwanda has set an ambitious economic goal of lifting per capita income from the 2000 level of US\$220 to US\$900 by 2020. JICA's assistance to Rwanda has four areas of focus: economic infrastructure, agricultural development, social service improvement, and human resource development.

In agricultural development, volunteers are working in Karangazi, three hours by car from Rwanda's capital, to transform local honey production into a profitable business. The aim of the project is to improve the livelihood of local farming communities by forming honey farming (apiculture) cooperatives and marketing the honey under the brand name "Akagera Honey."

The government of Rwanda has set a target of



A youth volunteer shows villagers how to check water containers for purity. (Photo by Kenshiro Imamura)

providing fresh water to all areas of the country by 2017. Through grant aid, technical cooperation, and dispatching volunteers, JICA is providing comprehensive support for efforts to achieve this goal in the Eastern Province, which has the lowest rates of access to safe drinking water in the country.

At present, eight volunteers are working as part of the "Water Security Action Team (W-SAT)." Some members of the team are involved in repairing wells, and are working to establish a system for carrying out regular checks on abandoned wells before they become unusable. In many villages, people use muddy water from nearby rivers as their primary source of domestic water. One volunteer is carrying out a survey on sanitation conditions and in partnership with a local health center is working to eradicate illness among local children due to unsanitary water.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers are also dispatched to these priority areas. The volunteers work on the frontlines of Japanese ODA and coordinate closely with grant aid assistance and technical cooperation projects.

JICA's WORLD

Publisher:
Noriko Suzuki
Office of Media and
Public Relations

JICA'S WORLD
is published by
JICA
Nibancho Center Bldg
5-25, Niban-cho
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-8012 JAPAN

TELEPHONE:
+81-3-5226-6660
FAX: +81-3-5226-6396
WEB:
www.jica.go.jp/english/

Comments: jicagap-opinion@jica.go.jp

Cover: With economies booming throughout the continent, a vibrant new Africa looks optimistically to the future. (Photo by Atsushi Shibuya)

Photos on pages 2-3 by Akio Iizuka and Kenshiro Imamura



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the world's largest bilateral development organization, operating in some 150 countries to help some of the globe's most vulnerable people.