

TRENDS



Ghana

Advanced Research Center for Infectious Diseases



On May 19, JICA signed a grant agreement with Ghana to provide grant aid of up to 2.285 billion yen for the construction of the Advanced Research Center for Infectious Diseases at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), covering facilities, procuring research equipment, strengthening research and human resource development, and boosting the capacity to fight infectious diseases in Ghana and West Africa.

Bronchitis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, diarrhea and other diseases account for over 70 percent of major diseases in Ghana; fighting infectious diseases is important for Ghana's health strategy. Ghana's national development plan for 2014–2017 also cites the need for strengthening infectious disease research. The NMIMR is internationally recognized

H.E. Mr. Sylvester Jude Kpakpo PARKER-ALLOTEY (left) and JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka (right).

for fighting infectious diseases in West Africa.

The institution has also been expanding research, including commissioned research, studies, and collaborative research with Japanese universities and other institutions. However, the NMIMR has insufficient space for safe and reliable studies, disturbing advanced research progress. This project will construct an advanced research center for infectious diseases, including a biosafety level 3 laboratory and other research facilities, enabling more advanced research and experiments to be implemented safely and reliably. The institute also plans to accept University of Ghana interns to contribute to developing young researchers.

Since providing grant aid in 1979 to help establish the NMIMR, JICA has provided technical cooperation and grant aid. The NMIMR is now a medical research institution representing Ghana and greater West Africa; this project will further develop that reputation.



Kyrgyz

Japan and Korea Collaborate on Disaster Risk Reduction



The ODA agencies of Japan and South Korea, together with the Kyrgyz Republic government, jointly hosted a disaster risk reduction seminar in Bishkek on March 16-17 and thirteen countries participated.

The seminar was part of a joint program JICA and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) held since 2012 called the Multi-year Joint Capacity Development Program on Disaster Management (MJCD Program). Participants visited a landslide site and lectures and discussions were held.

Sharing a mission of saving and protecting lives, the three countries discussed the importance of monitoring system reinforcement and prior investment for major hazards such as landslides, especially under such situations as extreme climate

The Secretary of State of the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Emergency Situations

change. Another theme was that public awareness with an integrated approach at every stage in every development sector — including education, community, infrastructure, governance, and urban and rural planning — should be addressed through mainstreaming disaster risk reduction.

The MJCD program goal is to tackle disaster management issues in developing countries to protect people from threats and build back better after disasters with seamless approaches in areas ranging from policy to the field. Every year government personnel and other human resources responsible for the Kyrgyz Republic's development participate in training in such sectors as disaster risk reduction, agricultural development, industry, governance, social security and infrastructure. About 100 participate in JICA's training and 20 in KOICA's. The three countries aim to strengthen their relationships through such training programs and seminars.



Palau

JICA Hands Over Relief Goods in Drought-Stricken Palau



JICA provided emergency supplies to Palau, which is experiencing a drought due to the strong El Niño.

Plastic containers and water purifiers were released from JICA warehouse in Koror and portable water tanks were sent from a JICA warehouse in Singapore.

People of Palau nationwide, especially 14,000 residents of Koror and Airai were affected by the drought.

In Palau, the dry season generally starts around November until around April. There are rainfalls even in a dry season normally, but this year's severe drought was continuing because of the effects of a strong El Niño since last year. President Tommy Remengesau declared a state of emergency on March 22, and JICA provided the emergency relief goods in

Billy Kuardei, Minister of State of the Republic of Palau accepts plastic containers from Ambassador Tajiri.

response to a request from the Palauan government.

A handover ceremony of the emergency relief goods was held at 10 a.m. on April 8 at Roman Tmetuchl International Airport. The attendees were Billy Kuardei, Minister of State of the Republic of Palau, Charles Obichang, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce, and other Palauan officials, along with Tajiri Kazuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Palau, Matsui Nobuaki, Resident Representative of the JICA Palau and a Japanese official.

At the ceremony, Minister Billy Kuardei expressed his deep appreciation for Japan's rapid assistance and said the provided goods will be delivered immediately for providing water to the residents suffering in the drought-affected areas. In response, Ambassador Tajiri said he hopes the drought will end as soon as possible.

The relief goods supplied have been delivered to victims by the Palauan government.