

# Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts

## Outline of the Program

### Aims and Significance

Under this program, experts are sent to developing countries where they transfer their skills and make proposals in line with specific on-site conditions. They work mainly with administrators and engineers who play a central role in the economic and social development of these countries. The program contributes to human resources development and at the same time to organizational and institutional development. Together with the Acceptance of Technical Training Participants, this program constitutes the core of cooperation in the field of human resources development in developing countries.

### Features of the Program

The main feature of cooperation involving the Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts is that it actually takes place in developing countries. This means the program can be finely tailored to the needs of the country in question. The second feature is that experts in a very wide range of fields, from normal technical guidance to institutional and policy advice, are dispatched to almost all developing countries. In particular, “aid with a clearly visible profile” can be provided efficiently and effectively by Japanese experts working as advisors at the heart of a recipient country’s government.

Another important feature of cooperation involving the dispatch of experts is that it enables a highly mobile and prompt response to new aid needs as well as to countries newly in need of aid that have emerged as a consequence of changes in international circumstances, especially those in connection with matters such as transition to a market economy, recovery from disaster



An expert examining shrimps (Madagascar “The Aquaculture Development Project in the Northwest Coastal Region”). ©Sanae Numata

and post-conflict\* recovery. JICA’s organizational restructuring in January 2000 enabled mobile and flexible forms of cooperation through integrated planning and supervision across all stages of the project process, from planning to implementation. This cooperation is rooted in an issue-specific approach that takes full account of development issues in each country. Such an organizational change means that expert dispatch involves more than merely responding to individual requests from recipient countries. More than ever before, we are now able to gain an accurate grasp of the partner country’s development needs, and we can formulate expert dispatch plans from an overall standpoint after elaborate examination of the most suitable forms of cooperation.

### Program Details

JICA engages in various forms of expert dispatch that are designed to help alleviate and solve development problems in developing countries. Projects can be classified into four main types:

- (1) Dispatch of experts in accordance with individual requests from developing countries.
- (2) Cooperation combining group dispatch of experts, acceptance of training participants and provision of equipment (Project-type Technical Cooperation, team dispatch, research cooperation\*, core support for important policies\*, etc.).
- (3) Dispatch of personnel from developing countries as experts to other developing countries with the aims of transferring skills that meet the needs of individual developing countries and of promoting South-South cooperation\* (dispatch of third-country experts\*).
- (4) Projects involving suggestions made by Japan to other countries about essential forms of cooperation

(JICA Partnership Program\*, public participation experts\*, etc.).

Efforts have been made in recent years to combine any or all of these types with other forms of cooperation in order to devise the most effective and efficient means possible for tackling priority development issues in developing countries.

## Program Trends

### Promotion of Public Participation

Diversification of needs in recent years has meant that when dispatching experts to developing countries, it is becoming increasingly important to obtain cooperation from a wide range of sources, including the general public and local government in addition to the relevant central ministries and agencies. Participation by a broad range of private citizens in international cooperation builds the international community's confidence in Japan, and helps to energize Japan itself.

Against this background, since fiscal 1999 JICA has been working on the "JICA Partnership Program," in which social development projects requiring finely tailored responses are entrusted to Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other organizations. The aim of this mechanism is to execute ODA programs with the cooperation and participation of the general public. In addition, the "JICA Grassroots Partnership Program\*," which enables the implementation of projects in collaboration with relatively small NGOs, was established in fiscal 2000.

The "public participation experts" program is a form of international cooperation involving proposals presented from Japan's regions. If a local municipality wishes to take part in international cooperation, experts from the municipality are sent by JICA to a country where they are needed. In other words, local governments propose projects that they can implement to recipient countries. In fiscal 2000, an expert on lacquer ware was sent to Myanmar. Such unique cooperation is also playing a role in stimulating local governments themselves.

JICA's system for open recruitment of experts has been firmly established since its implementation in fiscal 1997. Every year, highly qualified experts recruited

from the general public are sent to work in developing countries. At the same time, the registry system for expert applicants has been improved. JICA is encouraging the public to participate in international cooperation programs in a variety of forms, and we hope to direct the knowledge and experience of more and more people to social and economic development in the developing world.

JICA will continue to actively pursue use of the private sector's human resources to respond to the diversifying needs of developing countries. There has been an increase in the demand for cooperation involving support for institution-building and policy-making, fiscal and monetary policy, and legal systems. In response to these needs, JICA has been sending policy advisors to key governmental agencies responsible for policy formulation in order to provide vigorous support for these areas.

Examples include the core support for important policies provided in Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, where institution-building and policy-making are urgent priorities as these countries move toward market economies. Cooperation in the field of industrial policy is being provided to Jordan and Bulgaria. In Cambodia and Viet Nam, cooperation involves modernization of these countries' legal systems with the aim of establishing judicial systems. Cooperation provided to Viet Nam since fiscal 1996 has been very well received by the Vietnamese government, and Phase 2 of cooperation, which includes drafting of bills, has been under way since fiscal 1999.

In Laos, in order to facilitate transition to a market economy and to stabilize its economy, a project entitled



An expert teaching mould work (Brazil "Quality Improvement of Foundry Technology in Small- and Medium-scale Industry").

“Laos Economic Modeling,” in which economic policy proposals are made in cooperation with personnel on the Laotian side, has been implemented.

## Responses to New Needs

### 1. Support for the Financial and Monetary Sectors

As in the past, JICA continues to provide active support for financial and monetary issues in Asia. We dispatched experts in economic model analysis and capital market building to Indonesia; experts in public debt management and small company financing to Thailand; and experts in financial and monetary policy to Viet Nam. These measures resulted in the strengthening of support for financial and monetary issues.

As for support for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises in Indonesia, a high-level

advisor was sent to the country, as was done the previous year. In addition, another expert was sent to promote decentralization in that country.

### 2. Support for Disaster Relief and Recovery

In order to continuously support recovery from serious flooding that occurred in December 1999 in Venezuela, experts in landslide prevention and other fields were sent in fiscal 2000, as was the case in fiscal 1999. Cooperation focused on the prevention of avalanches and other matters.

JICA also responded quickly to the earthquakes that struck El Salvador in January and February 2001, to damage to the ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands caused by an oil spill from an Ecuadorian tanker, and other emergencies by conducting fact-finding studies so that necessary experts could be sent.

## Front Line

Development Assistance Coordination Advisor

Haiti

### Nation-building in a Country Poorer than Any Other in the Northern Hemisphere

#### ◆ Strikingly Less Developed than its Neighbor

Hispaniola, the second largest island in the Caribbean Sea following Cuba, is divided into the Dominican Republic, which accounts for the eastern two-thirds of the island, and Haiti, which accounts for the western one-third. Haiti, which once occupied the entire island during the colonial period, has been politically unstable. It is regarded as one of the poorest countries in the Northern Hemisphere, a situation that is in striking contrast with the neighboring Dominican Republic, which has experienced steady development.

Japan has gradually extended support toward Haiti since Jean Bertrand Aristide was reinstated as president in 1994. Japan's cooperation, which was initially limited primarily to humanitarian aid such as anti-malaria measures, has expanded to include provision of medical equipment and agricultural machines in recent years. Two experts were dispatched to Haiti in connection with Grant Aid in these fields in 1998, and their efforts made Japanese aid even more effective. Since 1999, an expert in development planning has been working in the Division of the Cabinet of the President as an advisor for a project on long-term development planning.

#### ◆ Five Findings and Proposals

The expert, employing a method to formulate a long-term plan with undeveloped statistical data, announced the following five findings and proposals:

- (1) The total population of Haiti is expected to grow to 14 million in 2025, which is 1.7 times the current figure, and poverty will worsen unless drastic measures are taken.
- (2) It is reasonably possible to raise average income from the current level of US \$460 to US \$1,920, the current level in the Dominican Republic.
- (3) Although increased food production is important to solve food shortages, agriculture alone cannot achieve economic growth.
- (4) Light manufacturing utilizing the country's rich human resources,



An expert visiting a poor village in Artibonite department to conduct a field investigation.

and tourism taking advantage of special features particular to the region, should be developed.

- (5) The above targets can be realized with the construction of a road network that integrates the land of 27,000 km<sup>2</sup> into one economic zone.

These findings and proposals have been well received by those concerned, and the expert is expected to give advice on funds and fundraising that encompasses the country's entire long-term development plan.

Unstable politics, extremely poor security, and poor electrical facilities and telecommunications in Haiti make the tasks of the expert more difficult. The JICA Dominican Republic Office, which is responsible for Haiti, is supporting the expert (who is the only one affiliated with JICA now in Haiti) as he works to promote nation-building amid severe conditions. We hope, at the same time, that Technical Cooperation toward the country will be strengthened even further as security there is restored.

(JICA Dominican Republic Office)

### 3. Support for South-South Cooperation

Support for South-South cooperation (whereby developing countries possessing a relatively well developed fund of technology and trained personnel assist other developing countries) is provided through the dispatch of highly qualified individuals as third-country experts. South-South cooperation has taken root in recent years, and not only the countries accepting third-country experts, but also those sending experts have been showing great interest in this form of cooperation through the scheme.

The program involves sending experts from countries with similar natural environments, languages, technical levels and cultures to recipient countries to enable the smooth transfer of technology in line with those countries' needs. The opportunity to provide instruction also raises the incentive for self-improvement on the part of the recruited experts themselves to the benefit of all. The program is highly rated by all countries concerned, and there has been a steady increase in the number of countries expressing interests in both receiving and sending experts. In fiscal 2000, we sent 125 third-country experts to Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

### 4. Expanding Recruitment of Experts

JICA's January 2000 organizational restructuring established a new Human Resources Assignment Department, and this has led to further expansion of the expert recruitment system as a personnel bank. As well as strengthening the expert registration and expanding open recruitment of experts, JICA is working to improve the functions of the system so that the most suitable experts can be enlisted. In particular, concerning projects for which the urgent needs of developing countries for experts have been unmet due to difficulty in recruiting qualified personnel, the recruitment system will be substantially reinforced through expanded utilization of human resources in the private sector as short-term experts from fiscal 2001.

## Program Agenda for the Future

### Expert Dispatch and Strengthening of the Country- and Issue-specific Approaches

When implementing effective cooperation toward



An expert teaching bacteriological cultivation and examination through Project-type Technical Cooperation, "The Research and Control of Infectious Diseases Project" (Kenya).

developing countries, JICA must develop a precise perception of development needs and issues of the recipient country or region through accurate information gathering and analysis. On top of this, JICA needs to formulate country-specific, comprehensive and practical plans for its cooperation activities.

The demand for Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts based on consistent cooperation plans will continue to grow. Such dispatches should utilize the expertise that JICA has accumulated, and be specific to development needs and issues of the recipient country. At the same time, while working to combine the dispatch of experts scheme with other forms of cooperation, JICA expects that it will be urgently called upon to dispatch experts as part of projects that produce specific results within designated time limits.