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In those countries with low indicators for social development, such as Bolivia and Paraguay, improvements in health and medical care, agricultural development, and the development of infrastructure* are among the priority issues. In addition, even in the medium or high income countries, there are wide imbalances of income and wealth between different regions, and support for the underprivileged and local development are the common issues for South America.

This region has large numbers of Japanese emigrants and ethnic of Japanese. JICA is actively promoting the acceptance of participants from this community for training in Japan, as well as improvement of economic and social infrastructure that benefits ethnic Japanese society. JICA is also promoting the use of ethnic Japanese researchers and engineers in South-South cooperation.

In recent years there has been a conspicuous move toward regional economic unification, as evident in MERCOSUR. JICA is planning and providing cooperation designed to support this development.

Basic Principles of JICA Aid for South America

Overcoming Economic Difficulties

During the 1960s and 1970s, many countries in South America attempted to modernize by borrowing funds from developed countries and private financial institutions. However, as the 1980s got under way, these countries saw deterioration in their international balance of payments, and they found it difficult to repay their loans because of a drop in the prices of primary products and a rise in international interest rates. Thus, the economies of many South American countries faced crisis.

This led to the creation of a debt reduction agreement in 1993 based on a new debt strategy*, known as the Brady Plan, in almost all debtor countries. With the support of the World Bank and the IMF, structural reforms have been implemented, involving reduction in the size of government, privatization of state enterprises, and liberalization of economic relations with other countries. As a result, the South American economy returned to the path of recovery during the 1990s, and South America has now become one of the main centers of world growth.

Since the early 1990s, moves toward regional economic integration have been picking up, as seen in the Mercado Común del Sur* (MERCOSUR: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as official members) and

Current State of Development

A Region with a Long History of Japanese Immigration

Comprising twelve countries, South America covers an area of 17.22 million square kilometers, or roughly 13% of the world’s surface. It has a population of 310 million (or around 6% of the world’s population). The region has high agricultural production capabilities and rich underground resources.

Japanese emigration to South America has a long history. Many people of Japanese descent, both permanent and temporary residents, live in Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia. Ever since diplomatic relations were first established with Peru in 1873, Japan has maintained close links with South America. There has been a constant exchange of prominent people between the two, and many Japanese companies have evolved their business activities into the region.

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II

Chapter 4

Latin America

South America consists of countries with flourishing primary industries underpinned by rich natural resources, and in countries such as Brazil and Argentina industrialization is already well advanced. Many are classified by the World Bank as middle-income countries. However, there are several, like Bolivia, where the income level is low and social infrastructure is still inadequately developed.

Industrial Development and Serious Internal Disparities

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Bringing Rich Marine Resources to Peruvians’ Tables

◆ The Second Largest Catches in the World

The amount of fish caught in Peru is larger than that of Japan and is the second largest in the world following China. However, most of the catch is common fish, which is exported abroad as material for fish powders used in manufacturing feeds. Because of this, people engaged in small-scale fishing cannot increase their income sufficiently to stabilize their lives. In addition, although marine products are important as a source of protein, many poor people do not have the opportunity to eat fish.

The Paita Fishery Training Center (CEP-PAITA) is a new organization that teaches new skills to those engaged in fishing, with a view to increasing the catch of small-scale fishermen. The aim is to increase the amount of fish caught for eating, as well as opportunities for Peruvians to eat fish.

At the center, training courses lasting several months are being implemented that give guidance on navigation techniques, detection of fish groups and various fishing techniques and methods (such as long-line fishing and gill net fishing) to small-scale fishermen and students wishing to enter the fishing business from all over Peru. Considering the geography of Peru, which faces the Pacific Ocean with a coastline stretching over 2,000 kilometers from north to south, demand for the training from the people wishing to acquire techniques is continually increasing.

◆ Creating the Special Intensive Training Course for Instructors

JICA’s cooperation with the center has been longstanding, beginning with the commencement of construction of the main facilities through Japan’s Grant Aid scheme. In addition to CEP-PAITA, there are many fishery-related organizations, instructors and extension workers all over Peru. The center is offering a special intensive training course, “Assembly and Operativity of Long Lines” course, a local in-country training course, for these instructors together with JICA.

This course is open to a variety of persons ranging from teaching staff at universities and vocational training schools to researchers at marine research institutes, and the strong competition within these institutions for nomination to attend the course reflects the high expectations of the people concerned.

While the majority of participants for the course in the year 2000 came from the coastal area, there was one trainee from the local office of the Ministry of Fishery in Iquitos, which is an inland town located along the Amazon River. We were more than surprised to realize that the fishing methods used for sea fishing can also be used in the wide Amazon, even at a location where the river is near to its headwaters.

While bearing in mind the richness of the Amazon River, we are hoping that the results of the training will be spread throughout the country so that its rich fishing stocks will not be depleted, but rather maintained as a food source for as many Peruvians as possible.

(JICA Peru Office)
this backdrop many are also affected by the drug trade and the deterioration of safety. The increase of criminal activities in urban areas caused by the inflow of impoverished people, drug-related crime, terrorism and development of an underground economy are hampering the stabilization of politics, economy and society throughout South America.

South America is a treasure trove of ecosystems, most notably the Amazon rain forest. Conservation of these ecosystems is a matter of worldwide interest. At the same time, air quality in the big cities is steadily deteriorating due to the concentration of the population.

Tackling Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Active Cooperation with Environmental Conservation

Japan is providing Project-type Technical Cooperation to support conservation of the Amazon rain forest, a subject that is currently provoking international interest. We are also planning to provide cooperation for conservation of the precious eco-system of the Galapagos Islands. Further, we are providing Project-type Technical Cooperation in connection with air and water pollution, waste disposal and other problems in major cities such as São Paolo in Brazil and Santiago in Chile, and with the problems of mining pollution, which is a by-product of mining the rich mineral resources of the region.

We are also planning to help strengthen the system for observing the destruction of the ozone layer, a problem that has been attracting increasing attention in recent years.

Eradicating Poverty and Rectifying Regional Disparities

People living in the mountainous districts of the Andes that stretch through northeastern Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia exist in conditions of extreme poverty. The flow of population from these districts into the big cities, and the cultivation of plants used to produce narcotics, have emerged as serious social problems.

Japan is providing Bolivia with Grant Aid and Project-type Technical Cooperation with emphasis on health and medical care. In recent years, under the least among less developed countries (LLDC) support initiative led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Japan is actively providing cooperation on health and medical care, education and the development of infrastructure, based on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) formulated by the government of Bolivia, and in cooperation with other donors.

Japan is providing Project-type Technical Cooperation for public hygiene and maternal and child health in northeastern Brazil, and in Peru, with special attention paid to the underprivileged who stream into urban areas, Japan is implementing a Community Empowerment Program project that focuses on occupational training for women in Lima.
Promotion of Environmental-friendly Agriculture

South America, and in particular Brazil’s Cerrado and Argentina’s La Pampa, have rich farming land that makes them granaries of the world. Japan previously provided cooperation aimed at increasing agricultural production in this region, and as a result of these efforts, soy beans and corn produced in this region are contributing significantly to the stable supply of food throughout the world. But the focus has shifted in recent years to the promotion of environment-friendly agriculture and the eradication of poverty through cooperation aimed at small-scale farmers. Japan is also actively cooperating with Paraguay, which is lagging behind the other countries in regional economic integration (MERCOSUR), and with Bolivia, which is among the poorest countries of the world, in improving manufacturing technologies for agricultural products and distribution systems, with a view to increasing their agricultural competitiveness.

Strengthening the International Competitiveness of Industrial Products

A feature of South America is the presence of many countries, such as Brazil and Argentina, which have already undergone the process of industrialization earlier in their history. However, the trend over recent years toward globalization of economies and regional economic integration has meant that strengthening of international competitiveness, in connection with industrial products, has become an important issue. Principally through the dispatch of individual experts, Japan is cooperating with several countries (including Brazil, Chile and Colombia) to improve quality control and enhance productivity. In Brazil and Paraguay, JICA is providing Project-type Technical Cooperation to foster technicians in industrial fields.

Increasingly Detailed Support for South-South Cooperation

Chile and Brazil, both with relatively developed economies, are implementing their own South-South cooperation in South America. Japan, for its part, is providing support for third-country training* under which these countries invite participants from neighboring countries to take part in training courses. Matters have been taken further in recent years: Chile, Brazil and Argentina have now concluded Partnership Program agreements with Japan to work as equal partners in cooperating with other developing countries.

Front Line

Technical Cooperation with the Farming Research and Development Program of Pejerrey

Argentina

Successful Return of the Pejerrey Through Various Forms of Cooperation

◆ Decrease in Number due to Irregular Weather and Rampant Fishing

The pejerrey (Odontesthes bonariensis) is a freshwater fish living in the inland water areas of Argentina. It was brought to Japan in 1966 by an ethnic Japanese living in Argentina, and many studies were carried out, principally by Kanagawa Prefecture and the Tokyo University of Fisheries, to establish technology related to reproduction and such issues as the pejerrey’s living behavior and environment. As a result, technology for farming the fish was established.

In recent years, it has been thought that irregular weather is affecting the propagation of the fish. Also due to rampant fishing, the number of pejerrey is decreasing. The government of the province of Buenos Aires in Argentina took this decrease very seriously and has been working on the farming of the fish. However, basic research on its physiology, living habits, breeding, and propagation has not been progressing smoothly.

Argentines traditionally like to eat meat, but awareness of the benefit of eating fish, as a countermeasure against adult diseases, has been heightened. Because the pejerrey is the most popular fish in the country, it is expected that the establishment of farming and propagation technologies will help promote the consumption of fish.

◆ Local Governments and JICA Cooperate with Each Other

Against this backdrop, this project was begun using a dispatch of individual experts in order to return fertilized eggs of domesticated pejerrey in Japan to Argentina. The project will be expanded with the dispatch of expert teams in the future.

This project—which involves transfer of propagation technology that was developed in Japan using pejerrey brought into the country by a Japanese emigrant—is a significant example of aid activities implemented in coordination with local governments. The project involves collaboration between JICA and the Kanagawa prefecture, which carried out the research on propagation techniques for the pejerrey and established breeding technology, as well as coordination between Japan’s Emigration Service Program and cooperation in fisheries technology.

(JICA Kanagawa International Fisheries Training Centre)
As examples of activities under these partnerships, we are providing cooperation with Chile that combines third-country training and dispatch of third-country experts* in the areas of agricultural and stock farming hygiene in Bolivia and fisheries in Cuba. Also, in partnership with Brazil, we are providing cooperation in the fields of health and medical care and agriculture for the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa, such as Mozambique and Angola.

Support for Japanese Ethnic Communities and Use of Ethnic Japanese Experts

Many people of Japanese ancestry, both first-generation immigrants and those whose families have been in South America for two or more generations, live in Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia. Their activities have contributed significantly to the development of their adopted countries and to the shaping of the image of Japan held by their compatriots.

When Japan provides cooperation to these countries, it takes into account how its activities will benefit the ethnic Japanese community. Japan also makes use of talented individuals from this community to serve as third-country experts and in other capacities within Japanese Technical Cooperation.

Cooperation and Collaboration with Local Authorities

Partly due to the existence of many Japanese immigrants in South America, the active exchanges between local communities in Japan and those in South American countries have been carried out. Against this backdrop, JICA is actively promoting cooperation with local Japanese authorities as part of its efforts to promote programs that involve public participation. In Peru, JICA is providing cooperation for the transfer of “Nanbu Tekki” skills in collaboration with Iwate Prefecture, and we are planning to provide cooperation in the field of health and medical care for Okinawan immigration areas in Bolivia with Okinawa Prefecture.