

# 1 Building Relations with Ethnic Japanese Living Overseas

—Support for Japanese Emigrants and Ethnic Japanese—



Japanese Overseas Migration Museum (Yokohama)

## Postwar Japanese Emigrants and their Descendants

### Second to Fourth Generations Make Up Core Group of 2.5 Million

Since the end of World War II, about 73,000 Japanese people have emigrated to other countries with help from JICA and other organizations. There are now thought to be more than 2.5 million ethnic Japanese living overseas.

Japanese emigrants and their descendants worldwide have overcome many difficulties to form mature communities in their adopted countries. During the immediate postwar years, many Japanese emigrated to Brazil and other parts of Latin America, where they are now playing key roles in their countries' industrial and economic development, particularly in the field of agriculture. They have established and enjoy a reputation for being "good citizens."

A new generation of ethnic Japanese is now emerging in these countries, and the communities themselves are, at present, largely second to fourth generation. Members of these later generations play a leading role in politics, administration, the economy, academia, and culture, and are fueling national development. Their efforts are also contributing to international cooperation.

In countries with large Japanese immigrant communities, awareness of Japan is being enhanced by first and subsequent generation immigrants. The presence of these communities contributes significantly to the stimulation of friendship and cooperation between Japan and these countries.

## Support Program for Japanese Emigrants

### Promote the Review of the Program

In response to these changes in the environment sur-

rounding emigration, JICA has been reviewing the content of its Emigration Service Program as follows.

- 1) Training and departure services to new emigrants were terminated in fiscal 1994.
- 2) Emphasis is placed on international cooperation to provide support and cooperation for Japanese overseas communities, while striving to ensure the stability of the lives of those who emigrated earlier with JICA support.

Of the earlier projects that were part of the Emigration Service Program for overseas Japanese communities, JICA is concerned particularly with those strongly oriented toward technical cooperation (e.g., acceptance of participants of training in Japan for members of overseas Japanese communities and dispatch of Senior Cooperation Experts for Overseas Japanese Communities and Japan Overseas Development Youth Volunteers). This effort has formed part of JICA's technical cooperation scheme since fiscal 1996.

### Various Activities

JICA performs the following activities in connection with emigration.

#### 1. Public Relations

To deepen the Japanese public's understanding of overseas emigrants and overseas Japanese communities, the activities of emigrants and ethnic Japanese (NIKKEI) are presented through:

- 1) Publication of the quarterly magazine *Kaigai Iju* (Overseas Emigration);
- 2) Invitation to Japan of prominent individuals of Japanese descent;
- 3) Subsidies to assist in the organization of the Convention of Nikkei and Japanese abroad.

Japanese Overseas Migration Museum and a library with materials related to emigration opened at the JICA Yokohama

International Centre in October 2002. These facilities were constructed for the purpose of educating the public, especially the young generations who will lead the future, and deepening their understanding about emigrants and their descendants, who are ethnic Japanese.

## 2. Training for Children of Emigrants

### 1) Training for students of Japanese language schools

Outstanding pupils of Japanese language schools are invited to Japan to gain firsthand experience of Japanese culture and society. During their stay they can improve their language proficiency by attending junior high schools and experiencing homestays. 43 pupils took part in fiscal 2002.

### 2) Technical training for ethnic Japanese working in Japan before returning to their home countries.

This program provides training to ethnic Japanese working in Japan who satisfy prescribed academic standards. They are given technical training before returning home to help them contribute to the development of their countries. Quality and productivity enhancement, as well as system management courses, attended by 10 students, were held in fiscal 2002.

### 3) Japanese language courses for ethnic Japanese working in Japan

To give overseas ethnic Japanese who come to Japan to work the chance to become familiar with life in Japan as quickly as possible, courses on basic Japanese language and culture are provided. Nineteen people participated in fiscal 2002.

### 4) Central training for overseas ethnic Japanese students

JICA assists in study courses held by the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad aimed primarily at overseas ethnic Japanese studying in Japan with the help of prefectural government grants. One hundred and fifty people participated in fiscal 2002.

### 5) Scholarship for Overseas Ethnic Japanese Students

For the purpose of developing human resources who will lead future ethnic Japanese communities or will contribute to the development of the countries they live in to connect the country and Japan, we provide scholarships for living expenses and school expenses as a side assistance for the ethnic Japanese who have been formally or informally admitted to Japanese graduate schools. Twenty-three students received scholarships in fiscal 2002.

## 3. Support Program for Emigrants Overseas

### 1) Extension of farming systems

With the aim of improving farm management employed by emigrants, JICA implements the dispatch of agricultural



Training for Students of Japanese Language Schools (Indian Ink Painting Class)

experts from Brazil, training in the agricultural methods of industrialized countries, practical training for the staff of agricultural cooperatives and fostering of agricultural study groups.

### 2) Medical care and hygiene

JICA assists in the operation of five clinics in Paraguay and Bolivia, and has channeled medical aid to emigrants in Bolivia and Paraguay on the basis of agreements with local physicians. Scholarships are made available to students of medicine and nursing in these countries.

### 3) Education and culture

Support for Japanese language education is being provided through the training of local Japanese language teachers in Latin America. In fiscal 2002, 40 Japanese language teachers took part in a course held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. JICA also lends support in the form of reward payments to Japanese-language teachers and the purchase of teaching materials. JICA provides grants in a number of forms, including reward payments to teachers with a view to supporting education in local languages.

### 4) Support for improvements in social welfare and everyday infrastructure\*

In fiscal 2002, grants were provided for the construction of a residential home for elderly people with special needs in Sao Paulo in Brazil, and for repair work on wooden bridges in Paraguay.

## 4. Division of Settlements into Housing Lots

JICA assists with the division of Japanese settlements into housing lots. In fiscal 2002, two settlement zones (285.7ha) in Paraguay and 19 zones (140.3ha) were divided up in this manner.

## 5. Business Loans

JICA offers loans to businesses run by emigrants as well as to groups that contribute to the permanence and stability of Japanese immigrant communities. In fiscal 2002, loans totaling 1136.5 million yen were provided to emigrants and groups in Bolivia and Paraguay.