

# Voices

F R O M   T H E   F I E L D

## Umme Aiman Siddiqi

Program Manager, JICA Malaysia Office



Aiman Siddiqi attended international school in Japan from elementary through high school and then moved to Malaysia to study at the International Islamic University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in law. Originally from Pakistan, Aiman feels her experiences put her in a unique position to “be a bridge between Japan and the rest of the world.”

Aiman has been working in JICA's Malaysia Office since 2002 and has been actively involved in South-South cooperation (SSC) projects. As Malaysia continues to develop, ODA projects are increasingly giving way to programs run under the SSC banner. “Other developing countries want to learn from the Malaysian experience,” says Aiman.

One effort unique to the JICA Malaysia office is the Third-Country Training Program on Managing Diversity in Multi-Cultural Nations. Aiman explains: “Government officials from countries recovering from conflict learn about the peace and prosperity Malaysia enjoys despite being a multicultural and multireligious nation.”

From a young age, Aiman developed a special desire to reach out to those in Africa. Through JICA she has been involved in the Zambia Investment Promotion Project: Triangle of Hope. “JICA gives me the opportunity to be involved in helping those in need,” she says.

Although an able administrator, Aiman enjoys the “sense of achievement, involvement, and trying new things” that various JICA activities provide. Her recent involvement with the JICA Partnership Program should provide ample such opportunities. “It is the first time for me to be working with the Japanese private sector, and I'm looking forward to learning a lot.”

**JICA<sup>WORLD</sup>**  
is published by **JICA**

**Publisher:**  
Yasuko Nishino  
Office of Media and  
Public Relations

Nibancho Center Bldg  
5-25, Niban-cho  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102-8012 JAPAN

**Tel:** +81-3-5226-6660  
**Fax:** +81-3-5226-6396  
[www.jica.go.jp/english/](http://www.jica.go.jp/english/)

**Cover:** An Ethiopian  
mother who has  
benefited from prenatal  
healthcare.

**Photo on pages 2-3:**  
A woman tends a field in  
Rwanda.  
(PHOTOS: ATSUSHI  
SHIBUYA)



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