

JICA's WORLD

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The New JICA Story 10 Years and Beyond

Leading the world
with trust

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Leading the World with Trust

Shinichi Kitaoka

President, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Forging bonds with developing countries through the Japanese way of development cooperation

I visited three countries in southern Africa in August 2018. To one of them, Malawi, JICA has sent more than 1,800 volunteers cumulatively, the largest number among all countries in the world. I was struck with a deep impression when one volunteer told me, "It's tough being in a place with no running water or electricity, but I'm glad I came." It brought home to me the fact that when JICA volunteers work with locals, not only are they making themselves useful, but are also improving themselves.

In 2017, JICA set a new vision — "Leading the world with trust" — and laid down its dual mission of "human security" and "quality growth." The work and attitudes of JICA volunteers clearly display the truly Japanese approaches of "providing cooperation instead of assistance" and "respecting partner countries by putting ourselves in their shoes and thinking with them as equals." These are not just essential attitudes for JICA volunteers, but are inherent in all of the types of cooperation we implement.

My strong desire for JICA is to be an institution that leverages these Japanese characteristics and is trusted by the international community.

Two-way partnerships between developing countries and Japan

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, the year when I became JICA president. The SDGs' spirit of "No one will be left behind" has a strong affinity to JICA's mission of "human security." Some people say they don't know where to start on the 17 ambitious and wide-ranging goals. However, this broad scope can be an advantage, as it offers both JICA and its partners the chance to renew their efforts. Opportunities abound, especially for fostering our partnerships with the private sector, which is one of our priority areas over the past 10 years. We remain strongly committed to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular. One of our essential roles is linking the skills and knowledge offered by innovative SMEs in Japan with the needs of developing

countries. To move forward with this process, JICA is creating a support system to help SMEs expand overseas.

JICA's cooperation with developing countries through partnerships extends beyond private companies to also include local governments universities, research institutes, NGOs, NPOs, and the like. These partnerships directly contribute to local revitalization and invigoration within Japan itself.

The Japanese Government is now focusing on "quality infrastructure investment" as a pillar of its growth strategy. In order to incorporate such strategy into JICA's work, I have listed four principles, in order of importance, which should serve as reference points to evaluate the success of our activities:

1. It is useful for the development of that country.
2. It is helpful in strengthening the relationship between that country and Japan.
3. It is beneficial for Japan's economy and companies.
4. It does not place an excessive financial burden on JICA.

Building infrastructure in developing countries is important, and in keeping with the first principle, I want to achieve our mission of "quality growth" by carrying out projects that genuinely contribute to the development of partner countries.

Similarly, under the Japanese Government's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy, we are working in partnership with the Japan Coast Guard and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) to provide training to the Philippine Coast Guard and others, helping to ensure free and safe passage in the waters around the countries in the region.

Respecting each other and working together

The establishment of the new JICA in 2008 enabled us to implement technical cooperation, loans, and grants in a comprehensive manner for carrying out cooperation. However, more effort is necessary for us to be able to take full advantage of this opportunity. Many bewildering changes are taking place in the world, and some say that some African nations are ahead of Japan in the application of new technologies, for instance, information technology (IT) and artificial intelligence (AI). We must work with developing



countries to effectively implement cooperation in the application of such new technologies.

This fall, JICA has started a new initiative called JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) in collaboration with Japanese universities. We invite young people in developing countries with leadership potential to Japan and offer them knowledge and lessons related to Japan's modernization and its experiences as an ODA-providing country after World War II. When I visited South Sudan before becoming JICA president, I realized that knowledgeable and highly capable public officials are essential to building abundant and stable societies and livelihoods. I want to utilize Japan's experiences to contribute to the human resource development of partner countries.

One thing we must not forget when looking back on the past 10 years is the tragic terrorist attack that took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2016. We have already taken various steps to enhance safety measures, and rather than looking for some miracle

fix, we will continue working steadily to the best of our ability.

At the beginning of this article, I mentioned the Japanese way of development cooperation. This refers to a form of development cooperation in which we respect our partner countries, communicate extensively, and come up with the most appropriate plan of action together. The world is positive toward Japan's stance of providing cooperation instead of assistance to developing countries. Moreover, public opinion surveys in Japan show stable high rates of support for development cooperation. Investors value JICA's bonds as social impact bonds, and I see the success of this funding system as proof that many people want to do something positive for the world. Maintaining an outlook of wanting to get close to and understand the partner country is the best way for Japan to lead the world in being a trusted name on the international stage. It would make me happy if you support us in these endeavors, so we can contribute in some way to making Japan a country that is even more trusted and respected throughout the world.

Human Security and Quality Growth

Introducing concrete examples that highlight the two pillars of JICA's mission.

SCENE 1 Health Maternal and Child Health handbooks (MCH handbooks) providing the strength to live

Whether it be for a mother nurturing a new life, a child preparing to be born, or a father carefully watching over them, Maternal and Child Health handbooks (MCH handbooks) are found to be very useful all over the world as health records of mother and child. These handbooks are a guide filled with essential knowledge for a mother to raise her child, secure their health, and protect them from threats to their life.



Maternal and Child Health Record Books in Ghana feature various illustrations to make them easier to understand for mothers and family members. Fathers are intentionally included in the illustrations to encourage them to provide care and support during pregnancy, birth, and thereafter.



Distribution of MCH Record Books has only just begun in Ghana. Currently 1,000 health workers throughout the country are undergoing training on how to use MCH Record Books in order to provide quality services.

Delivering information that anyone can understand and put into practice

The MCH handbook is a tool that Japan has introduced to the world. With the cooperation of JICA, 9 million of these books are now issued annually in 29 countries. The MCH handbook is an important document for recording the health of mother and child from early pregnancy to infancy. However, the MCH handbook that JICA is helping to promote in developing countries is more than just records. As you flip through the pages, you can see what to do while pregnant, understand warning signs of danger to mothers and to infants, get information on the importance of fathers participating in rearing children, and see other contents provided with various illustrations. It is a book designed to casually look through and learn. Akiko Hagiwara, JICA Senior Advisor, explains the reason for creating the book:

“All the information in the MCH handbook is very important,

but it can only be useful if presented in a way that anyone can understand, and if health workers also provide a solid explanation of the contents with a sincere attitude and simple language. We took care to provide content that can encourage mothers to understand and give them the confidence to say, ‘I can do this, too. I’ll give it a try.’”

Human security includes the concept of protecting people from a lack of social services such as health and medical care. Along with providing protection, empowerment of the beneficiary is another important aspect of human security. Mothers and family members can take active roles and make decisions on ways to improve their own health.

Dr. Hagiwara is currently promoting the use of the new combined Maternal and Child Health Record Books with the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service. For many years, pregnant women in Ghana had received two books: “Maternal

Health Records” for themselves and “Child Health Records” for their children. However, there was room for improvement because pregnant women and mothers didn’t know what to do if something happens with their physical condition or that of their children.

“If mothers learn the essential information on what to do and what the danger signs are, they can then make their own decision on when to go in for an exam or treatment in addition to the fixed schedule. It instills a sense of confidence and responsibility. They will then keep scheduled visits to health facilities and consult with a health worker to protect their lives. MCH Record Books help close the gap between mothers and health services, and serve as a tool of empowerment so that they can live healthier lives. In Ghana, health workers are being trained in how to explain to mothers in a respectful manner how to utilize the new combined MCH Record Books. They are expected to disseminate its usefulness in understanding current health conditions of mother and a child, as well as the impor-

tance of seeking appropriate services and care on time. At first, approximately 1,000 health workers will be trained as facilitators, and then the trained facilitators will train other health workers throughout Ghana.”

International conferences on the MCH handbook were held in Kenya and Cameroon, and the handbook is being promoted in Uganda and other African countries. In collaboration with JICA, WHO issued guidelines for home-based records for maternal, newborn and child health in 2018. The MCH handbook will play an important role in connecting households, medical institutions, and government agencies.

Digitalization is being considered in order to expand the role of MCH handbooks in the future. If they are digitized, the records can be integrated into lifetime health records. For the multilingual nation of Ghana, digital applications may open up avenues to provide information to mothers and family members in various languages. MCH handbooks are evolving as a passport to a life with safety and security.

SCENE

2

Disaster Risk Reduction

Sharing Japan’s experience with the world

Japan has experienced many earthquakes, typhoons, and other natural disasters. That experience and the knowledge acquired have been utilized in disaster risk reduction projects in developing countries. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) a UN document adopted in the 3rd UN DRR Conference held in Sendai City in 2015, represents JICA's strong desire to approach disaster risk reduction projects from the two perspectives of human security and quality growth.

Disaster risk reduction initiatives as fundamental pillars of a nation’s economic development and growth

The poor people in developing countries often live in areas vulnerable to disaster. They are so easily affected when a disaster occurs and fall further into poverty. This negative spiral of disaster and poverty leads to reduced national and regional capabilities and deterioration of public peace. JICA’s Distinguished Technical Advisor to the President Kimio Takeya explains:

“Disaster risk reduction leads to both human security and quality growth. The Sendai Framework for DRR adds a policy of simultaneously reducing poverty while addressing disaster risk by engaging in disaster risk reduction with a focus on economic devel-

opment.”

Takeya, a member of the negotiating team from the Japanese government that spearheaded the development of the Sendai Framework for DRR, was also a key member during the negotiations at the preparatory discussions in Geneva, wherein he summarized the essence of disaster risk reduction.

“Based on the fact that investment in pre-disaster risk reduction is highly cost-effective and enables sustainable development, we explained that investment from a long-term perspective is more important than taking on the expensive cost of emergency response and recovery in the aftermath of a disaster.”

As a simplified example, if flood control measures such as

What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?

In 2015, more than 6,500 people participated in the World Conference on DRR held in Sendai City, Miyagi, including representatives, international bodies, researchers, and NGOs from 187 countries. In the resulting Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, an agreement was reached on four priorities for action and seven targets.

- [Four Priorities for Action]
- 1. Understanding disaster risk
 - 2. Strengthening of disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
 - 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
 - 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and implementing “Build Back Better” in the reconstruction and recovery process



constructing levees to address major once-in-a-hundred-years flooding are implemented, disaster risk reduction investment can prevent flood damage for 100 years. During that time, the flood plain can develop economically, and even if flooding occurs, the wealth accumulated can be used for reconstruction, becoming more resilient. Such thinking is the basis for this type of investment. Disaster risk reduction investment is not limited to levees but also includes construction of typhoon-resistant facilities and earthquake-resistant roads. Takeya is a strong advocate of disaster risk reduction investment. He says, “The basic principle of the Sendai Framework for DRR is to consider disaster risk reduction as an investment for the sustainable growth of the nation. It introduces measures to reduce economic loss, not only effectively minimizing the number of deaths from disasters, but also alleviate poverty. This thinking is also consistent with multiple sustainable development goals (SDGs).” The European Union (EU) was influenced by JICA’s advocacy and worked to inform public opinion ahead of its adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR. According to them, “One euro of disaster risk reduction investment can avoid 4 to 7 euro in disaster damages and losses.”

Looking ahead to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan, which has created a disaster-resistant society by revising laws and standards after each large-scale disaster, and allocates 5% to 8% of its annual budget to disaster reduction. On the other hand, there are many developing countries that have not been able to secure a sufficient budget for disaster risk reduction. To address this situation, JICA proposed the concept of “Build Back Better,”

where a more disaster-resistant society is built when disasters occur. Utilizing Japan’s knowledge and experience, JICA has put together disaster risk reduction support that includes preparation of disaster statistics and data, and formulation of plans based on risk assessment.

Takeya says, “For example, in Vietnam, discussions have been held between the Minister of the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority, related government agencies, the Ministry of Finance, and JICA. They are preparing a disaster risk reduction road map in accordance with the Sendai Framework for DRR that includes studying Vietnam’s disaster profile and prioritizing measures accordingly.” He continues, “To realize the appropriate investment, it’s necessary for the central government to make policy development its top priority together with local authorities, and for various entities, including private companies, NGOs/NPOs, international bodies, and regional networks to play their respective roles under those policies.

Government responsibility and leadership are most important by far in disaster risk reduction. As such, strengthening of governance is set forth as the second priority for action in the Sendai Framework for DRR. It’s not easy, but we will continue to hold discussions with each country on the promotion and implementation of the framework.”

Based on the Sendai Framework for DRR, measures have begun to be implemented by various countries in anticipation of future growth. These multi-faceted disaster risk reduction strategies also consider economic growth and anti-poverty measures in developing countries.



Photo on the left and the two photos above: Many buildings in Nepal’s capital of Kathmandu, and other areas, collapsed as a result of the earthquake.



Above: Then Prime Minister Yingluck of Thailand (left) and Kimio Takeya (right)
Right: Many plants incurred flood damage as a result of flooding in Thailand in 2011.



Aiming for **Build Back Better**

The case of the Nepal Earthquake

In April 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Nepal. It caused tremendous damage, with more than 30,000 fatalities and around 800,000 homes either partially or fully destroyed. Based on the “Build Back Better” concept, reconstruction efforts are underway not to simply restore the original condition, but also to incorporate advance investment to reduce the risk of disaster. JICA visited the disaster area right after the incident and proposed to Nepal’s Prime Minister and Finance Minister a policy based on the “Build Back Better” concept. In addition to reconstructing general housing that meets earthquake resistance standards for victims through ODA loans, work has been done to restore and improve the housing environment. JICA is also cooperating in the maintenance of social infrastructure and institutions, including reconstruction of hospitals and water supply lines and bridge maintenance. JICA is providing seamless cooperation, from emergency relief directly following disasters to full-scale reconstruction support, and promoting the “Build Back Better” concept.



Delhi Metro stations are kept very clean. On top of that, the trains run on time from early in the morning until late at night, which is comparable to Japan.



A women-only car on the Delhi Metro. It has become easier for women to work in the city because they can now commute with peace of mind.



The scene of passengers lining up for the train is just like that of Japan. A barrier-free design is also promoted at stations.



The implementation of safety measures at construction sites spread steadily as projects were carried out. Today they are carried out as a matter of course.



When constructing railways, maintenance is considered a difficult aspect. The know-how of Japanese companies is being leveraged in this regard.

Women also play active roles in Delhi Metro operations



India still has a reputation for gender inequality, but Delhi Metro Rail Corporation is promoting the creation of workplaces that are also pleasant for women.

SCENE 3 Infrastructure

Delhi Metro changes Indian lifestyles

A showcase project for achieving "Quality Growth"—a pillar of JICA's mission—has been implemented in India. The new transportation infrastructure in the nation's capital, Delhi, has changed the working styles and lifestyles of its population, and that change is set to spread to other cities as well as other countries.

Massive subway network built over a period of about 20 years

Delhi continues to experience rapid economic growth. At the same time, it has been plagued with chronic traffic congestion. The Delhi Metro (Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System) was constructed to eliminate that congestion. Since commencing operations in 2002, it has grown to a total length of 317 kilometers (as of November 2018), making it longer than the Tokyo Metro, which extends 195 kilometers. Through ODA loans, Japan has continued to provide support for the development of the Delhi Metro since its planning stage in 1995.

At that time in India, substantial delays in infrastructure construction were commonplace. However, with the Delhi Metro, there were some sections that were even completed ahead of schedule, and over the course of approximately 20 years, a massive urban

transportation network has become operational. This was the result of strong leadership on the part of Elattuvalapil Sreedharan, who was Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's first Managing Director, and the earnest problem-solving efforts of Delhi Metro employees and Japanese consultants involved in construction. Shohei Hara, Director General of JICA's South Asia Department, has this to say about Sreedharan and his achievements, "He had excellent judgment as a professional civil engineer; he immediately adopted the proposals of Japanese consultants if he agreed with them. Those involved in the construction work, both in Japan and India, know that Delhi Metro would not have been a success if it weren't for him."

India already had a huge nationwide railway network, but there was not necessarily a high awareness of safety during construction. For example, it was not common for helmets and safety

shoes to be worn on construction sites, and safety rules for clothing were not widely practiced. Construction sites were also not fenced in, and it was common to have non-related individuals enter the premises. Together with Japanese consultants, JICA actively encouraged their Indian counterparts to engage in safety management and make thorough use of safety equipment and fences. These safety measures have now been adopted in the construction of metro systems outside of Delhi and have spread all over India.

At first, those involved on the Indian side questioned the importance of carefully and thoroughly handling land acquisition and resident relocation according to the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations, saying, "Why do we have to go that far? Wouldn't it be easier to meet the deadline if we proceed more quickly?" However, JICA was able to obtain their understanding by continuing to explain that gaining the consent of residents and minimizing the impact on them are basic principles of public works, and that this also prevents construction delays and leads to earlier realization of development outcomes.

Delhi Metro innovations spread to other cities and countries

The Delhi Metro greatly changed the lifestyles of a population that had previously relied upon buses and rickshaws as primary forms of transportation. They were constantly affected by traffic congestion, and there were also concerns about accidents and crime. The

Delhi Metro, on the other hand, runs on time from 6:00 a.m. to around 11:00 p.m., has air conditioning for comfort, and also women-only cars, providing safe and reliable transportation. At 10 rupees (approx. 16 yen), the base fare is a little higher than that of buses, but the number of passengers is steadily increasing. Additionally, those who had previously been unfamiliar with the custom of standing in line have learned to board the train in an orderly fashion, queueing behind the lines drawn on the platforms and following the instructions of station staff. Urban railway development has also brought about a change in the behavior patterns of Indian people. Hara explains, "JICA has provided cooperation not only with funding to physically build the railway, but also with the adoption of safety measures and influencing society after its completion. This has produced tremendous results, in part because it coincided with the timing of social change within India."

Thanks to these experiences, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation employees are now acting as consultants. Based on the know-how they gained from Japan, they are working on the construction of urban railways throughout India, as well as in other countries such as Bangladesh and Indonesia.

The innovation that has taken place with the Delhi Metro has contributed to the development of new human resources and "quality growth" that goes beyond infrastructure development. It is expected to continue its impact in various ways on cities in need of such changes.

Achievements of the New JICA

In recent years, JICA has been faced with dramatic changes in the needs of developing countries, as well as social conditions in Japan. Here we look back on the work JICA has initiated over the past 10 years, and the path it has taken under its new structure.

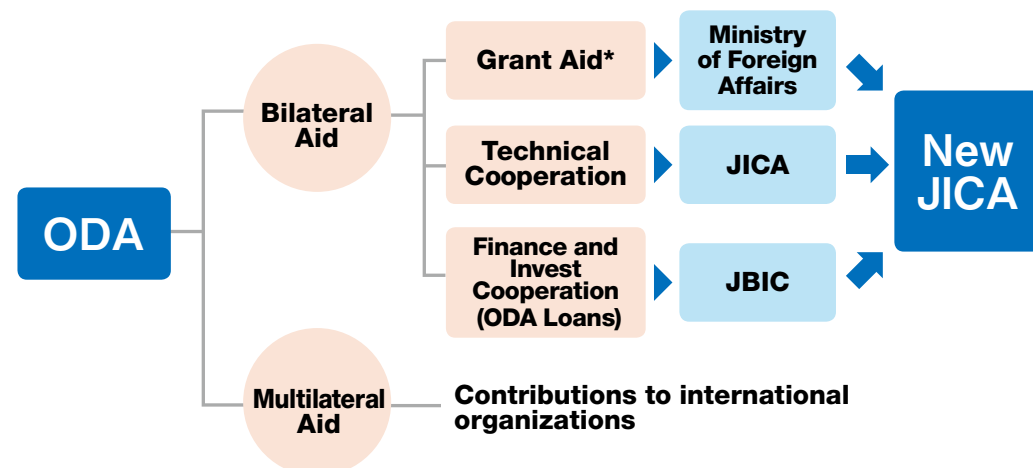
An integrated approach to technical and financial cooperation

Making progress on development with a one-stop support window



Keiichiro Nakazawa
Director General
Operations Strategy Department

Overview of New JICA Operations (in 2008)



*Excluding aid that continued to be implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by virtue of diplomatic policy.

Effects of integration realized in Myanmar's special economic zone

Ten years have passed since JICA became an organization that implements an integrated approach to the three primary ODA schemes of technical cooperation, finance and investment cooperation, and grant assistance. The results are evident in a lot of areas. Keiichiro Nakazawa, Director General of Operations Strategy Department, gives the achievements of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, which opened in Myanmar in September 2015, as an example. Working on industrial park development in that special economic zone is Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Limited (MJTD), a joint venture of Japanese trading companies and banks, the Myanmar government, and local companies.

JICA has invested in MJTD whilst providing ODA loans for the expansion and maintenance of a major road extending dozens of miles to Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, and for the construction of terminals at Thilawa Port. JICA also provided technical cooperation for developing capacity to build a one-stop service center in the special economic zone as a centralized location to apply for the government services necessary for business activities, from corpo-

rate registration to approval of investment applications. The establishment of this service center made it possible to obtain investment approval more quickly. Nakazawa says, "If two different organizations, one providing loan assistance for industrial park and infrastructure development, and the other technical cooperation for establishing a one-stop service center operate independently, as they did before, decisions have to be made by each organization. This would have resulted in more time and hassle related to coordination, and coordinating the timing of assistance would have been more challenging. By having a single organization administer all of these services, we were able to proceed more efficiently." He also touched on his own experiences with the integrated operations approach at JICA's Myanmar Office. "At the Myanmar Office, each officer is in charge of technical cooperation, ODA loans, and grants so that he/she acquires extensive know-how and is able to move everything forward smoothly."

Contributing to the eradication of polio by coordinating innovative finance and technical assistance

Before the organizational integration, Nakazawa was in charge

Pakistan struggles against polio. The photo shows an educational class on preventive vaccination in a school. A Japanese expert helps to communicate the importance of vaccines to children.



The one-stop service center in the Thilawa Industrial Park. It has been praised by the client companies for its prompt execution of the various procedures necessary to start business activities.



Companies set up operations in the Thilawa Industrial Park one after another.

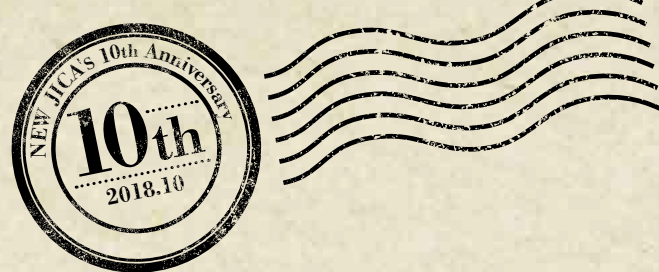
of ODA loan operations at the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) for many years. "In this role I contributed to infrastructure development and facility construction, but I had almost no opportunities to be directly involved in aspects such as human resource development. That's because the partner countries are reluctant to borrow money to hire foreign experts for human resource development. Today, however, JICA dispatches advisors or experts under technical cooperation, engaging in human resource development in parallel with infrastructure development. This gives Japan more room to address the needs of developing countries, and I really feel that this has led to more significant development impact."

JICA's efforts to eradicate polio in Pakistan through technical cooperation is another good example of integrated operations using partnerships to create an innovative scheme. In order to further accelerate the eradication efforts, funding was required on a larger scale. Toward that end, an ODA loan with a low interest rate was provided to the Pakistani government, and later a cooperation agreement was signed with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which is also working to eradicate polio. The agreement states

that if the Pakistani government achieves a certain level of success with the steady implementation of its National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication, the foundation will take over the government's debt for the loan. Together with the ODA loan, JICA provided technical cooperation for administration of the polio vaccine under a routine vaccination scheme, as well providing a grant for additional priority vaccinations. Target levels, including that of improving vaccination rates, were met due to these efforts, leading to improved health among Pakistani citizens.

This would not have been possible with JICA only providing technical cooperation, or JBIC only providing ODA loans. Indeed, this tie-up was a result only made possible by the new JICA structure.

Looking ahead to the future, Nakazawa says, "It will be JICA's task not only to further enhance the effects of integrated administration of multiple schemes, but also to create a mechanism of development funds flow, including those from the private sector, which will properly meet the needs of developing countries."



JICA's activities are supported by cooperation from various entities.
We have received warm notes of reflection from some of those partners.

Continued cooperation in the business of vector control

Atsuko Hirooka, Executive Officer, Sumitomo Chemical

We have had a long relationship with JICA since the 1990s that includes technical cooperation to promote insecticide-based malaria control. Since 2010, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in Africa and other countries have been monitoring the use of our Olyset® Nets (long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets recommended by WHO to prevent malaria). In 2011, a business model in which Kenyan villagers can buy mosquito nets via monthly installments was adopted for JICA's BoP Business* Promotion Program.

I have been involved with Africa for a long time, and have had the opportunity to meet many JICA staff members. They are working on numerous challenging projects in places where it is difficult for companies to go, and I have been inspired by their enthusiasm and attitude. They are serving as representatives of Japan, and they have a tremendous presence.

The mosquito net business has been underway in Africa for more than 10 years. As new products have come out during this time, renewed activities are required to communicate their proper use, effectiveness, and related information to residents. I am very thankful for the cooperation of JICA with its extensive experience in the field of health care and established local presence. I hope we can continue to strengthen our collaboration.

*Sustainable businesses for the base of the pyramid (BoP) in developing countries (those whose annual income is \$3,000 or less; roughly 70% of the world's population)

Private Company



Top: In Makueni, Kenya for JICA's BoP Business Promotion Program. Hirooka is third from the right. Left: A visit to a supermarket in Nairobi, Kenya, where Olyset® Classic is sold to the public.

Developing truly global human resources

Hideyuki Nagasawa, Former President, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

University



Members dispatched as the ninth team of short-term student volunteers to Paraguay in August 2017 as part of the JICA-Obihiro Partnership Project. They provided instruction to dairy farmers on cow milking methods.



Nagasawa (left) and Hideyuki Kabeya, who was serving as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in Paraguay in November 2015.

Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine is the only four-year university in the Tokachi region of Hokkaido. It has taken root in the community as a center of academic research in the fields of agriculture, livestock, and veterinary medicine. With large numbers of faculty dispatched as advisors, training participants, and graduate volunteers, a deep connection has developed so far between the university and JICA. In 2004, to strengthen collaboration, the university incorporated international cooperation into its curriculum, making it one of its distinguishing features. The following year, it became the first Japanese university to sign collaboration agreement with JICA for the purpose of international contribution.

In 2008, I was appointed president and set out to create a student-centered university. We included the keyword "international" in our vision because of our partnership with JICA. As part of the JICA-Obihiro Partnership Project launched in 2012, students were dispatched to Paraguay for a short period of time as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. Opportunities are provided for the students to study the language and acquire the necessary knowledge before departure, so they can be more effective in performing their roles. I feel that through this project the students are learning about the world, experiencing local cultures, and developing into human resources capable of coming up with solutions to problems.

Partnering with JICA has created new opportunities within university education. I hope that JICA will continue to strengthen its partnership with our university.

Local government

Building a partnership in the environmental sector

Hitoshi Arita, Chief Executive, Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau

In 2013, JICA and Kitakyushu City signed a comprehensive partnership agreement, and have expanded their partnership into various fields, including the field of water and sewage services. Prominent of which is developing waterworks in the "Miracle of Phnom Penh," as the capital city's recovery from the civil war is known. They have also introduced Kitakyushu's advanced proprietary water treatment technology to Vietnam, and also accepted more than 5,000 trainees from 155 countries around the world. Currently, Kitakyushu is actively promoting efforts to achieve SDGs.

This track record would not have been possible without the all-out support provided by JICA. The partnership provides city employees with the opportunity to gain overseas experience, and is proving very useful in human resource development. Additionally, to increase understanding among citizens, youth human resource training is being carried out in cooperation with JICA. High school students from the city were sent to Cambodia last year and to Vietnam this year; and upon their return, they gave presentations at town meetings. This is very effective in terms of developing the next generation of human resources.

Demand for water supply system and sewage development is increasing in developing countries. Leveraging the technology and experience of Kitakyushu, we will continue to promote international cooperation based on our close partnership with JICA.



High school students from Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau dispatched to Phnom Penh in 2017 as part of the youth human resource training program.



A grassroots technical cooperation project in the sewerage field was launched in Haiphong, Vietnam in 2018. Arita participated in the kickoff meeting.

Providing effective disaster risk reduction support as a team

NGO

Mitsuko Otsuyama, Head of Overseas Operation, SEEDS Asia



Disaster risk reduction support was provided as part of a collaborative project with the Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education on the Philippine island of Cebu.



Otsuyama talks about the importance of disaster risk reduction in the Philippines.

SEEDS Asia is a non-governmental organization established in Kobe, which has been a domestic and international hub for disaster risk reduction since the Great Hanshin earthquake occurred in 1995, and is engaged primarily in disaster risk reduction activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

It goes without saying that support is necessary when disaster strikes, but we believe that preparing for disasters before they occur will better protect people's lives and community, so we have poured our efforts into disaster risk reduction. However, as there are limits to what can be accomplished by an NGO acting alone, it is necessary to partner with local authorities, universities etc, and consolidate experiences and lessons. JICA's grassroots technical cooperation has proved quite fruitful for us. In a collaborative project with the Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education, we were able to share the know-how on disaster risk reduction that we accumulated in Japan the Philippine island of Cebu. We have also received cooperation from professors from Japanese universities and experts in their respective fields in Bangladesh and Myanmar, allowing us to learn mutually about the situation in those countries. I feel that establishing local team connections enables us to actively provide more effective support measures.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its targets were adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in 2015. In order to achieve those targets, we hope to work hand in hand helping to developing disaster-resistant countries, towns, and people.



JICA Cooperation is for the People

Martha Lidia Zelayandia
Ambassador,
The Republic of El Salvador



Practical training for nursing education.

This year marks 50 years since Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers were first dispatched to El Salvador. The volunteer activities are useful for El Salvador's growth, while the various experiences that Japanese youth gain in a foreign country are also beneficial to Japan. It is a wonderful thing that such a significant win-win undertaking has continued for this long.

El Salvador, being a volcanic country that is prone to earthquakes and susceptible to climate change, has a natural environment similar to Japan. Consequently, JICA cooperation plays an important role in the field of disaster risk reduction. Particularly in recent years, the technical assistance project to improve earthquake-resistant housing has proven to be very effective.

In the field of health, technical cooperation in basic nursing education, which we call the "Angel Project," has also been meaningful. Improving public health enables people to work in good condition and helps them rise from poverty. By extension, it also leads to improved public order, which is one of the challenges El Salvador is facing. The country became impoverished due to the civil war that lasted until 1992, but the people are hardworking by nature and entrepreneurial-minded. The establishment of a stable social environment will draw out that latent potential and lead to

economic growth.

When Princess Mako of Akishino visited El Salvador in 2015 to commemorate 80 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the citizens told her that Japan's cooperation has helped improve their lifestyles. There was great meaning in having this message communicated by citizens rather than government officials, and this was an episode that expressed well JICA's mission of cooperation for the people.

My hope for JICA in the future is that the projects will be increased in scale. Spreading the results of cooperation throughout the country will bring about an even greater impact. Efficient, continuous cooperation will also increase Japan's presence in El Salvador.

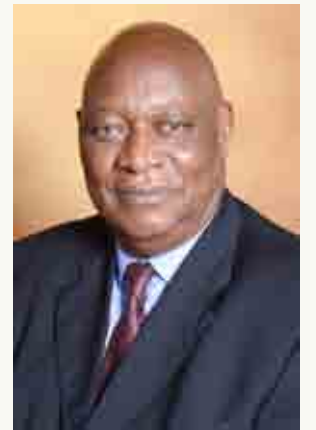
El Salvador and JICA

JICA is also engaged in activities designed to revitalize the economy, expand employment, and conserve the environment in order to promote sustainable, independent development in El Salvador. The countries of Central America face common problems that include risk of disaster and environmental challenges. The headquarters of the Central American Integration System (SICA) is located in El Salvador, allowing JICA to promote cooperative projects across the entire Central American region in mind.

Tanzania's Partnership with JICA

Mathias M. Chikawe

Ambassador, The United Republic of Tanzania



I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate JICA on its 10th Anniversary since the merging of JICA and Overseas Economic Development Cooperation Operations into one Organization called "New JICA."

When we gained our independence in 1961, Japan was the first Asian country we established diplomatic relations with. Japan opened its embassy in Dar es Salaam in 1966, and Tanzania opened its embassy in Tokyo in 1970. Since then, the two countries have had good bilateral and multilateral relations.

Throughout the years, JICA has assisted Tanzania in many sectors, i.e., infrastructure, education, health, water, etc.; and since the advent of the New JICA 10 years ago, this cooperation has continued to grow stronger.

I am sure that under the able leadership of Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President of JICA, and his team, the cooperation between Japan and Africa—Tanzania, in particular— will be further enhanced.

On behalf of the people and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like to thank the people and the government of Japan for the assistance they have granted throughout the years.

Tanzania and JICA

Since the 1960s, JICA has accepted trainees from Tanzania and dispatched technical experts from Japan. Tanzania has been achieving incremental economic growth since 2000, and JICA is providing multi-faceted support through dispatching volunteers, providing grant aid, technical cooperation, and ODA loans. Cooperation will continue in various fields including road improvement and other infrastructure development, power supply, water supply, and health care.

\TOPIC! /

Easing traffic congestion in the capital city

Japan has been involved in road maintenance and improvement in Dar es Salaam since the 1980s. Major roads have been established within the city through 18 grant aid projects, which means that Japanese support has been involved in almost all these roads. The Tazara Intersection is located on major roads that connect the airport in Dar es Salaam to the city center, and is the most congested area in the city. Construction work for the country's first flyover was completed in October 2018 through JICA's grant aid. The citizens have high expectations for it, and they appreciate Japan's quality infrastructure, the beauty of its appearance, and the employment of safety measures during the construction period.



Voices from the Field

Mahmood Ahmad Jilani

Special Advisor (Retired), JICA Pakistan Office



Mr Jilani is presented with MOFA's Certificate of Commendation by Mr Kurai, the ambassador to Pakistan.

Since his childhood, Mahmood Ahmad Jilani has always wanted to make a contribution to his country, and this was made possible in 1988 when his friend recommended that he apply for a position in JICA. After three decades of being involved in the full spectrum of JICA's activities in Pakistan, his long-held dream has been well and truly realized. The numerous prestigious awards he received from both the Pakistani and Japanese governments bear testimony to the enormous impact he has had on the development of his homeland, and to his ability to act as a bridge that promotes harmony between the two countries.

Starting in a small office with only four staff members, he was required to cover many roles; his resourcefulness and broad skill set led him to remain heavily involved in projects from conception to implementation, even as the depth and breadth of JICA's involvement in Pakistan grew. He is now able to look over the successes in disaster management, education, agriculture, irrigation, and many more areas with a sense of pride as he sees the next generation of JICA officers take the lead.

Jilani says that JICA's contribution to the development of Pakistan must be put in the context that Japan has been Pakistan's largest development partner for 40 years. Japan's critical role in assisting Pakistan has helped build essential

transport and energy infrastructure, increased food security, and, most importantly, made a deep contribution to human resource development, with more than 4,500 Pakistanis having visited Japan for training in all sectors.

Jilani considers Japan's contribution to Pakistan not only incredibly significant, but also the sincerest amongst the countries providing support to his nation. However, he hopes that JICA and Japan will maintain their development support so that present and future generations will not forget the enormous contribution made by Japan over the last 60 years of cooperation. Finally, Jilani wants to express his deep gratitude to all of his JICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs colleagues and to the many Japanese people who supported his country.

The 60th Anniversary of the Indonesia-Japan Relationship and the Enhanced Role of JICA

Ginandjar Kartasasmita

Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies



Born in 1941. He studied abroad at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT) while attending Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB). Professor Ginandjar has held many important positions, including Minister of State for National Development Planning, Coordinating Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry, Chairman of House of Regional Representative (DPD), and Member of Advisory Council of the President. Deeply involved in economic cooperation with Japan, he serves as a bridge between the two countries. In 2008, he received the prestigious "Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun." Since 2018, he has been a JICA IAB member. He is currently the Acting Chairman of the Indonesian Red Cross and Chairman of the Indonesia-Japan Friendship Association.



In July 2018, JICA hosted the second session of the International Advisory Board (IAB). Prof. Ginandjar (upper row, second person from the left) participated as a new member of the board.

This year we commemorate the 60th anniversary of Indonesia-Japan relations. For the past 60 years, Japan has been an important and the most vital external source of development for Indonesia. At the same time, Indonesia is the largest development partner for Japan. From the 1950's Brantas River Basin Development in East Java to the construction of Jakarta MRTs that are to be completed in 2019, Japan's ODA had supported Indonesia's infrastructure, agricultural, industrial, natural resources, education, health and social growth.

Our rich history and experience of cooperation allow us to look into the next stage of the Indonesia-Japan cooperation. Both our countries need to upscale our development partnership, continuous innovations and using higher-level technology for better inputs and value-added contents. We, in Indonesia, need to improve our governance and absorptive capabilities. On the other hand, although JICA is part of the government administration, it could be less bureaucratic. JICA may want to ease its

bureaucratic approaches and allow more room for flexibility. The preparation for developing six fisheries centered on the outer islands of the Indonesian archipelago was finalized in only one year. This proves that JICA can be more efficient and responsive, especially under the directions of the current progressive and result-oriented leadership.

JICA may also want to enhance their cooperation principles, particularly in terms of assistance to partnerships, its approach from projects to programs, and assessments of results from outputs to outcomes. JICA's investment plans and program activities should encourage bundling of resources by integrating assets from the public sector with private initiatives.