Necessity of Follow-up Cooperation

Realizing 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 counterparts* of technical cooperation.

JICA, through these follow-up activities, endeavors to improve the effectiveness and quality of Japan’s international cooperation, and continuously supports self-reliant development of developing countries.

Follow-up in Detail

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.

One example is a high school building that was built in Tonga. There was no public high school on the Vavau Islands. Vavau High School was constructed using grant aid from Japan in the capital, Tongatapu Island, which is approximately 280km from Vavau Islands. Between 600 and 700 students were studying there. However, when a cyclone with a wind velocity of 70m/s hit the island in 2001, electric poles and palm trees were knocked down, power and water were cut off, and houses collapsed completely or partially, leaving devastation throughout the islands. Part of the roof (400m²) of the Vavau High School was blown off. The government of Tonga, suffering from a financial crisis, was provided with emergency reconstruction assistance; however, there was no plan for restoring the school building. In response, JICA dispatched a follow-up study team to investigate the damage and consider possible action. As a result, renovation work was undertaken with concern not only for the disruption of classes, but also for the spread of damage from rain and wind.

Another example is the Kenya Medical Research Institute that was built in Kenya, Africa, using grant aid from Japan in 1983. A laboratory and analysis equipment were subsequently provided with grant aid in 1997. This equipment is vital for producing reagent kits in an effort to combat HIV/AIDS, which has become a serious social concern in Kenya. Later, the institute successfully developed an HIV/AIDS reagent kit and has contributed to the securing of safe blood supplies for transfusion. However, a series of accidents occurred, including an air leak in the laboratory and a breakdown of equipment, thus causing a dangerous situation with regards to handling genes and the HIV virus in the laboratory. In the wake of these events, the government of Kenya requested follow-up cooperation from JICA to review emergency measures and establish warning systems. A renovation plan was formulated in the follow-up study conducted in response, and emergency
work commenced in September 2003 based on the plan. At present, a technical cooperation project called the Research and Control of Infectious Disease Project, which is scheduled to end by 2006, is under way in the renovated laboratory.

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 20,000. 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 a 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 5 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. An aftercare 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 (98 alumni associations as of the end of fiscal 2003).

In January 2004, eight countries in Southeast Asia—Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Thailand—got together in Bangkok and held active discussions on the management of alumni associations. As a result, they proposed the establishment of a homepage for each alumni association and reinforced coordination among associations and information exchange using the homepage. It was agreed that each alumni association would maintain a homepage and that web exchanges would be used to support the activities of the various alumni associations.

Follow-up activities using JICA-Net provide a valuable opportunity to directly confirm the outcome of training through sharing of activities with training participants after they return home. At the same time, knowing about the active roles they play back in their home countries encourages training providers. We believe the outcome reflects the true value of training. Therefore, JICA has started activities with a view to the importance of follow-up, together with training in Japan.
association would work on it by participating countries.

In addition to alumni activities, JICA successfully supports the activities of individual former training participants and organizations and agencies in a new form of software-type follow-up cooperation.

For example, in Brazil, from December 2003 to March 2004, former training participants in the field of maternal and child health developed a manual for humanizing childbirth, such as natural delivery, and held a seminar at a hospital hall in Sao Paulo City, which was supported by JICA.

The manuals were distributed at the seminar, and the seminar turned out to be quite popular, with 400 participants in a hall that held 270. Doctors practicing childbirth and medical care for newborns, nurses, and nursing students all participated in the seminar and the importance of natural delivery was conveyed to the people in Brazil, where the rate of delivery by Caesarian section is high. Bringing the knowledge and manuals back to their own workplaces, the participants are expected to disseminate the knowledge by holding study meetings and other activities.

A hardware-type of follow-up cooperation has been conducted in the form of providing spare parts and repairs for well-drilling equipment provided in the Project for the Supply of Drinking Water in Villages of Gaza Province, Mozambique (grant aid cooperation). JICA supported the project by holding seminars to strengthen maintenance and management capacities of the wells built through the project.

The seminars were conducted in the form of a caravan system targeting the five counties of Gaza Province where wells were built. Relevant personnel from the government and municipal organizations, NGOs, and community groups got together in each county, and lectures and panel discussions were held on the maintenance and management of the wells. One significant outcome has been the sharing of know-how that can be of use to the local residents when management of the wells is handed over to them in the future.

### Follow-up on Development Studies

In addition to the aforementioned 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 2003, 1,377 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, even after completion of projects, 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.