Transfer Know-how and Technology

Training Participants to Contribute to Nation-building

The Acceptance of Technical Training Participants Program involves the transfer of knowledge and technology required by respective countries through the training of key administrators, technicians and researchers in developing countries and regions. This is the most fundamental human development program implemented by JICA.

The program has grown steadily not only in scale but also in terms of content since its launch in 1954. JICA has been working on training related to global issues such as the environment and HIV/AIDS and new issues such as support for democratization and transitions to market economies, in addition to basic development fields such as administration, public works, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, education, health and medical care, mining, and industry. In fiscal 2003, 8,066 people from 149 countries and regions took part in this program in Japan, while another 6,531 people participated in the program in developing countries.

Of those who have received this technical training, many are now contributing to nation-building in various ways, including national leaders, top-ranking researchers, administrators, and the leaders of farming communities. The alumni associations of former training participants formed in 85 countries are cementing the bonds of friendship between their countries and Japan. Since its launch, JICA has accepted approximately 275,000 participants in this training program.

Methods and Features of the Training Program

In contrast to other programs, the Acceptance of Technical Training Participants Program enables more mobile and direct assistance. As such, the program allows for the initiation of a smooth approach to urgent issues such as transition to democracy and national reconstruction.

There are three features and advantages in implementing this program in Japan.

1) Participants are able to see how new techniques and ideas not yet available in their own countries are applied.
2) Japan’s experience is transmitted to the world at large.
3) Participants have the chance to exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues from other countries that are facing similar issues.

In addition to training activities in Japan, there is also an overseas training program that allows organizations in developing countries that were fostered through Japanese technical cooperation to provide training for people from their own or neighboring countries. The merits of this type of training are: (1) participants can acquire know-how from people whose countries have similar technical levels, languages, and natural environments; and (2) overseas training can be implemented at lower expense than training in Japan.

Strengthening the Country- and Issue-specific Approach

To solve problems in developing countries, cooperation in accordance with the real situation of each country is necessary, and JICA is strengthening country-specific approaches. Accordingly, in acceptance of training participants, effective human resources development appropriate to development issues in the country is promoted through training provided as a component of a technical cooperation project implemented overseas or training in a group from one country for a certain period of three to five years.

Likewise, in order to correspond to common issues shared by several countries in a region and development issues common to all developing countries, training courses based on issue-specific approaches are being promoted.

Acceptance of Foreign Students

In addition to conventional training programs, in fiscal 1999 JICA started a long-term training program that accepts
foreign students who wish to acquire degrees such as Master and Ph.D in Japanese universities with the aim of acquiring more advanced and specialized knowledge and skills. Young administrative officers and researchers who are prospective leaders of their countries can participate based on requests from government-affiliated organizations in the program. At present, about 250 people take the program in a year.

The Ethnic Japanese Society Leader Development Program started in fiscal 2000 for the purpose of developing human resources who will lead future ethnic Japanese society and contribute to the development of the countries where they reside as liaisons between those countries and Japan. Forty-two foreign students have been accepted so far.

In addition, Japanese grant aid for human resources development scholarships, for which JICA facilitates implementation, commenced in fiscal 2000. Young administrative officers and business people who are expected to play key roles in the development of recipient counties are being accepted and they will acquire Master’s degrees in Japanese universities. This scheme is conducted for 10 countries and 239 people came to Japan to study in fiscal 2003.

Furthermore, personnel related to JICA programs have received Japanese government scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology. In fiscal 2003, 26 people came to Japan.

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**Front Line**

**Osaka**

**Maternal and Child Health Course as Country-specific Training for Indonesia**

*Introducing Maternal and Child Health Handbook to Indonesia*

**Acceptance of Technical Training Participants**

Disseminate knowledge to pregnant women and nursing mothers

Maternal and child health handbooks have become a fixture in Japan. Did you know that this system started in Japan? It was created for the dissemination of knowledge related to pregnancy, delivery, and newborns to pregnant women and nursing mothers during the war, when rates for infant mortality and maternal mortality were high.

This maternal and child health handbook was introduced in Indonesia in 1994 through cooperation from JICA. At that time the infant mortality and maternal mortality rates were high, and it was adopted to improve the situation.

The JICA Maternal and Child Health Handbook Project stared in Indonesia in 1998. As part of the activity, the Maternal and Child Health Course has been provided as country-specific training for Indonesia since fiscal 2002 at the JICA Osaka International Center. Though the project terminated in fiscal 2003, the training course will continue until fiscal 2004.

**Collaboration with an NPO and local governments**

The implementation of this Maternal and Child Health Course is entrusted to Health and Development Service (HANDS), a nonprofit organization (NPO) that has a thorough knowledge of the situations regarding maternal and child health in both Indonesia and Japan. The purpose of the training is to understand the maternal and child health policy and the application of maternal and child health handbooks in Japan, and to effectively promote the system after returning home. Gaining cooperation from local governments, including Saitama prefecture and educational institutions like Osaka University, Kobe University, and Saitama Prefectural University, has helped carry out training with a wide range of subjects. Training participants present action plans that specify how they will spread maternal and child health handbooks after returning home at the end of the training course.

The introduction of maternal and child health handbooks has proved to be effective in lowering infant mortality and maternal mortality rates in Indonesia. They are going to revise the maternal and child health handbooks themselves from now on.

(Osaka International Center)