Strengthening the Support System for Africa

1. Strengthening the Support System

Owing to a long-term stagnating economy, about 40% of the population of Africa live under the absolute poverty line of one dollar per day. Most of the world’s countries embroiled in conflict are in Africa, thus making the living situations of the people there even worse. No other region in the world needs assistance in terms of poverty alleviation and consolidation of peace more than Africa does.

In September 2003, Japan held the third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) to promote the importance of African development among the international community and announced that it would continue actively assisting Africa. In response, JICA provides cooperation focusing on the priority issues confirmed in the TICAD III, such as social development, including health care and education and consolidation of peace. In order to improve the conditions in Africa, it is essential to gain a proper understanding of the needs of each country and its citizens and promptly respond to them on the basis of human security*. With the aim of implementing programs from the standpoint of aid recipients, JICA will promote the strengthening of the support system as follows.

1) New Installation of Regional Department IV, Africa

In order to deploy more strategic cooperation for development issues in Africa, the department for Africa (the Regional Department IV) which is responsible for the Africa region only was installed on April 1, 2004, and the former division system was changed into a department system. The department contains the East Africa team, the West and Central Africa team, and the Southern Africa team. They provide more detailed cooperation that takes into consideration the region’s characteristics.

In addition, the Africa Support Board, which is carried out with the participation of departments related to Africa, was set up in the headquarters to work on an institution-wide support system for Africa.

2) Strengthening Local Systems

- Delegation of authority to overseas offices and increasing personnel in overseas offices

There are 18 JICA offices (13 overseas offices, two JICA/JOCV offices, and three JOCV offices) in Africa. Each office is a key to properly understanding the issues and needs for aid in each country and responding to these needs promptly. They are involved in strengthening the system of overseas offices.

To promote field-based cooperation promptly, JICA transfers responsibility and authority to overseas offices and
improves the system that allows a proper response to the needs of developing countries and prompt decision-making. A personnel system is also being developed for this purpose.

In fiscal 2004, such attempts are being made first in the offices in Kenya and Senegal, and similar attempts will be made in the offices in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Ghana, and South Africa in fiscal 2005. This will allow overseas offices to take the initiative in planning, implementation, and following up programs and projects, and make a system that provides more detailed aid according to needs.

- **Installation of regional support offices in Kenya, Senegal and South Africa**

Development issues in Africa such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, low literacy rates, and epidemic conflicts are serious and complex. To address these issues appropriately, high expertise and experience in the respective issues are required. Thus, regional support offices have been installed in Kenya and Senegal to extend timely technical support to the current 18 offices.

Groups of experts in charge of each field, such as education, health care, and agriculture, are placed in the regional support offices in Kenya and Senegal and work together with local JICA overseas offices and Japanese Embassies in each country to strengthen project identification and formulation, as well as issue-specific strategy development. It is expected that projects in line with the current situation in Africa will be formulated rapidly.

In South Africa, a regional support office that supports procurement and accounting work has been installed to strengthen the system of offices in the region.

### New Relationship with Relatively Developed Countries

#### 1. Cooperation according to the Development Stage

International cooperation must be provided according to different stages of development in developing countries. For example, in one developing country basic social services may be far from sufficient, and even the basic foundation of the economy is not developed. Another country may have achieved a certain level of sustainable economic growth, but...
faces environmental problems and disparities due to the rapid growth. A relatively developed country has the will to provide aid to neighboring countries. Naturally, priority issues, approaches and methods of aid vary from country to country.

For the EU members-to-be in Central and Eastern Europe and relatively developed countries in East Asia and Latin America, it is necessary to examine approaches to aid carefully, considering the development stage of the country, its role in the region, diplomatic consideration and economic relationship, response to global issues*, and will to support neighboring countries, all with the assumption that the country is going to graduate from aid.

2. **South-South Cooperation**

   South-South cooperation* refers to cooperation provided by relatively developed countries to other developing countries utilizing their own experience in development and human resources. Since South-South cooperation takes place between countries having relatively similar societies, cultures, economic structures, levels of technology, organization, and systems, it is beneficial for both the providing side and the receiving side of aid. JICA supports South-South cooperation.

   One example is the Kasetsert University Agricultural Dissemination Training Center in Thailand, which was established and supported with grant aid and JICA’s technical cooperation. This center offers not only training for Thai people but also workshops and on-site inspections for participants from Asian countries for acquiring knowledge and skills to improve rural living and the roles of females in rural areas, which started in 1995. JICA supported the development of the curriculum, etc., and six-week training courses accepted 94 participants from 12 Asian countries and three African countries over five years. The results were praised.

   To promote South-South cooperation, Japan has concluded the Partnership Programs* that determine the comprehensive framework of South-South cooperation with 11 developing countries (including Thailand) that have a positive attitude toward the program.

3. **Policy Coherence**

   Recently, regarding approaches from developed countries to developing countries, recognition of the need for consistency in policies (“Policy Coherence”) including trade and investment, agricultural policy, diplomatic policy, and international exchange, which are foreign relationships other than aid, has risen in the international community. In relatively developed countries, in particular, the importance of aid has been lowered relatively among the foreign relationships, and Policy Coherence must be considered more carefully. For example, in the field of economy, aid should be positioned not as the central player but as a catalyst to promote self-reliant private activities based on the market, such as trade and investment, and support building the system to promote trade and investment by providing support that will make up for failure in the market.

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**Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Assistance**

1. **Aid that Reaches People without Fail**

   Since the collapse of the cold war structure, JICA has carried out various peacebuilding support activities, mainly for countries that need post-conflict reconstruction development, such as Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Timor-Leste. Since 2003, peacebuilding support in the framework of development aid has entered a new stage. The Official Development Assistance Charter (New ODA Charter) adopted at the Cabinet meeting in August 2003 clarifies peacebuilding as an important issue of ODA, and emphasizes the necessity of a comprehensive approach on various factors of conflicts and a wide range of support, including support from peace process promotion, social reintegration of ex-combatants and improving administrative capacities of governments. In response, JICA announced a reform plan that includes strengthening of peacebuilding support in March 2004. Formulation of guidelines related to peacebuilding, new installation of the Office of Peace Building, and strengthening human development and security measures are being promoted.

   As a development aid organization, JICA will utilize the

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Dispatch of expert to support general election in Indonesia
medium- and long-term perspective and its strong points such as knowledge related to human development and capacity development. Based on its accumulated experiences JICA, in the future, will collaborate with aid workers such as NGOs and other aid organizations and carry out peacebuilding support activities that securely reach out to people in local communities in developing countries.

2. New Approach

Sri Lanka

- Deployment of reconstruction assistance utilizing collaboration with NGOs

Since 2002, Japan has utilized ODA positively before a full peace agreement was signed, in order to contribute to the peace process in Sri Lanka. Also, inside and outside of Japan, JICA has strengthened the collaboration with governmental organizations and NGOs providing reconstruction assistance in Sri Lanka through periodical meetings. Utilizing these successful results, community development assistance is ongoing in the northern region, where many people became internally displaced by the conflicts. At the same time, community development assistance in the southern region is being considered.

Afghanistan

- Expansion of support incorporating medium- and long-term perspectives

JICA started reconstruction assistance for Afghanistan at an early stage and has worked on the development of infrastructure, such as highway repair and media support, support for a new constitution, and vocational training as the social rehabilitation support for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) for the consolidation of peace. Afghanistan is in transition from an initial stage centering on humanitarian emergency relief to a new stage where reconstruction development based on medium- and long-term perspectives are considered. While paying attention to issues that prevent social instability and the recurrence of conflict, JICA will assist in rural development and make efforts to smooth the transition to development support based on the perspective of human security.

African Countries

- Fostering ownership and partnership

In Africa, where conflicts occur frequently, post-conflict reconstruction assistance and peacebuilding are important issues in the entire region. JICA’s cooperation in this regard includes policy-level support for the Technical Training and Employment Promotion Project (sewing skills training for demobilized female soldiers in Eritrea) and the development of refugee receiving areas coming from neighboring countries (including Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Angola) in Zambia.

At the TICAD III in September 2003, stronger regional collaboration in Africa, such as the New Partnership of Africa’s Development (NEPAD), was discussed. In Ethiopia, the joint Japan-Canada Peacebuilding Workshop was held for discussions among people involved in peacebuilding support in Africa, including NGOs of Japan and Canada. JICA also participates in the formulation of reconstruction assistance plans for Africa led by United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with other UN organizations.

Iraq

- Utilizing regional collaboration with Arabian countries

JICA started working on Iraq’s reconstruction assistance, including the rebuilding of the basic infrastructure such as health and medical care and electricity, immediately after the end of conflicts in May 2003. Since public security in Iraq has not been stabilized, assistance to Iraq can be characterized by the utilization of collaboration with Arabian countries and neighboring countries such as Egypt and Jordan. In March 2004 the first Joint Japan-Egypt medical cooperation took place in Cairo University, where 102 Iraqi doctors and nurses were trained in the fields of nursing, endoscopic surgery, pediatrics, and ICU. JICA will continue to implement human resources development among Iraqi people through third-country training in Egypt and other neighboring countries, as well as the acceptance of training participants in Japan.
1. Identifying and Developing Human Resources for International Cooperation

The basis of international cooperation implemented by JICA is training personnel and nation-building through human relationships. It is not an exaggeration to say that the key to success is development of human resources who carry out the activities. Especially in recent years, the priority of technical cooperation is shifting to intellectual support, such as poverty alleviation and governance, and at the same time it is necessary to respond to new development issues such as peacebuilding and human security. Thus, the required human resources become more diversified.

Under such situations, the development of human resources for international cooperation was placed at the top of the priority issues in the Second ODA Reform Meeting in 2002. JICA also promotes it actively based on the recognition that securing and nurturing excellent human resources creates a foundation for overall technical cooperation and directly affects quality improvements of technical cooperation. Specifically, training that raises levels in specialized fields according to priority issues of international cooperation, practical training system for young resources aspiring to international cooperation, long-term training in overseas and domestic graduate schools, internship programs to widen the base of human resources. Support of human resources development for NGOs and local governments are provided. The ODA medium-term plan specifies a review of training contents used for human resources development so that they will be more appropriate to the needs of recipient countries, the promotion of internship programs, and NGO capacity-building* programs. Thus, it is our policy to make a greater effort to develop human resources who work for international cooperation.

2. New Phase of Public Participation Promotion

Recently the needs of developing countries have been more diverse. To correspond to these changes more efficiently and effectively, the experience and know-how of not only governmental organizations, but also local governments and NGOs, need to be utilized. In developing countries where decentralization is rapidly progressing, experience and skills possessed by Japanese local governments can help solve problems. To deliver support that directly reaches the local people in need, NGOs join efforts in developing countries toward poverty reduction in a manner that the local people regard as highly effective.

On the other hand, recognizing that the global issue is one’s own issue, the number of citizens who personally have a desire to participate in international cooperation is increasing in Japan. Even if they do not become directly involved, the number of supporters for international cooperation increases, enabling us to implement programs that receive a wide range of support from citizens. Against this background, JICA provides opportunities to promote public participation as shown below.

1) JICA Partnership Program

This is a technical cooperation program implemented by JICA to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries at the grass-roots level in collaboration with partners in Japan, such as NGOs, universities, local governments, and public interest corporations.

2) Programs to Support Development Education

To support development education performed in schools, we provide the following programs: international cooperation lectures, provision of material for development education, international cooperation essay contests, global citizenship programs for students, development education study tours for teachers, practical development education seminar, etc.

3) Provision of Opportunities to Participate in International Cooperation

This program provides information, education, training through seminars, and workshops, including discussions by persons experienced in international cooperation.

4) JICA Coordinators

Dispatched to local International Exchange Associations throughout Japan, they give advice to local governments, NGOs, and individual citizens who are interested in international cooperation.