

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

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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.