What is a Development Study?

Program Flow and Objectives

Development studies support the formulation of plans for public projects that are beneficial to social and economic development in developing countries. They also serve as media for the transfer of planning methods, and survey and analytical skills to counterparts* in the recipient countries.

Studies are conducted in line with “scopes of work” (S/W) agreed upon by JICA and the governments of developing countries. Under JICA’s guidance and supervision, consultants selected by JICA prepare reports in cooperation with the government concerned, and transfer technology during the process of development studies.

These reports prepared on the basis of study results provide recipient governments with data for assessing their social and economic development policies. They also offer international organizations and donor* countries resources for studying the need for financial aid and technical cooperation. In many cases, plans proposed in these reports have been realized with financial assistance such as Japanese yen loans and grant aid cooperation. Skills transferred through the studies are also utilized when recipient countries work on projects with their own funds and carry out other studies.

Recently, the number of projects that incorporate direct policy proposals has been increasing, a trend that should open up a new phase for development studies.

Various Studies

Formulation of Development Plans
1. Master Plan Studies (M/P)

These are conducted to formulate comprehensive and long-term sectoral development plans for an entire country or for specific regions.

Master plans ensure efficient execution of multiple projects by making them mutually compatible and by clarifying their priority.

2. Regional Integrated Development Planning Studies

These present a basic strategy for development that emphasizes distinctive regional features and include integrated development plans for specific regions, while taking into account how best to form efficient links between various sectors.

3. Preparation of Basic Data

The following studies are carried out to gather and provide information needed to

Table 3-2 Fields Covered by Development Study

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<thead>
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<th>Field</th>
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<tr>
<td>Planning and administration</td>
<td>Regional development plans; economic development plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public works</td>
<td>Water supply and sewerage; urban sanitation; waste disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social infrastructure</td>
<td>Urban planning; rivers; erosion control; water resources; housing; cartography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and traffic</td>
<td>Transportation planning; roads; railroads; ports; airports; urban transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications and broadcasting</td>
<td>Mail; telecommunications; television and radio broadcasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and medical care</td>
<td>Administration of health, medical care and hygiene; population and family planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Agricultural and rural development; irrigation and drainage; processing and distribution of agricultural products; livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>Resource studies; social forestry; forest management planning; processing of forest products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries</td>
<td>Resource studies; processing and distribution of marine products; development of fishing villages; aquaculture; fishing ports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mining and Industry</td>
<td>Resource studies; industrial promotion; trade and investment promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Energy development; energy saving</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
<td>Measures against air and water pollution; processing of industrial waste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>Development of human resources; education; commerce and tourism; management; others</td>
</tr>
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formulate development plans.
1) Preparation of topographical charts
2) Development of groundwater
3) Development of forestry and fishery resources
4) Development of mineral resources

Project Implementation Assessment

1. Feasibility Studies (F/S)
   Feasibility studies (F/S) examine objectively whether or not individual projects accorded priority in development studies and policies can be implemented for the formation of the most feasible project plans.
   Feasibility is examined from various angles, including technology, economics, finance, social concerns, administrative organizations, institutions, and the environment.

2. Detailed Design Studies
   These are concerned with creating the design drawings, work specifications, and tender documentation needed before construction work can begin. More detailed than feasibility studies, they involve preparation of the design drawings required for construction, and precise calculation of construction costs.

Policy and Program Support Cooperation

1. Policy Support Studies
   These aim at formulating basic strategy and comprehensive plans for promoting policies to ease the process of transition to a market economy and to open up markets through monetary and financial reform, adjustment of legal systems, and privatization of state and public enterprises.

2. Sector Program Development Studies
   In fiscal 2001, JICA started the Sector Program development studies, which aim at formulating and implementing development plans (program formulation, monitoring, and evaluation) to cover entire sectors through dialogue with governments of developing countries and other donors.

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El Salvador Economic Development Study in El Salvador

Promising Future Highlighted by a Port in an Impoverished Area

Light shed on a region left behind

In the eastern region of El Salvador, the economy is stagnant, depressed by the civil war that lasted nearly 20 years. It is called the Region Left behind. The poverty rate in all four eastern provinces is around 50%.

On the other hand, the east end of this region facing the Pacific Ocean is endowed with a port that can accept large container. Considering this port to be a key to national economic development, the government of El Salvador has decided to build a large-scale port. The port, whose development plan was formulated by a JICA development study, is named La Union, which carries the meaning of “community” in Spanish, and its construction is now under way with assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)*.

Port La Union is expected to not only be the key to national economic development, but also to provide neighboring countries with opportunities for trade expansion through its function as a distribution center in Central America and to bring opportunities for the eastern region to escape poverty. With aspirations to vitalize the eastern region, strengthen national economic competitiveness, and promote trade in Central America by way of effectively utilizing the port, the economic development study commenced to draw up appropriate strategies.

Completion of the map of east development

The results of the study clarified the cost superiority of Port La Union over other ports in Central America, and specific trade and investment promotion strategies centered around the port were suggested, including effective management of the port, the development of the special district in the hinterland, and the development of transportation networks connecting cities and the port. In addition, programs for agricultural and industrial development based on water resources management and for the promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises were formulated so that the eastern region can gain the capacity to fully maximize the opportunities brought by the port.

In the future, development is expected to proceed using the master plan formulated in the study as a map of the east development. JICA will provide cooperation based on the master plan, and at the same time will make efforts in acting as a coordinator of aid among donors to the eastern region. Concerted efforts between the government and aid organizations are about to take off toward a promising future highlighted by the port. (Social Development Department)
Small-scale studies are carried out for formulating simple development basic plans that require social approaches and analysis of various basic data related to the plans, as well as for maintaining inventory by local consultants instead of consultants dispatched from Japan. Today, since more field-led cooperation is possible, the number of implemented studies and areas of cooperation are both on the rise.

**Follow-up of Development Studies**

Following the implementation of development studies, including master plan studies and feasibility studies, additional studies are carried out to grasp the development of the individual projects and the utilization of study results. These are called follow-up studies. The results are reflected in the formulation and implementation of future development studies.

In fiscal 2003, 1,976 development studies implemented by JICA in the past were organized by country and region, by type of studies, and by targeted area in order to examine the conditions of individual projects and utilization of study results. Points to be improved were then compiled as recommendations in a report.

**Significance of Feedback**

As mentioned above, even after cooperation is complete, JICA attempts to grasp the current status of individual projects using information sent by JICA overseas offices and implements additional necessary assistance as follow-up cooperation. Also, we feedback the results and use them to carry out more effective and efficient projects.

**Future Approaches**

**Strengthen Approaches Specific to Regions and Countries**

It is strongly required to obtain an accurate picture of the cultural, social and economic features of a recipient country, to examine its aid requirements, and to increase the effectiveness of aid. At the same time, we strive to ensure quality improvement in accumulated know-how, including directions and implementation methods by sector in order to implement effective and efficient projects.

**Achieve Qualitative Improvements**

In order to allow study projects to fulfill their original aims and be effectively applied, the project’s technical reliability, funding possibilities and administrative capacity must be carefully examined. In order to contribute to better quality operations, fast and sufficient preparatory work and feedback from the results of previous studies are important. JICA has also been compiling basic region-specific, country-specific and sector-specific information to implement operations in precise response to diversifying needs.

**Priority Global Issues**

As for important development issues in the DAC New Development Strategy*, JICA has been engaged in projects in the field of health and medical care, education, and measures against poverty. These efforts will continue.

**Increase in Policy-support and Reconstruction Support Projects**

The issues faced by developing countries vary depending on their economic and financial conditions and technical standards. In response to such diversifying development needs, there has recently been an increasing number of policy-support projects in addition to developing infrastructure*.

Development studies to provide support for post-conflict reconstruction are under way. JICA shall continue to respond carefully to recipient countries’ development needs, for instance in the form of support for reconstruction and development following conflict and natural disaster.

**Links with Other Forms of Aid**

We further enhance and promote information exchange with grant aid assistance, loan assistance by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and loan projects provided by international financial institutions. Eighteen detailed design studies have been implemented in collaboration with loan assistance* projects thus far. This contributes to the coherent development from the study stage to project implementation as part of Japan’s ODA. Collaboration with other aid agencies is also actively promoted.