



Dao Thi Khanh

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Dao Thi Khanh majored in the Japanese language at Vietnam National University in Hanoi. As her teacher was a JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Khanh knew about JICA as a university student. After graduating in 2001, she started working as an assistant for the capacity building project of Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi constructed by JICA's grant aid. Observing the activities of Japanese specialists at the hospital, she thought, "I wish I would share the achievements of Japan's assistance with more Vietnamese people", and she applied to JICA for employment in 2009.

Khanh is mainly in charge of the health and medical care sector including projects concerning measures against infectious diseases and preventive medicine. "My job requires specialized knowledge of medical care, and it is not always easy, but I am happy to work again with Japanese specialists and the people at Bach Mai Hospital," Khanh says.

What left a strong impression on Khanh is the project on technical transfer for vaccine production. Japan had been providing Vietnam with polio

and measles vaccines since the 1990's, and later on, transferred the technology for producing measles vaccine to a local public corporation. Vietnam thus became capable of producing measles vaccine complying with the regulations of the World Health Organization (WHO). However, as there were some cases of side effects from vaccinations for another disease, fewer children receive vaccine. As a result, measles prevailed in Vietnam and killed more than 130 children last year. Khanh invited the media to the production field of measles vaccine in order to emphasize the safety of vaccination in cooperation with specialists of JICA and WHO. The vaccination rate was improved by the effect of the coverage, which contributed to control the disease.

"There are many lessons that can be learned from Japan's assistance such as the attitude toward craftsmanship and the way of working. My goals are to share the technology and knowledge in the sector of medical care and to deepen the friendship between Japan and Vietnam".