**Southeast Asia**

### Pillars of Aid

**Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Redressing Intra-ASEAN Disparities in View of ASEAN Integration**

#### Cooperation results by country (FY 2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount (in thousands of yen)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>2,382,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>2,730,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1,658,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>524,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>20,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>9,101,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>3,756,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>4,296,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>5,877,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>6,717,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,373,921</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been accelerating the pace of integration, and specific agreements and actions have taken place in both political and economic areas, such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration. The six ASEAN countries, including Singapore and Thailand, reduced tariffs on intra-regional trade in 2002 in accordance with the AFTA agreement, which facilitated the economic liberalization of the region.

Southeast Asia, encompassing 10 ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste, is the most important region for Japan in terms of politics, economics, and society, and the share of aid provided by JICA to this region in fiscal 2003, though down from the previous year, remains the highest. Since the relationship with Japan is quite significant for each country, the amount of aid provided to each of the Southeast Asian countries is larger than it is for any other region. However, each country has a specific character in terms of methods and degree of development because each has a unique historic background, in addition to diversity in terms of size, population, ethnicity, and religion. Therefore, based on the understanding of the characteristics of each country, JICA selects issues which are important for developing a stable society and for which ODA is effective, and formulates JICA country programs.

Common issues in this region include support for economic policies, good governance, post-conflict reconstruction, environmental conservation, and measures against poverty, and JICA assists in the sustainable development and correction of disparities in the region. In addition, in view of ASEAN integration, with a focus on Timor-Leste and four other countries that joined the ASEAN after the late 1990’s, including Cambodia whose economic kick-off was hindered due to conflicts, JICA will actively promote intra-regional cooperation using South-South cooperation, thus contributing to the development of Southeast Asia as a whole.
Contribution to Sustainable Growth and Correction of Intra-regional Disparities

Upon full assessment of development levels and diversification of economic and social situations, together with the current movements toward economic, political, and social integration of Southeast Asia, Japan believes that it is important to make an effort in overall economic reform assistance and correction of intra-regional disparities by effectively utilizing ODA in order to further strengthen the relationship. Population size and economic scale is large in this region, and seven ASEAN countries (except Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Singapore, and Brunei) are listed among the top 10 recipients of JICA cooperation, headed by Indonesia as the largest aid recipient country. It is therefore necessary to prioritize assistance areas and development issues by country. When taking an overall view of the region, issues common to these countries include economic reform support, good governance, intra-regional cooperation and South-South cooperation, post-conflict reconstruction, environmental conservation, and measures against poverty, none of which show any great change in recent years. Limited sources of assistance are allocated appropriately according to the situations and issues of individual countries. Upon closer inspection of cooperation in Fiscal 2003 by country, the largest amount of assistance is given to transport and traffic in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, to education in Malaysia and Singapore, to health and medical care in Laos and Myanmar, to private sector development in Thailand, and to agriculture in Timor-Leste; the characteristic situations of individual countries are shown.

1. Economic Reform Support

The original six ASEAN countries that revealed weaknesses in their political and economic fundamentals following the currency and economic crisis in 1997, continue to receive assistance from JICA to achieve sustainable growth led by the private sector. Economic reform assistance has been provided to Indonesia in an effort to promote reform with the help of academic advisers. In view of the termination of loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), advice and cooperation are given to strengthen the economic and industrial structure including the enforcement of banking functions and support for small and medium-scale enterprises. Assistance is being provided to the late-comers of the ASEAN (Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia), which have joined the ASEAN in succession since 1995, to facilitate the smooth transition to market economies and the adaptation to the international economic environment with the aim of building the entire economic system.
2. Good Governance

Legal frameworks that form the basis of economic and social development are underdeveloped in many countries. Under this situation, support for rebuilding sound law-abiding nations continues in Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos, such as drafting and revising civil laws closely related to the citizens’ lives and capacity development for legal professionals. In cooperation with the legal world, such as academic advisers, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, a team working jointly with Cambodia has been formed to draft civil and civil procedure laws in Cambodia, and the development of legal professionals has been conducted as well. Today judges and lawyers who have been trained there provide legal services such as solving land issues.

In Indonesia, support for elections was given for the general election, which took place in April 2004, and cooperation is given to the police administration to ensure the safety of citizens’ lives. In Viet Nam and Cambodia, while establishing an appropriate tax collection system, assistance is focused on the area of tax and customs administration to support participation in the international community, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Cooperation is provided to Thailand, where efforts in decentralization have started, in the formulation and dissemination of development plans for regional development based on community participation, while designating an autonomous body in Eastern Thailand as a model case, which is equivalent to a municipality in Japan. Furthermore, as one of the means to improve administrative services, guidelines to promote cooperation among autonomous bodies, which is commonly taking place in Japan, have been formulated in cooperation with counterparts* in Thailand.

3. Intra-regional Cooperation

ASEAN has accelerated the pace of movement toward economic integration through the AFTA and the Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) proposed by Thailand, whereas huge economic disparities exist between original members of the ASEAN and the ASEAN members who joined in the late 1990s. In order to close this gap, intra-regional cooperation is actively promoted in a wide range of areas, not limited to economics. JICA also pushes forward regional cooperation to address common issues within the region, through cooperation for higher education in engineering in ASEAN, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability, and the Asian Center for International Parasite Control. Under a livestock disease control project in Thailand, diagnostic methods and technologies for manufacturing vaccines to prevent livestock diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and hog cholera are disseminated by Thai experts to Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Malaysia. Responsive measures to avian flu, which broke out in December 2003, have started as well. In support of preventing avian flu in Viet Nam, therapeutic drugs were provided ahead of any other country in the world. Other support for preventing avian flu in Viet Nam, therapeutic drugs were provided ahead of any other country in the world. Other support for preventing the spread of the infection include guidance on diagnostic skills by the expert in the project for improving and disseminating diagnostic skills for livestock diseases and the education campaigns for the prevention of infection in various regions by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs).

A productivity development project is under way in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam. In addition to proposed projects such as the development of the Mekong River basin, JICA is considering extending cooperation to the East Asian growth area targeting Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Beyond intra-regional cooperation, Singapore has transferred know-how to African countries on increasing productivity, which had been accumulated through projects implemented with Japan during the 1980s and 1990s. Indonesia and Malaysia have offered training programs on rural agricultural development and road construction technologies to Afghanistan in cooperation with Japan; thus the technologies and competencies that Japan transferred and ASEAN nations nurtured spread throughout the world.

4. Post-conflict Reconstruction

JICA has formulated and implemented cooperation in line with the Support Package for Peace and Stability in Mindanao, the Philippines. In Aceh, Indonesia, assistance with an emphasis on governance support in accordance with the progress of peacebuilding and support for community development is
under consideration.

In Cambodia, which has shifted from the reconstruction stage to the development stage, JICA provides cooperation to facilitate landmine removal, support for persons with disabilities, and support programs for demobilized soldiers.

5. Environmental Conservation

Tropical forests that cover Southeast Asia are home to various species of living creatures, and research studies on status and proper conservation are needed. For example, JICA assists Malaysia in protecting species, which are becoming increasingly scarce, and preventing forest loss along with the development of societies and economies. In February 2004, the results of the Program for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem, which had been undertaken with the participation of local communities in Borneo, were reported at the international conference concerning the Convention of Biological Diversity*. Also in Indonesia, cooperation has been implemented for the development of human resources in the area of environmental administration and monitoring.

6. Measures against Poverty

To address the development of agriculture and rural areas which dominates the majority of the impoverished group and workforce, various forms of cooperation have been provided, including support for the formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)* and income-raising projects in collaboration with NGOs.

Human Security—Human-centered Approach for Cooperation Reaching out to those who Need Assistance

In Indonesia, the process of democratization is in transition for persons with disabilities. In Malaysia, the authority over sports for persons with disabilities was transferred from the Community Welfare Department of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development to the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2003, raising public awareness of competitive sports. In such a climate, in view of the FESPIC Games scheduled to be held in 2006 in Malaysia, the JOCVs are expected not only to improve the competitiveness and discover and train new swimmers, but also to extend their activities in the entire field of sports for persons with disabilities, including advice on organizing regional games and coach training.

(JICA Malaysia Office)
from development led by the central government to decentralized development emphasizing the initiative of local governments and community participation. Community participation was propelled by the fact that NGOs and NPOs had actively participated in support for the socially vulnerable at the time of the currency and economic crisis, and their efforts in working as a liaison between local citizens and the administration were highly appreciated.

However, due to the prolonged reign of the Suharto administration, NGOs and NPOs haven’t acquired the capacity and organizational capabilities to respond to medium- and long-term development, and the government lacks human resources with the ability to promote participation of community-based organizations. In order to improve the post-currency crisis environment, JICA has collaborated with Indonesian NGOs. For example, by improving the production activities of the indigenous population and organizing local residents in East Nusa Tenggara, JICA implemented development model projects applicable to multiple areas and productivity promotion projects targeting women in rural areas. These activities were highly regarded by the Indonesian government.

As a result, with the aim of establishing a system for community participation in and collaboration with administration through dialogue with community-based organizations across the country and improving its ability to implement community development projects in cooperation with JICA, the government requested Japan to support the Community Development Project with Participation of Civil Society. “Community empowerment* through civil organization,” in which community organizations strengthen ties with authorities to participate in the administration, is thought to be a major task for Indonesia, and therefore Japan adopted this project. The target area of this project is the eastern part of Indonesia where development is important due to heavy impoverishment, thus necessitating development initiated by the community. The ex-ante evaluation study of this project has already finished, and now the plan is to carry out the community development project, which will be a model project of cooperation with the government led by NGOs and other community organizations.

Projects in collaboration with Japanese NGOs have been actively implemented in Southeast Asia in forms such as JICA Partnership Program. One example is the Project for Promoting Regional Health Care System in the Philippines, which is implemented jointly with a Japanese NGO, the Asian Health Institute, part of the comprehensive support for the Muslim Mindanao Autonomous Region. This project originated in 1997 when Japan received administrative officers for training in planning and managing the promotion of medical and health care services from the perspective of community participation with an aim to improve health care administration. Health and medical care had lagged due to the prolonged conflict. Local in-country training* has started in Mindanao, enjoying a good reputation among the local residents and the administrative organizations of the Philippines. This has become a model case of the NGO-JICA Collaboration Program, where projects are developed through local in-country training in collaboration between NGOs and JICA.

Another case in the Philippines is a sericulture project on Negros Island, which has been promoted in cooperation with Organization Industrial Spiritual Cultural Advancement (OISCA) since 2000. Utilizing OISCA’s experience in mulberry farming and silkworm breeding for nearly 10 years, this project was implemented as a JICA Partnership Program with NGOs, Local Governments, and Institutions. After three years of cooperation, sericulture spread dramatically on Negros Island, and silk production reached 85% of the total domestic production, accomplishing better results than expected. Local textile manufacturers produce beautiful fabrics using raw silk made on Negros and they are now widely distributed in markets throughout the country, including the capital, Manila. Negros raw silk is also highly regarded in the fashion design
industry, and it has been exhibited in fashion shows and highlighted by the local media, such as newspapers and radio shows.

In Laos, JICA implemented the Project for Support for Wheelchair Production jointly with the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan. Noting that only seven wheelchairs had been produced domestically despite the great number of persons with disabilities in Laos, this project was first proposed by the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan, as a JICA Partnership Program with NGOs, Local Governments and Institutions. JICA alone would not have been able to acknowledge these needs from this perspective. As an effort unique to NGOs, a sponsorship system was introduced so that wheelchairs were sold to individuals and/or organizations and then granted to the poor and disabled, with the intention of securing a sustainable source of income, and reach everyone in need of wheelchairs. Laos appreciates this system.

In the Kokang Region in the north near the Chinese border in Myanmar, poppies have been grown as a cash crop for the past 50 years. With the participation of local residents, alternative crops such as buckwheat have been introduced and a comprehensive program for the eradication of drugs and the reduction of poverty has started to improve hygienic conditions and education there. Thus, human-centered cooperation steadfastly reaching out to people from the viewpoint of human security* has been implemented in Southeast Asia.

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**Thailand**

**Regional Cooperation Project on Capacity Building of Drug Analysis for Improving Drug Law Enforcement in the Indochina Region**

**Five Indochina Countries Work toward Drug Eradication**

**Technical Cooperation Project**

**Region-wide approach**

In the Indochina region, the availability of stimulant tablets has become widespread, as a replacement for opium or heroin, and in recent years drug addiction has spilled out from the cities to local areas and from adults to children. In Thailand alone, drug abuse cases increased more than six-fold from 72,000 to 463,000 between 1994 and 1999, posing a threat to society.

Such drugs come from production areas, including the Golden Triangle, across national borders, thus making it difficult for one nation to crack down on the crime, which requires region-wide cooperation.

In response, JICA has implemented a project targeting the drug enforcement agencies of five countries (Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar), with the help of the National Police Agency of Japan. The project provides training in highly accurate drug analysis using uniform equipment and methods, and supports the promotion of narcotic investigation by sharing drug analysis information obtained as a result of such efforts among relevant countries.

However, the five countries differ in many ways, ranging from the level of English proficiency and technical skills to laws and systems concerning drug enforcement, and therefore, achieving the uniform goal while respecting such differences involves many difficulties.

**Aiming for 2015**

Under these circumstances, favorable results have been pronounced due to the strenuous efforts of project experts and counterparts in each country who stood up to the various difficulties. Although there had been no substantial experience in drug analysis in countries except Thailand, training in the project has gradually nurtured these countries to analyze drugs on their own, and improvements in the number of analyses and accuracy in the future is now greatly anticipated. Also, in the area of drug enforcement, investigation methods introduced at the seminars resulted in indictments with sufficient evidence in some cases. Moreover, collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Program is under way in developing training materials and co-hosting seminars, etc.

The project is scheduled to terminate in three years, but the goal set by the UN to make the Indochina region drug-free by 2015 is attainable because of continuous efforts for drug eradication utilizing international network established through the project activities.

(JICA Thailand Office)