

# JICA's WORLD

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## Ensuring Basic Human Rights: **A World in Which Everyone Can Shine**



## Feature Ensuring Basic Human Rights

# A World in Which Everyone Can Shine

It is essential that we realize a world in which everyone is free from fear and want, can live in peace, and be part of a society in which their rights and opinions are respected. To this end, Japan is assisting numerous countries to develop their laws, policing practices, and media maturity to enable them to achieve these goals.

### Saving the World from “Fear and Want”

In order to realize basic human rights in developing countries, JICA provides cooperation in such areas as (1) legal and judicial systems, (2) policing, and (3) media/journalism. In recent years, JICA has also been addressing the issue of (4) businesses and human rights (see the table on the right page).

The underlying philosophy guiding our efforts is based on a section of the Preamble of the Japanese Constitution, which states, “We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace, and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance for all time from the earth. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.”

In order for “all peoples of the world to have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want,” it is essential for each and every person in the world to be guaranteed basic human rights. These rights include: the freedom of expression, the freedom to engage in economic activities; the right to participate in politics;

and the right to receive a fair trial.

Numerous developing countries have legal and judicial systems that are inadequate or incomplete. Problems also exist concerning the application and enforcement of the law, and hindrances to access of information remain. There are many people living in “fear and want” whose rights and freedoms are not guaranteed. They are discriminated against on the basis of race or ethnicity, and are subject to unfair restrictions.

### Working together with Developing Countries, respecting their social and cultural values and institutions

Japan has studied foreign laws and judicial systems since the Meiji Revolution in the mid-nineteenth century, and has incorporated those elements that are compatible with its society and culture. For example, in the middle of the Meiji era, a Civil Code drafted by a group led by a French lawyer was not enforced due to criticism that it was incompatible with the Japanese family system and society. Consequently, it was rewritten to better suit

## Aiming for a Society in which “No One is Left Behind”

### 1 Developing Legal and Judicial Systems to Protect Rights

The basis of these codes is “equality under the law” regardless of their family origins or their social standing. JICA is cooperating with developing countries in the development and operation of laws related to their civil and criminal matters. Let's look at two cases in West Africa.

→ case 1 : P.4-5, case 2 : P.6-7



### 2 Protecting People's Livelihoods based on Trust between Citizens and Police

The Police force is supposed to maintain law and order; if police officers wrongfully detain citizens and use violence against them, they are unable to live with peace of mind. JICA is working to improve law and order in Southeast Asia and Latin America by applying Japanese-style community policing. Let's take a look at initiatives such as those in El Salvador. → P.8-9



### 3 Realizing the Right to Access Reliable Information

If there are only state broadcasters, which are influenced by the government, or private broadcasters, which are influenced by sponsors, it is difficult for people to access accurate and impartial information.

Let's look at the example of Ukraine, where JICA cooperation is helping to facilitate people's right to access information → P.10-11



### 4 Working with Businesses to Protect Human Rights

Both domestic and multinational corporations work to develop the economies of developing countries. However, in some cases workers are compelled to work under harsh conditions. In other cases, the environment is destroyed in surrounding communities. These are actual infringements of human rights.

JICA has begun to seek new partnerships with companies. → P.12-13



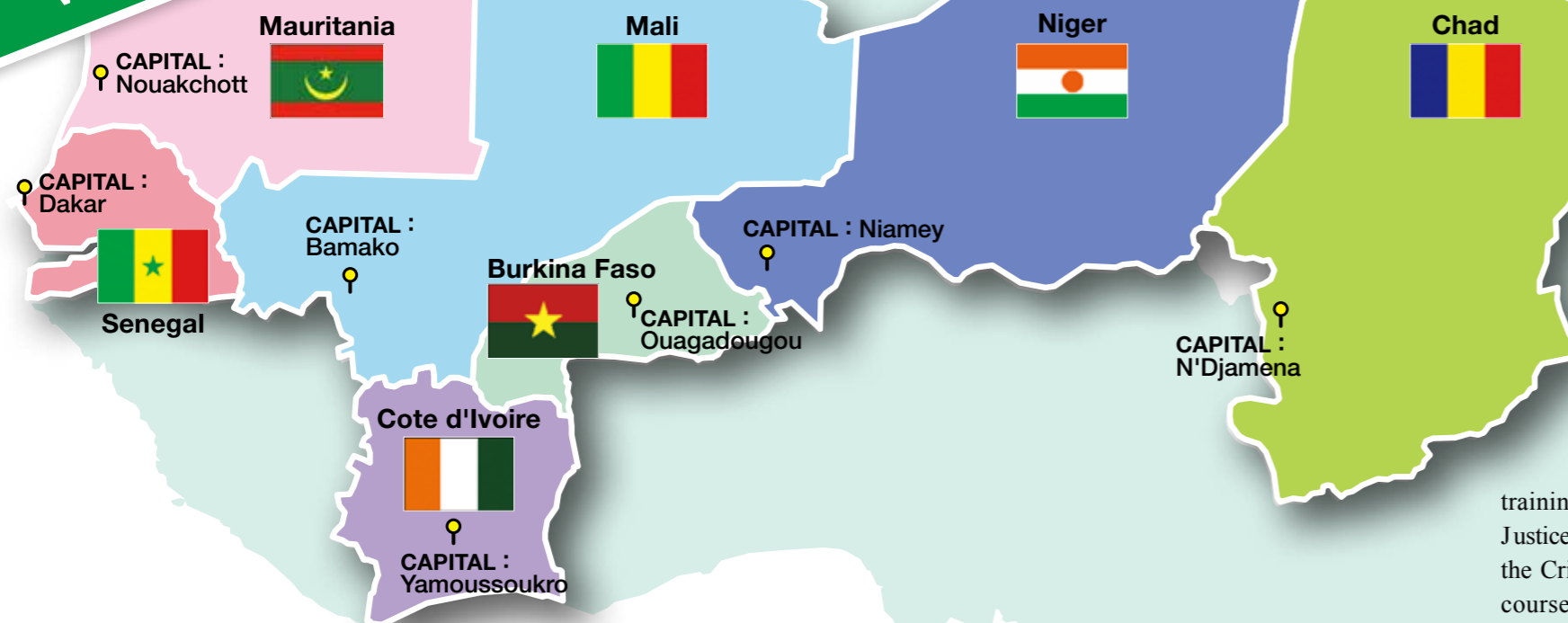
conditions in Japan. This experience is unique to Japan, something that did not take place in other developed nations.

Because of these past experiences, Japan avoids imposing its point of view when supporting the development of laws in developing countries. Rather, Japan discusses each and every clause of the laws in great detail to make sure that the laws being written do not conflict with country's social and cultural values and institutions.

This stance can also be seen in Japan's cooperation in other areas, and is one of the reasons that Japan's cooperation has been welcomed in many countries throughout the world. Although such measures require significant time and patience, they can eventually lead to the realization of a society in which people can live safely with full peace of mind, and where basic human rights are respected.

Police officers teach children sportsmanship. In El Salvador, a trust is being built between local people and the police with the support of JICA.





## Developing Legal and Judicial Systems to Protect Rights *Case 1*

# Learning about Criminal Justice in Japan

Improving criminal justice practices that seek to realize a society where justice and human rights are protected.

### Training to Enhance Capabilities

Criminal justice aims to secure the safety of citizens by bringing to light the truth in cases through investigation and trial with proper procedures, and imposing appropriate punishment in accordance with criminal law. To achieve a society where everyone can live in peace, police, prosecutors, and judges should each act according to their designated roles, and at times work together so that the criminal justice system functions effectively. However, in some countries, the system does not function well, even though there are laws and systems in place.

In order to improve this situation, JICA has partnered with the United Nations Asia and the Far East

Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). UNAFEI was jointly created by the UN and Japan, to carry out a range of training over a five-to-six week period for those engaged in work related to criminal justice. These courses are designed for police, judges, prosecutors, prison staff, and probation officers in developing countries. More than 200 such training courses have been held since the first course in 1962, and there are now as many as 6,000 alumni in 139 countries.

The training courses cover: the Criminal Justice (Focus on Investigation, Prosecution, Adjudication, and International Cooperation) training course; Treatment of Offenders (Focus on Prison, Probation and Parole)



Trainees gathered together for the kick-off seminar.

training course; the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Senior Officials' Seminar) training course; and the Criminal Justice Response to Corruption training course. Course programs include: presentations by participants about the crime situation and criminal justice system in their respective countries; lectures by national and international specialists; on-site visits, including visits to criminal justice-related institutions; and group workshops and discussions where participants can exchange opinions about a designated theme.

### Francophone Africa: Creating Cross-Border Relationships

JICA also carries out country-specific training to enhance the abilities of personnel in certain areas of criminal justice in a specific country or region to support resolving issues. For example, with the cooperation of UNAFEI, JICA carried out training for francophone African countries with problems in the area of criminal justice over the period from fiscal 2013 to 2017. From a long-term perspective, conducting ongoing training is necessary to improve practices relating to everything from investigation to trial. Criminal justice training is once again scheduled for fiscal 2020. A kick-off seminar was held in Côte d'Ivoire in January 2020 ahead of the commencement of full-scale training. In addition to Côte d'Ivoire, participating countries include Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. "In recent years, the need for international cooperation in investigations has increased along with frequency of instances of transnational crime, such as terrorism. Therefore, being able to learn about and understand each other's methods



A scene from the crime prevention and criminal justice (senior officials' seminar) training held in January–February 2019. Personnel involved in criminal justice were gathered from 17 countries, including the Dominican Republic, Laos, Thailand, and Japan.

of investigation and build networks is very helpful." (Police Officer); "Receiving training together with the judicial police enables us to understand how investigations are carried out and how evidence is collected. This understanding is useful when it comes to handling evidence in trials." (Trial Judge); With participant feedback such as these, it is clear that they understand the significance of cross-disciplinary training between these seven countries that share common borders.

Full-scale training will commence shortly. Training will focus on improving the practice of criminal justice from investigation to trial. It will concentrate on areas such as cooperating in investigations and administering justice in transnational crime cases, such as organized crime, terrorism, drug-related crime, and human trafficking. When this training is completed, it is envisaged that tangible progress in the practice of criminal justice will have improved people's trust in judicial institutions. Additionally, there will be strengthened collaboration among criminal justice institutions in the area within five years.

## Developing Legal and Judicial Systems to Protect Rights *Case 2*

# Call Centers: Helping People to Access the Legal and Judicial Systems

A call center to help resolve day-to-day disputes among people is drawing much attention in Côte d'Ivoire



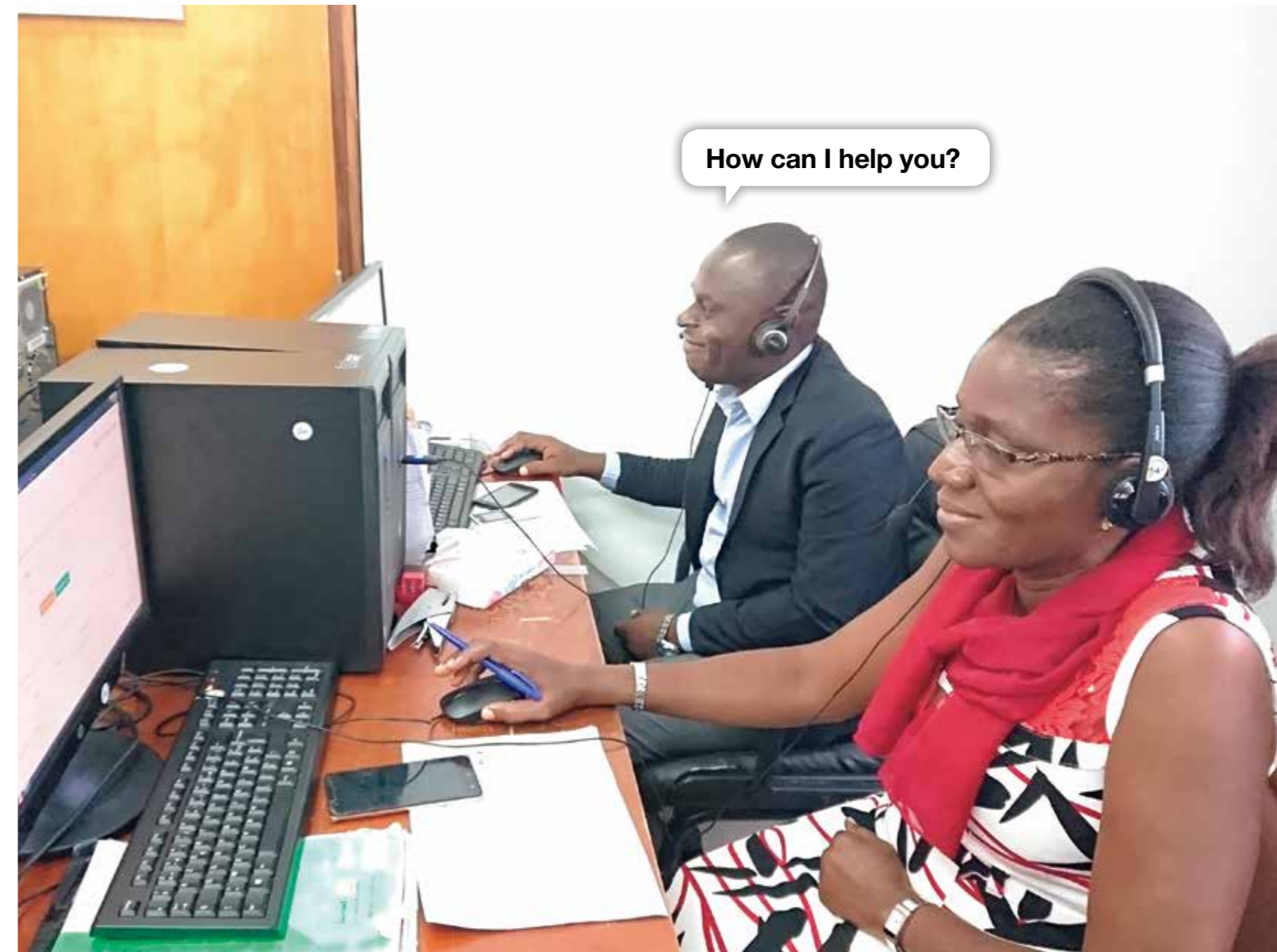
### Brochures explaining the role of the call center



Brochures were prepared when the call center was opened to provide legal and judicial information.



The call center is run by five people. It is headed by the Director of the Civil and Criminal Affairs Bureau, with operators being overseen by a supervisor.



Operators take calls every day from people seeking legal information. Anaman (at rear).

### Increasing Attentions to Access to Justice

Even once laws and the judicial system have been established, people still feel disempowered by not having access to legal information, not knowing where to find such services, or not having the financial wherewithal to do anything. Put simply, people have no real access to appropriate dispute resolution. This issue of lack of access to justice is drawing international attention and therefore one of the targets of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to "provide access to justice for all."

Given this background, JICA launched its Enhanced Access to Justice training program. Trainees from various countries have participated in the program. The training introduces the participants to Japan's legal system and its various organizations,

such as the bar association, which work to enhance access to justice, and provides some historical background regarding the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) established in 2006. In this program, the participants can also observe firsthand in this program a call center which provides people with easy access to legal information over the phone. After the training, many participants express a desire to establish such a call center in their home countries.

### The First to Establish Call Centers

Côte d'Ivoire is one country that has already established a call center. Its call center was established in 2017 with the support of a JICA legal advisor. The center is run solely by the Ministry of Justice, and refers callers seeking legal information to appropriate

local entities. "I had a call about a land transaction from someone in a town 580 km from Abidjan where the call center is located, and referred them to an appropriate local organization. Regardless of distance, communicating over the phone allows me to provide callers with the appropriate information," says operator Anaman Adjabe Filmin, explaining the merits of the call center.

Citizens started to understand they could obtain information by contacting a call center. This information is proving useful in resolving legal problems and the number of calls is increasing. "We plan on increasing the number of operators to accommodate the increasing number of calls.

As people become more familiar with the law, we expect them to gain a deeper understanding of how it can protect their lives," says Giro Kruma Sabore, who

serves as deputy director of the Civil and Criminal Affairs Bureau.

With a desire to further enhance access to justice, Giro attended JICA's Enhanced Access to Justice training program in 2019. She visited a Japanese call center, and in addition to gaining valuable insight for improving the call center in her own country, she was inspired to introduce some assistance programs such as subsidizing legal consultation fees and court costs.

Giro is often asked by the fellow participants from other countries how to introduce a call center. "I really want to help improve access to justice in other countries as well," she says. JICA is currently organizing surveys to explore the possibility of supporting the establishment of such call centers in other countries.

Officer Arriaza teaching the locals how to make a hammock. Teaching them skills and enabling them to earn an income helps prevent young people from turning to crime.



**Protecting People's Livelihoods based on Trust between Citizens and Police**

# Police and Locals Working Together to Create Safe and Secure Communities

People need safety and security to enjoy a peaceful and prosperous life. JICA is working with Brazil through triangular cooperation\*<sup>1</sup> to introduce and promote community policing in the Central American countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.



## Learning Japanese-style Community Policing from Brazil

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala form a group of countries called the Northern Triangle of Central America, an area with one of the lowest levels of public safety in the world. Underlying this condition is not only poverty, but also a high level of gang activity.

Such a state of affairs once prevailed in Brazil. However, the situation changed after 1997, when the state of São Paulo introduced community policing modeled after the Japanese “Koban” system of neighborhood police boxes. Since 2000, JICA, together with the National Police Agency of Japan and Japanese prefectural police departments, has supported police activities in the state by dispatching

experts to São Paulo and by conducting training in Japan. Thanks to the spread of community policing, the crime rate in Brazil has fallen, and the Koban system of community policing has spread from São Paulo to the rest of the country.

Today, the Police of São Paulo State are putting their experience to work by partnering with JICA to introduce and promote community policing in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. In El Salvador, the National Civil Police (PNC) has been receiving such support to establish community policing since 2008.

## Emphasis on Crime Prevention over the Detection to Crime

In recent years, even as the PNC strengthens its community policing activities, juvenile gangs have

become more powerful and organized crime has run rampant, affecting neighborhoods and families. “At the PNC, we have focused on detecting crime. However, to maximise community policing’s potential, further crime prevention efforts are also important to fundamentally improve safety and security,” explains Olivares Rivera, Community Police Department Chief. The PNC requested JICA’s assistance in establishing an advanced policing model to prevent crime by solving community problems together with residents. The project started in 2015.

Today, the PNC prepares and distributes manuals on community policing, trains and dispatches instructors to oversee community policing activities, and works to strengthen community policing activities throughout the country. Community policing has officially become part of the curriculum at the Police Academy, and all new police officers are well versed in its theory and practice. “Sometimes you can’t just apply a theory that you learn. We are trying to look at each community individually, share successful cases among officers, and apply what we learn in similar situations to improve our execution,” says Rivera.

To strengthen its presence in the community, the PNC is improving its officers’ working conditions. The organization has maintained or refurbished 32 police boxes throughout the country allowing residents to interact more freely with police.

## Actively Participating in Community Activities

In El Salvador, community policing projects have brought about positive changes to the community in a number of regions. One of these is the municipality of Chapeltique in San Miguel, formerly one of the top 10 cities in the country in terms of crime, and here a unique hammock project is being conducted in the village of Hualamá. The villagers learned to make hammocks from Officer Mario Arriaza; “I taught 40 people how to make them last year, and they are now selling them. Many more people involved this year, and we’re providing support so that they can become economically independent,” he says. Learning to make hammocks gives them a skill, and that enables them to earn money and have a stable life, which helps to keep them out of crime.

Officer Marta Garcia, who conducts an educational program to prevent youth misconduct, learned a lot at her training in Brazil. “I was amazed to learn that officers were strengthening their connections to the community by publicizing their phone numbers and doing group chats with community leaders.

After returning home and putting these things into practice, I’ve started to get calls from locals about information related to crimes that may have been committed,” she says.

## Building Relationships of Trust by Working Together to Refurbish Facilities and Clean the Community

In Las Jacarandas, which is located in the city of Apopa in San Salvador, the police are strengthening a relationship of trust with the locals by working together. Activities include refurbishing the community center and a basketball court and cleaning the community. According to local residents, since the police opened a local branch office crime has been greatly reduced, and they can now live with peace of mind.

The murder rate in El Salvador dropped from 103\*<sup>2</sup> per 100,000 people in 2015 to 36\*<sup>3</sup> in 2019. From these figures it is obvious that community policing is starting to have an effect in El Salvador. It serves as evidence that as police earn the trust of the local community through various means, this leads to crime prevention.

## Column: Triangular Cooperation

## Sharing the Experience of Brazil with the Countries of Central America

Supporting efforts by developing countries to spread community policing to other developing countries



### Guatemala

From June 2016 to May 2019, JICA carried out a project to strengthen human resources for community policing. Police officers regularly visit local schools to teach children about the dangers of drugs and how to prevent crime. They also join community activities such as cleaning up the streets and planting trees, thereby deepening mutual trust.



### Honduras

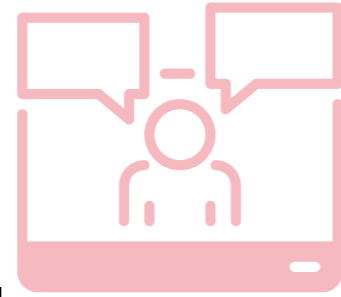
From April 2016 to March 2021, Brazilian experts are sent on a short-term basis to other countries by JICA to promote community policing. Police officers carry out daily neighborhood patrols and routine home visits, hold regular meetings with the locals, and even put on events to entertain local children. This close relationship between the police and the community is contributing toward crime prevention.



## Realizing the Right to Access Reliable Information

# Rapid Reports and Diverse Programs Aiming for Reliable Public Broadcasting

Three years ago, a new public broadcasting station was established in Ukraine. A project is underway to protect the “right of people to know” accurate, impartial, and fair information.



The headquarters exterior of the Public Broadcasting Company in Kiev.

### Protecting the Right of People to Know

The international community had pointed out that the major Ukrainian media were monopolized by a small number of financial conglomerates, and the flow of information tended to be biased towards their interests.

There is a pressing need to change this situation, because the “right of people to know” – to obtain accurate, impartial, and fair information – is not being adequately guaranteed. To this end, the Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (PBC) was established in 2017, based in the former complex of the National Television Company of Ukraine in the capital Kiev. Simultaneously, 22 independent regional

broadcasting stations were also incorporated into the PBC network.

However, most of the PBC staff, whether at the headquarters or regional stations, did not have sufficient understanding of public broadcasting.

Therefore JICA commissioned NHK International, with its wealth of knowledge as a part of public broadcasting in Japan, to start a project aimed at enhancing the abilities of Ukrainian staff and creating a system for public broadcasting.

### Transformed Staff Awareness

There are three pillars to this project. The first pillar is developing a reporting system in the event of

### Hold Workshops



Staff engage in heated debates regarding themes such as public broadcasting and emergency reporting.

### Support Equipment Management



Much of the equipment in both the headquarters and regional stations is old. These are maintained while gradually being replaced with new equipment.

### Produce Welfare Programs

As the documentary series where the main character is disabled was so popular, a website was released.



### Create a Staff Handbook

An emergency reporting handbook. It summarizes the actions and knowledge required from acquiring information to broadcasting.



Staff observe the NHK studio and equipment room during training in Japan.

emergencies, such as disasters, major incidents and accidents that can have a significant impact on the people's lives. Covering and broadcasting over a wide area is essential for emergency broadcasting, and relies upon the smooth exchange of information between the regional stations and the headquarters. In order to create such a network, workshops are held on a regular basis with staff who are responsible for news in regional stations. These workshops cover issues such as how public broadcasting should appropriately report on elections.

The second pillar is the planning and production of programs that meet the diverse needs of the people, which is a mandate for public broadcasters. “We’re making the first educational program in Ukraine targeting children, and another program which has a disabled person as the main character. These programs corroborate the need for public broadcasters,” says Tsuchiya Masayuki, who provides program creation support. These programs do not have the highest ratings, and they fall under genres that have not yet been covered by private broadcasting. Dodolyki, a 12-episode puppet series, and Razom, a 16-episode disability documentary series, have already been aired.

“These programs are made and watched by Ukrainians. All the more reason for us not to push our opinions and leave people to draw their own conclusions. People are so enthusiastic about making new things.”

The third pillar is support in terms of the technology and equipment required to create high-quality programs. In many cases the equipment in the PBC headquarters and regional stations is old and not adequately maintained. The project therefore created a new equipment management system that enables them to access their equipment as needs arise.

In addition to these three pillars, the project is planning to create a staff handbook to summarize the know-how of program creation. It has already completed an emergency reporting handbook for both headquarters and regional stations. “The most significant change has been the staff’s growing awareness of their role as journalists. I really feel their growing sense of calling and pride in their work as public broadcasters,” says Miyao Atsushi, who is leading the project. With the help of Japan, journalists are today once again breaking new ground and are advancing journalism.

A scene showing the filming of the educational program Dodolyki.



The puppets that appear in Dodolyki.

Participants from organizations such as research institutions and confectionary companies worked together to identify current issues and future goals from their respective viewpoints.



On February 5, 2020, ahead of Valentine's Day, a general public event was held on sustainable cocoa.

## Working with Businesses to Protect Human Rights Creating a Platform for Collaboration! Cocoa Free from Child Labor

Today, it is estimated that more than one out of every five children in Ghana is involved in child labor. Child labor is found in cocoa production in Ghana, and Japan is a significant importer of Ghanaian cocoa. To combat child labor and other development issues, JICA has launched a new platform for co-creation and collaboration.



workshop was held in December 2019. The workshop attracted more than 60 participants from organizations such as cocoa industry groups, confectionary companies, trading companies, and NGOs.

In the opening speech of the workshop, His Excellency Mr. Frank Okyere, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to Japan, explained the situation of the cocoa industry in Ghana. Although the cocoa market has an annual transaction value of 210 billion yen (approximately USD\$2.1 billion) and contributes greatly to the national budget, the average small-scale cocoa farmer, of which there are approximately 800,000, earns only about 50 yen (approximately 0.5 dollar) a day.

Poverty is a direct cause of child labor. Cocoa production is labor-intensive, and children are an important labor source for farmers too poor to hire adult workers. If the children grow up without learning to read and write at school, then it would be difficult to break the poverty cycle. A situation which brings the sustainability of the cocoa industry into question.

### Efforts to Combat Child Labor

Japanese society and industry have not been idle spectators.



**His Excellency Mr. Frank Okyere**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to Japan

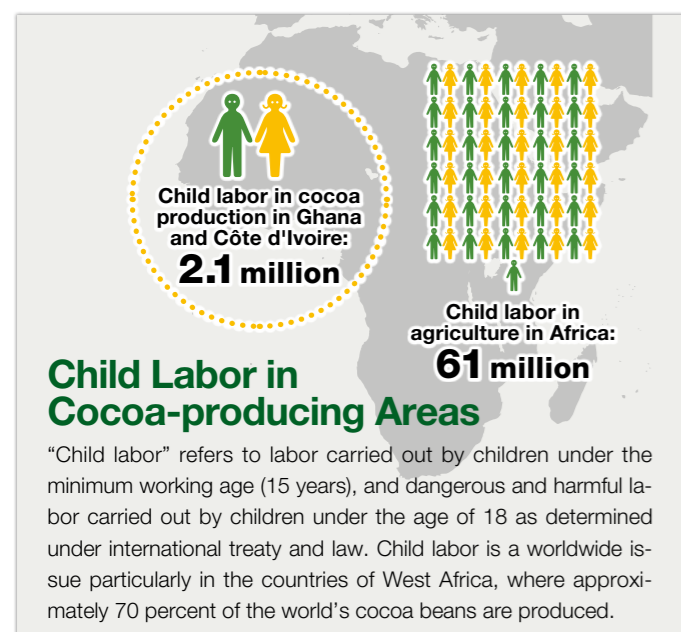
"Ghana is committed to achieving the goal of eliminating child labor. We welcome Japan's support in this agenda."

JICA is strengthening its collaboration with academia, industry, government, and civil society organizations to solve global issues. An example of this is the Platform for Sustainable Cocoa in Developing Countries, which was launched in January 2020.

"We need a forum where the stakeholders can work together solving the issues surrounding the cocoa sector such as child labor, deforestation, and rural poverty," explained Nakamura Toshiyuki of JICA's Governance and Peacebuilding Department. "To that end, a wide range of parties involved in the cocoa sector such as chocolate manufacturers, consulting firms and NGOs have joined the platform."

### Poverty as the Background for Child Labor

To prepare for the establishment of the platform a



Source: Created based on information from the International Cocoa Initiative.

The Government of Japan is preparing a national action plan, to be announced in 2020, to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011. Many Japanese companies are also working to fulfill their human rights responsibilities in accordance with the principle.

More than 130 people attended the inauguration of the platform in February 2020, where the Japanese companies and NGOs shared their efforts to solve human rights issues in the cocoa supply chain.

Some companies are supporting cocoa farmers to increase their incomes through improved cultivation and processing techniques. Other companies are supporting communities to conserve forests by promoting agroforestry in collaboration with JICA. ACE, an NGO working to address the issues of child labor around the world, has been active in Ghana since 2009. ACE provides school supplies for poor households and is creating mutual support systems for farmers. The projects have successfully protected over 500 children in 10 villages from child labor, and have improved the education environments of around 4,500 children. Since 2018, ACE has been working together with the Government of Ghana in establishing Child Labor Free Zones in Ghana.

### Realizing Sustainable Cocoa through an All-Japan Effort

"Ten years ago, it was not easy to work together with industries and private companies on issues such as child labor—the platform is a sign that circumstances are changing," said ACE Managing Director Shiroki Tomoko. "Previous projects were small-scale with limited effects. Through collaboration, we should aim at making a big impact," she stressed.

Other participants also commented that while companies make efforts to pay a "fair" price to the farmers, consumers are not willing to shoulder the additional cost. By understanding the background and making informed choices about the things that we buy, we can lend support to such efforts. Sustainable cocoa must be realized not only by companies and NGOs, but by society as a whole.



Morinaga & Co., Ltd. contributes a portion of its chocolate sales to support cocoa-producing communities in collaboration with the NGOs, Plan International and ACE.

# Trends

## A COVID-19 Message from JICA President Kitaoka



Our fight against COVID-19 has not yet ended, and we can be sure that further epidemics will emerge. Even if we can contain the virus in Japan, no country is safe until every country is safe. Now more than ever is the time for international cooperation in fighting against infectious diseases. Evidently, the medical systems in many rich countries have performed poorly in trying to contain the pandemic. On the other hand, our latest research reveals that many developing countries are tailoring their responses to the virus based on their respective situations. This is a very positive sign, and I would like to commend our partner countries for their tremendous efforts and strength.

Given the challenges ahead, it is clear that we need to develop a better health system to defend the lives and economic activities of the people. This is the essential core of human security which

JICA has promoted for many years. To improve understanding of JICA's contributions to the fight against pandemics and infectious disease control we have recently launched the website "Way Forward, Working Together Against COVID-19."\* The site covers cooperation policy, as well as information on infectious disease control laboratories and JICA's surveillance efforts. As those of us who stand at the forefront of international cooperation on behalf of the Japanese people, we would like to express our determination and commitment to the fight against infectious diseases. To all our partners and many friends throughout the world, you can be assured that JICA continues to work side by side with you.



\* [www.jica.go.jp/COVID-19/en/](http://www.jica.go.jp/COVID-19/en/)

## Project for Affordable Housing Finance Underway in India



On April 3rd JICA signed a loan agreement of US\$75 million to provide long-term finance for affordable housing to low-income households in India. The loan recipient is PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNB Housing), an Indian Housing Finance Company registered with the National Housing Bank, promoted by Punjab National Bank, a Government of India owned entity. The loan will be provided through co-financing with Citibank and is based on the recently implemented Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion in Asia (FAIA). PNB Housing, boasting efficient and rigorous underwriting processes, a robust technology platform, and widespread network of 105 branches, 27 outreaches and 23 underwriting hubs is a significant lender in the sector. With a strong record in containing its gross non-performing asset ratio through its comprehensive un-

derwriting and collection process, and a customer-centric mindset, PNB Housing is a worthy partner in this project.

In India, housing shortages are a serious challenge. An estimated 275 million people (about 22% of India's population) are currently unable to acquire quality housing, and 90% of the housing shortages are for low-income households. A situation compounded by forecasts of increased urbanization in the coming decades, which will impact access to housing for low-and-medium income households. On a number of fronts, the Government of India's goal of providing housing to the entire country is gaining momentum. JICA's contribution will further expand low-income housing loans in India through FAIA financing, thereby improving the lives of low-income households and promoting sustainable economic growth in the country.

# Voices from the Field

## Community Policing Shows a Better Way Forward



The Community Police Project was awarded the Order of Merit "Silver Medal" for its achievements.



The Community Police Project results can be attributed to an entire team effort.

Marta Ventura Sagastume is an officer in charge of Community Policing, Public Relations and Public-Private alliances at JICA Guatemala Office. Even before she joined JICA, she had been working closely with the Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC) since 2011. That experience, personal network and trust help her in promoting Japanese-style Community Policing in her country. She had an opportunity to participate in a JICA Training Course on Community Policing with her PNC counterpart. Visiting Japan, they were deeply impressed with the level of trust that existed between people and the police. Marta points out that many of the community outreach activities found in Japan, such as home and shop visits and classes for children on road safety and violence prevention, are already being implemented in Guatemala with the help of the project. However, what she thinks could be most beneficial is to regain trust between Guatemalan citizens and the police officers, and increase the nation's self-confidence, which was lost during the harsh three-decade long civil war last century. The Community Policing project can help the PNC do a better job through effective communication. She says that "to construct the trust is a critical step to progress, because the police also belongs to the community."

For Marta, it is more than just a job—it is a part of her life as her work supports the development of Guatemala. "I am proud of the results with the Community Police Project. I feel that the community and the police trust me, so I can be a bond of trust between them. I am happy to give my little piece of support to the

world." The safety of the community is also linked to the advancement of women's status. Guatemalan women tend to be shy and sometimes hesitate to communicate with the police due to "machismo", a Spanish expression of paternalism. She believes that men and women can work as a team without difference to improve their community. JICA's role in the development of Guatemala is not only to promote local police but to empower women in community. The JICA project team has always been comprised of female officers including Marta. "It enabled us to get trust from women in community and coordinate with police officers." A gender-balanced community empowerment may help improving their own lives as well as community safety. "People are now aware that they can take advantage of working hard as a team to get out of poverty." She wishes that communities and the police respect each other and live in peace and harmony, regardless of age or gender. Such a society may be achieved by improving Guatemala through the support of JICA, especially in the area of Community Policing.



**Marta Ventura Sagastume**  
Program Officer, JICA Guatemala

# Mediating a Way to a Better Justice System

Ummey Kulsum

Joint Secretary, Law and Justice Division, Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, The Government of Bangladesh

The preamble to the Constitution of Bangladesh envisions: “a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights, freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens.” The Judiciary, as one of the three organs of government, is duty-bound to administer justice. The judges’ role is to ensure the effective delivery of justice in a way that is equal, affordable and accessible to all. To carry out this role judges are expected to have the capacity and capability of understanding, applying and enforcing laws strictly in accordance with the law. To fortify and enhance the justice system, the judges have to develop themselves by appropriate training.

JICA, in collaboration with Law and Justice Division of Bangladesh, has been providing training for the judicial officers of Bangladesh in Japan in the area of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanism, in order to reduce the huge case backlog. JICA also dispatches legal experts from Japan to conduct training programs at the Judicial Administration Training Institute of Bangladesh; assists in organizing seminars and workshops to raise awareness of ADR; and is helping to prepare and update training modules on mediation for judges and mediators. Three batches of 15 judges per year have undergone training in Japan. Furthermore, Bangladesh arranged training of total 180 judges on ADR in Judicial Administration Training Institute. In addition, JICA arranged three training sessions in Bangladesh providing legal expertise from Japan for 120 Bangladeshi judges. These activities



have significantly increased awareness of Alternative Dispute Resolution through Mediation, and this training in “best practice” from Japan is helping to reduce the huge case backlog and provide the vulnerable people in Bangladesh with fair and affordable access to justice.

The current ADR technical cooperation program is achieving magnificent results. The trainee judges have opportunity to learn about the judicial and ADR system of Japan practically and the success rate of ADR mechanism inspired them. By increasing the numbers of judges that can attend training programs in Japan, I am confident this impact could be increased significantly.

In the longer term, the Law and Justice Division is looking forward to working with JICA to establish Alternate Dispute Centers in major districts throughout the country, something that will dramatically ease the existing case burden. Finally, scholarships for academic degrees such as specialized LLM and PhD on emerging legal issues to be undertaken in the renowned universities of Japan will go a great way to solidifying the foreseeable future of Bangladesh’s Justice System.

#### Profile:

Ummey Kulsum holds an LL.B from Chittagong University. She has been a public servant since 1994, and is currently Joint Secretary, Law and Justice Division, Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs. She has been working with JICA since 2017, and is the focal point of the SDG’s committee of Law and Justice Division.