

# • TRENDS •



## Viet Nam

### The Vietnam-Japan University Opens in Hanoi



**T**he Vietnam-Japan University, a joint creation of two countries, opened on Sept. 9 in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

The starting point for the university was a 2010 joint Japanese-Vietnamese statement in which they declared “we will consider establishing a high-quality university in Viet Nam with the cooperation of Japan.” Preparations then began under the leadership of the Japanese and Vietnamese governments under a Japan-Vietnam joint human resource development program.

To foster students with broad points of view, the university adopted an educational program that is cross-disciplinary, encompassing both humanities and natural sciences. Japanese universities support its curriculum creation and actual educational and research activities, and half the classes are taught by Japanese faculty.

In addition to these academic courses, Japanese language education and internships at Japanese

companies, some of which are in Viet Nam, have been incorporated into the curriculum to deepen understanding of Japanese culture and the Japanese business style.

The Vietnam-Japan University will be an educational institution that cultivates human resources needed by both Viet Nam, seeking to pursue sustainable development, and by Japan, where many companies consider Viet Nam to be an attractive market.

JICA provided a wide spectrum of assistance, including curriculum development, the dispatching of teaching staff, and university management to establish the master’s program. JICA is also in charge of preliminary surveys for establishing the planned bachelor’s degree and doctorate programs.

Through various approaches JICA will support the development of the Vietnam-Japan University, which will contribute to the sustainable development of Viet Nam and the strengthening of friendship between two countries.

Opening Ceremony



## Democratic Republic of the Congo

### Japan Disaster Relief helped to fight yellow fever



**J**ICA dispatched its Infectious Diseases Response Team for the first time, from July 20 to Aug. 7, 2016, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to help combat a yellow fever outbreak.

Yellow fever is transmitted via *Aedes* (*Stegomyia*) aegypti, also known as the yellow fever mosquito, and the main symptoms are fever, headache and nausea. There are no effective treatment medications, but it can be prevented with a vaccine.

A yellow fever outbreak occurred in Angola in December, 2015, spreading to the DRC, a neighboring country, in April, 2016. More than 1,900 suspected and confirmed cases have been identified across five provinces, including the city-province of Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC. Out of those

suspected cases, 95 people have died, as of July 20, 2016.

The Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Infectious Diseases Response Team was formed in October, 2015. The team carried out three main types of work in the DRC: advising the Ministry of Health; supporting diagnosis of yellow fever; and, providing technical assistance to prepare for vaccination campaigns.

Since last June, the national laboratory of the DRC had been unable to make definite diagnoses due to a shortage of reagents. A high level of knowledge is required for examination and diagnosis, where Japanese specialty contributed significantly.

Noriko Suzuki, then head of the JDR Secretariat, stressed that JDR to make an active contribution to emergency disaster and infectious disease responses by working with trained experts to meet the specific needs.

An interview on the vaccination campaign



## Central America

### JICA Receives the Order of Jagger



**O**n Oct. 11 2016, the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration honored JICA with the Order of Jagger, an award for distinguished service to the Central American Economic Integration Process. The Secretariat is under the umbrella of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

In 2001, JICA began sending experts to SICA as regional cooperation advisors and has continued cooperation for more than 15 years. JICA’s initiatives in the areas of transport and logistics contribute not only to economic integration but also to reinforcement of roads and bridge infrastructure as a measure to curb climate change, which have been well-received by the local society.

The eight member nations of SICA are El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama,

Belize, Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Last year, the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and five countries in Central America, JICA held direct talks with SICA for the first time. The “SICA-JICA Regional Cooperation Action Plan 2015-2020” was successfully formulated, and it was decided that such talks will continue to be held every year.

The action plan’s goal is to carry out cooperation that contributes to solving regional-level development problems that transcend national borders. It seeks to do so through the creation of regional public goods (policies, strategies, cross-border infrastructure, a regional brand, and more, that are shared throughout the region). Its four areas of emphasis for regional cooperation are: 1. transport and logistics, 2. strengthening road and bridge infrastructure as a measure to curb climate change, 3. eco-system and wetland preservation, and, 4. supporting women’s economic freedom.

Takeshi Takano (right), director general of JICA’s Latin America and Caribbean Department, receives the Order of Jagger.