



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

## Private Company

**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)



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

## University

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



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.

## 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 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.