

TRENDS



Ebola Training for Police in Côte d'Ivoire



In response to the growing outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, JICA has provided emergency assistance to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. It is also working to halt the spread of the disease by providing technical cooperation in neighboring countries and promoting understanding of the disease.

In Côte d'Ivoire, which has no recognized cases of Ebola, it is important to increase public awareness and strengthen border control to prevent the disease from entering the country. It is therefore crucial for police officers handling border patrol duties to collaborate with medical workers in quarantine centers to grasp infection situations among those crossing the border as well as domestic communities.

Police in Côte d'Ivoire learn how to use an infrared thermometer.

JICA, as part of the Project for Capacity Building for National Police of Côte d'Ivoire, is providing support to strengthen the capacity of police officers to prevent Ebola with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This includes conducting Ebola countermeasure training for 2,300 police officers at border police stations, airports, and harbors.

On September 29, the first training session was carried out at the police station in the Port of Abidjan. In addition to learning about the characteristics of Ebola and prevention measures, participants received practical training in initial response to a potential infection, securing residents' safety, and proper methods for wearing and removing protective clothing.

"I confirmed the role the police play in preventing Ebola from entering the country," said one officer participating in the training.



Support for Master's Degrees and Internships for African Youth



At the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in 2013, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced support for the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative). Under the initiative, JICA has launched a program supporting African youths to study for master's degrees at Japanese universities and participate in internships at domestic companies. Through 2017, JICA will accept 900 participants in four groups. The first group of 156 arrived in Japan from Ethiopia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa, Mozambique, and Rwanda on September 7 and 15.

JICA conducted an orientation program in Tokyo, offering instruction in basic Japanese

Participants in the ABE Initiative listen to a lecture on Japanese culture.

and such topics as Japanese culture and the status of Japanese companies doing business in Africa. Participants visited various companies, as well as production floors, distribution centers, and other locations. One Ethiopian expressed his strong impression, saying, "I want to build a network with many Japanese companies and universities to bring their knowledge to Ethiopia."

Participants have since entered master's programs at 48 universities, where they will study for about two years. Main areas of study include engineering, economics, management, agriculture, political science, public policy, and information and communications technology. During summer vacations and after completing their studies, they will participate in internship programs at Japanese companies ranging from two weeks to six months.



Teaming Up with the Private Sector to Conserve Forests



In recent years, extreme weather conditions like torrential rain and drought have been regularly recorded around the world, raising concerns of global climate change. One program addressing this issue that has garnered broad international attention is REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), an initiative to mitigate climate change by preventing forest destruction in developing countries.

JICA for many years has supported forest conservation efforts in developing countries. These have included programs to develop forest monitoring systems and involve local residents in conservation efforts. JICA is now laying the groundwork for REDD+ programs in 11 coun-

Private-sector companies are taking part in forestation activities.

tries, including Brazil, Indonesia, and Viet Nam. Japan's private sector has also begun to provide REDD+ support. In August 2013, JICA entered a partnership with Sumitomo Forestry to assist forest conservation efforts in Dien Bien Province of Viet Nam. Since then, Askul and Yanmar have also joined the partnership.

With JICA assistance, the first ever Dien Bien Provincial REDD+ Action Plan was approved in May 2014. The action plan looks to conserve forests in the province, one of Viet Nam's poorest, by lowering reliance on slash-and-burn farming and diversifying livelihoods of residents. The plan also involves residents in conservation efforts, such as forest patrols and reforestation. Partner companies are providing financial assistance in four villages to enhance the livelihoods of residents and conservation activities.