

Notice on the passing of Mrs. Ogata Sadako, former president of JICA

It is our sad duty to inform you that Mrs. Ogata Sadako, former president of JICA passed away on October 22, 2019. On the wishes of the deceased's family, a funeral service was held for close relatives. A gathering to honor the deceased is planned in Japan for a later date.



**Deceased:
Ogata Sadako**

Date of birth: September 16, 1927
Date of passing: October 22, 2019
(92 years old)
Funeral: Already held with close relatives.

Posts:

- Honorary Advisor to the President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (April 2018-)
- Distinguished Fellow, Japan International Cooperation Agency (October 2014 - March 2018)
- Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (April 2012 - March 2016)
- Special Advisor to the President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (April 2012 - September 2014)
- President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (October 2003 - March 2012)
- Scholar in Residence Ford Foundation (2001-2003)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1991-2000)
- Dean, Faculty of Foreign Studies, Sophia University (1989-1991)
- Independent Expert of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar (1990)
- Director, Institute of International Relations at Sophia University (1987-1988)
- Professor, Institute of International Relations at Sophia University (1980-1987)
- Representative, United Nations Commission on Human Rights (1982-1985)
- Chairman, Executive Board of UNICEF (1978-1979)
- Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (1976-1979)
- Associate Professor, Diplomatic History and International Relations, International Christian University (1974-1976)
- Lecturer on International Relations at the International Christian University (1965-1979)



Message from President Kitaoka Shinichi:

On behalf of the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the people who are committed to international cooperation, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Ogata Sadako.

Mrs. Ogata Sadako was a great leader of the UN community and she devoted herself to bring the international community peace and prosperity. As a president of JICA, she incorporated human security in our development cooperation activities, and served as a leader that was both strong and kind, helping drive Japan's efforts in international cooperation for many years. While thinking back on her achievements in days past, it is my hope that she is now resting in peace.

Trends



President Kitaoka's visit to Palau Reaffirms Strengthened Relations



Meeting with President Remengesau.

JICA President Kitaoka Shinichi visited the Republic of Palau between 16th and 18th of October, becoming the first JICA president to do so. He commenced his visit by meeting with President Remengesau, and Dr. Kitaoka spoke of the immense importance of Palau, with vast exclusive economic zone, to the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific". President Remengesau expressed his appreciation for JICA's cooperation with development of Palau's basic infrastructure and the contributions made by JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Palau's development. Both parties confirmed their intent to further deepen cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Kitaoka visited the construction site of the "Project of Renovation, Expansion and Management of Palau International Airport", being built with JICA cooperation in the form of private sector investment financing. Then he visited the Palau International Coral Reef Center and a primary school on Peleliu Island. At the school he observed a first grade math class taught by a JICA volunteer. The children showed great zeal in working on math drills prepared by the volunteer. The visit confirmed awareness and appreciation by the local community for the on-site collaborative efforts of the JICA volunteers.



"Disaster Risk Reduction Management Platform (DRRMP)" Established for 7 Southeast African/Indian Ocean Countries



In April 2019, meteorological radar was completed in Mauritius with the support of JICA.

In the summer of 2019, three South-east African countries and four South-west Indian Ocean countries launched a platform that provides a means for sharing information and exchanging ideas on how to tackle issues related to disaster risk reduction. The idea for the project was formed after the intense tropical cyclone Idai hit Southeast Africa in March 2019, a disaster which greatly affected over 3 million people. Sharing the knowledge about disasters will contribute to mitigating the worst outcomes.

JICA has implemented the "Project of Landslide Management" including a radar construction project and other projects related to the climate change and environment in Mauritius over a number

of years. In May 2019, "Project for Enhancing Meteorological Observation, Weather Forecasting and Warning Capabilities" launched in Mauritius, and a more accurate and immediate transmission system for weather information is being prepared. With the launch of the platform, this knowledge will also be widely used in neighboring countries. As representatives of disaster risk reduction organizations from these countries will be involved in the operation of the platform, in conjunction with various development organizations, it is expected to act as an unprecedented hub of the disaster risk reduction organizations of the countries of Southeast Africa and of the Southwest Indian Ocean.

Voices from the Field

JICA's Evolving Contribution to the Mekong Region



Fujii Takao

Project Leader of the Consulting Team for Japan Center

Since 2000, JICA's Japan Center program has supported countries transitioning to market economies, and as of today there are five centers operating in four countries in the Mekong region alone. Over 10 years have passed since the opening of the first Japan Center in the Mekong region, and their reputation as a link to Japan has grown steadily. The Centers offer business courses which are based on the

"Japanese-style management" and tailored to each country's unique needs.

I was appointed Director of the Vietnam-Japan Center in Ho Chi Minh City in 2007, and I have overseen the dispatching of lecturers to the Mekong and Central Asia regions since April 2019. We have reached a time when other organizations can also provide support, and this allows JICA to make a unique contribution.

An idea of starting a Japanese-style Management School, which has now been spread to all the Japan

Centers, was originated by my own experience as an entrepreneur. As "Japanese-style management" changes with the times, we constantly adapt to provide a high-quality curriculum at every Center.

The Mekong countries need to cultivate small and medium enterprises if they are to achieve their industrialization goals. We will continue to work to develop human resources that lead industrialization with a long-term perspective.