

Education for All

Expansion of Opportunities and Quality Improvement

57 million, this is the number of children in the world who can't receive basic education. Most of them live in developing countries.

There are many reasons why access to education is hampered. In some cases, the government is not strong enough to secure the budget necessary for compulsory education or to establish an educational system. In a poor family, priority is often given to domestic chores and care for siblings or other family members instead of going to school. However, the world won't accept any longer the fact that children are deprived of the right of education because of their circumstances.

In 1990, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and UNDP held the "World Conference on Education for All (EFA)" in Jomtien, Thailand, which launched activities for spreading basic education in the international society. In 2000, the "Dakar Framework for Action" defining specific goals was adopted, and Universal Primary Education was adopted as one of the "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)", which enhanced the trend of promoting education by the international society as a whole. According to a survey in 2014, enrollment rate in primary education in all developing countries has reached 90%.

Meanwhile, another issue has

emerged: quality of education. Quite a few children quit school before graduation because some untrained teachers don't have enough teaching skills or classes are taught in a language other than their mother tongue.

In order to spread education satisfying the needs of each and every student, Japan provides assistance for promoting education in developing countries.

Science and mathematics are less dependent on language and culture than other subjects. Knowing the high performance of Japanese students in science and mathematics in international academic ability

surveys, many developing countries consider it as the foundation of Japan's economic success. Science and mathematics education can improve livelihoods by developing individual capacity based on scientific thinking and acquirement of skills, support understanding about public hygiene and environmental issues, and thereby promote economic, social and cultural development of the nation. Japan actively promotes educational support on a continuous basis taking advantage of the wisdom accumulated by cooperation through educational programs and lesson study based on the experiences in Japan.

