

# 2 Important Programs Following Completion of Cooperation Projects

## —Follow-up—



Renovation site of an irrigation facility in Malawi through follow-up cooperation

### Necessity of Follow-up Cooperation

#### To Realize Detailed Follow-ups

In general, JICA's various projects end after a fixed period of time. However, if necessary, some projects are followed up after completion. Such additional cooperation is referred to as a "follow-up."

Follow-up cooperation can be divided into two types.

- 1) To support developing countries in solving problems that may occur in completed projects (facility damaged by typhoons, unpredicted breakdown of machinery, etc.)
- 2) To provide additional support or aftercare that will boost the effect of cooperation and have some value in recipient countries. For example, JICA provides technical information to JICA's former training participants continuously after they return to their home countries in order to help improve their capabilities. JICA also supports voluntary seminars or research activities initiated by the counter-



Renovation work of a power generation facility in Micronesia through follow-up cooperation

parts\* of technical cooperation.

JICA, through these follow-up activities, endeavors to improve the effectiveness and quality of Japan's international cooperation, and continuously supports sustainable development\* of developing countries.

### Follow-up in Details

#### Follow-up in Response to Problems

Sometimes equipment and facilities that were put in place through technical cooperation or grant aid are broken or damaged unexpectedly by natural disasters and other events. Other times, the maintenance of such equipment and facilities runs into difficulties due to financial problems of the recipient country. This may hinder the original function of equipment and facilities and thus may harm the effectiveness of the project itself.

Upon receiving reports of such cases, JICA sends a follow-up study team to the site to investigate the source and background of the problem, and provides supplementary cooperation, including necessary work as emergency action and provision of repair parts.

For example, as support in the agriculture field in Malawi, Africa, Japan provided grant aid to construct irrigation canals and agricultural roads in the Bwanje Valley area, which faced water shortage problems. This facility was completed in 1999, and thus the utilization of irrigation water and the production of rice and maize were made possible.

However, due to a flood caused by the unusually heavy rainfall in the beginning of 2002, part of the facility collapsed, causing damage to the agricultural activities in the region. JICA sent a follow-up study team to Malawi and implemented follow-up cooperation by identifying the conditions of the facility and conducting emergency renovation work.

A diesel power plant constructed in 1994 in Pohnpei Island, Micronesia, a small country in the Pacific, is a major lifeline that provides more than 90% of the total electricity on the island, although it is small. Due to deterioration over time of the diesel generator, the capacity and operation rate gradually declined in recent years. As a result of the dispatch of a study team, JICA concluded that it might greatly affect the electrical situation of the island, and provided parts for the generator, such as pistons or cylinders to repair it.

### ■ Follow-up Cooperation Adds Value

JICA has accepted more than 160,000 training participants from developing countries since its establishment. The cumulative number of young people who came to Japan through the Youth Invitation Program exceeds 22,000. It is not too much to say that they are literally valuable national treasures that link Japan and the world.

They are, at the same time, a potential human network for the implementation of JICA's projects through South-South cooperation\*, including third-country training\* and third-country experts\*.

Thus, it is necessary to maintain and develop friendships with those who have better understanding of Japan, and it is also important to support their self-discipline and activities even after they return to their home countries.

As already mentioned in Section 4 of Chapter 2, JICA sends aftercare teams to various countries to strengthen the bonds of friendship that were formed while young people from these countries were in Japan for the Youth Invitation Program. A team consists of families who offered them the hospitality of their homes, and personnel from related agencies. JICA also provides grants to stimulate the activities of alumni associations of former participants in the program.

Similarly, JICA supports activities and alumni associations of former technical training participants (93 alumni associations as of the end of fiscal 2002).

In addition to alumni activities, JICA successfully supports the activities of individual former train-

ing participants and organizations and agencies in a new form of cooperation.

For example, in Indonesia, many former training participants in various fields held 11 seminars and workshops on various fields at eight locations, such as Aceh, North Sumatra, Banten, and Surabaya from 2002 and 2003, and JICA supported these activities.

In Solo City in Indonesia, a former training participant invited ten technicians from the country's welfare-related institutions to a rehabilitation center for the disabled, and held an 11-day workshop on production techniques for prosthetic arms or legs, which he learned in Japan. JICA provided equipment for the production of prosthetic arms and legs, and bore expenses for the workshop.

This workshop allowed technicians with the skills to produce prosthetic and orthotic systems with minimum functions to acquire the basic skills to produce cosmetic prosthetic arms. And exchange of opinions among technicians from different parts of the country motivated and encouraged all of them to improve their skills.

In Takaral district, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, a seminar called Women's Economic Independence was attended by 60 participants from 17 women's organizations within the district.

This seminar offered interesting lectures on Women and Elections, and Sustainable Economic Activities, as well as an on-site tour to a women's group which supports women's



Alumni associations of the Youth Invitation Program from ASEAN countries held in Thailand



Soft-type follow-up cooperation for the Rehabilitation Center for the Disabled in Solo City, Indonesia

Seminar on Women's Economic Independence in Takaral Regency, Indonesia (soft-type follow-up)



crafts and confectionery production. A former JICA training participant organized the overall seminar, including planning, negotiations with the government, and management, and a local network of former training participants played a significant role in this seminar.

### ■ Follow-up on Development Studies

In addition to the aforementioned two types of follow-up cooperation, there is another type of cooperation called Follow-up Study. Following the completion of a development study (master plan study, feasibility study etc.), the additional study scheme aims to investigate progress of individual projects and application status of study results to reflect the results on the implementation of future development studies.

In fiscal 2002, 1,893 development studies implemented by JICA in the past were all sorted by country and region, study type, and sector. Then, the status of individual projects and how study results are used were monitored and a report was compiled containing recommendations on the points to be improved.

### ■ Importance of Feedback

As explained above, JICA gets a clear picture of the current situations of individual projects using information from JICA overseas offices and, if necessary, provides additional support in the form of follow-up cooperation. In addition, JICA feeds back the results of follow-up cooperation to future projects for more effective and efficient implementation.