Social Development

Governance/ICT/Transportation, Urban and Regional Development/Peacebuilding, Reconstruction Assistance/Japanese Center

Overview of the Social Development Field

In many developing countries, basic systems and the framework of society, such as administrative systems and basic infrastructure, are underdeveloped or incomplete. This hinders development in these countries. Capacity development is what forms the core of JICA’s activities, and JICA provides cooperation in social development that aims for the capacity development of society.

Establishment of appropriate social systems and framework, formulation of proper regional development plans, and social network development (transport and traffic infrastructure, information communications, etc.) are important to develop the capacity of society while maintaining adequate governance. In recent years, demand has grown for cooperation in the field of post-conflict or post-disaster reconstruction and peacebuilding, and it is necessary to improve facilities, systems, and networks comprehensively by viewing society in a cross-cutting manner.

In this section, overview, priority issues, and activities for each social development field are introduced.

Overview

Since the 1990s governance has been a focus of attention as something that can have an impact on the effectiveness of development assistance. JICA believes that governance should be pursued so that the entire system for inputting, distributing, and managing resources in a country efficiently while reflecting the opinions of the public can be built and operated for national stability and development. Governance in developing countries is an important condition for determining the effectiveness of economic assistance and JICA is thus committed to contributing to economic development by giving good impact on the entire system of developing countries while supporting governance through technical cooperation.

JICA’s Efforts

JICA places importance on efforts of the government of the partner country to improve governance and promote the progress and institution of democratization with their ownership and initiative. To that end, JICA takes two approaches—one for offering options and one for thinking together—in assisting the partner country with selecting, building, and operating systems themselves while providing information and having a dialogue in support of an endogenous process of reformation. JICA’s specific roles are as follows.

1) To provide options for institution-building and evoke a change in awareness of governmental organizations and the people involved
2) To support the creation of new systems or institutions
3) To support the development of measures and methods to operate the systems or institutions, organizational improvement, and human development

Specifically JICA’s assistance in the governance field covers the following three categories: building democratic systems, improving administrative functions, and development of legal systems.

Building Democratic Systems

Support for building democratic systems focuses not on building systems and institutions closely related to political values, but on nurturing awareness of issues among the people involved and promoting changes in their awareness by introducing systems and institutions of various countries, including Japan, and showing options. One example is the Seminar on Democracy and Good Governance in Palestine.

Improving Administrative Functions

Support for improving administrative functions focuses on contributing to improved administrative functions, the promotion of balanced decentralization of power, and promoting citizens’ participation and improving transparency. In support of contributing to improved administrative functions, assistance for improving statistics capacity of the government is being implemented in Cambodia. In support of contributing to promoting balanced decentralization, Regional Development Policies for Local Government and Human Resources Development for Local Governance are being implemented in Indonesia. In support of contributing to promoting citizens’ participation and improvement of transparency, capacity building of auditors is being implemented in Thailand.

Development of Legal Systems

Support for legal systems focuses on developing basic laws,
Emphasis on utilization and development of local human resources

The center is equipped with various types of staff who provide information about the CCB system in an easy-to-understand way and support citizens and administration in working together as players for development. In particular, CCB coordinators who act as liaisons between citizens and the government, who had no dialogue previously, in order to build trusting relationship between them, are selected only from natives of Hafizabad, and Japanese experts and intellectuals provide technical guidance for them.

Due to the long civil war, official statistics in Cambodia were underdeveloped. Although progress has been gradually made since the 1990s, the accuracy of official statistics still remains an obstacle when formulating development policies. Thus, organizational enhancement and human resources development in the area of statistics are issues of importance.

In Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia, JICA provides training in official statistics for the personnel in charge of statistics operations in various governmental departments, including the Statistics Agency, as well as local governments. This training helps them gain necessary knowledge and skills as specialists in statistics and offers various courses from the basics of official statistics to statistical design, implementation, collection, counting, analysis, disclosure, and use of results. Participants can select courses that will benefit their respective jobs. The purpose is to develop personnel who will play a leading role in formulating official statistics so that the government of Cambodia can provide statistics with higher quality.

In the course about creating tables and graphs (necessary for official publications of statistical survey results) 30 participants receive practical training after a lecture, creating tables and graphs using personal computers. When doing so, JICA experts give personal instructions in cooperation with the counterparts and run the course while confirming whether the participants have acquired the necessary competencies.

System for development in line with local needs

Citizens’ needs in their daily lives, such as education and medical care, have yet to be fulfilled in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the Citizen Community Board (CCB) system was introduced based on the Local Government Law enacted in 2001. Under this scheme, if a group of 25 or more citizens develops a development project in line with local needs and is prepared to bear more than 20% of the costs, the development budget of the government bears the rest of the costs.

JICA is implementing the Improvement of Public Administration for Local Governments in Punjab to make sure that this scheme is managed effectively. In the Hafizabad district, Punjab, JICA has compiled an improvement plan for CCB system management based on the results of a survey on issues both of local residents and the district government, and is trying out the plan using the CCB support center as a base, which was set up jointly with the district government.

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Support Town-building in Collaboration between Citizens and Administration

Front Line Pakistan

Improvement of Public Administration for Local Governments in Punjab

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It is about six months since the training for CCB coordinators began and things have progressed to a point where a female CCB coordinator wearing a traditional head scarf called a dopatta could question a stern-faced chief of the district government, saying “Even though a project plan was submitted from the citizens according to the designated format, nothing has been heard from responsible personnel of the district government. What is going on?” The development project plan in which this woman is in charge is expected to be approved soon as the first CCB project implemented with the support of the Improvement of Public Administration for Local Governments in Punjab.

(JICA Pakistan Office)
ICT (Information and Communication Technology)

Overview
ICT and Socioeconomic Development
Information and communication technology (ICT) is applied in various fields such as administration, education, and medical care, contributing to the improvement of socioeconomic development. However, these benefits are not available to many people in developing countries, generating a digital divide. To bridge this digital divide utilizing ICT to improve economic growth and social services in developing countries have become development issues.

Prior to the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in July 2000, the Japanese government announced a comprehensive cooperation package to address the international digital divide. IT Strategy Headquarters was installed in the Cabinet Office and e-Japan strategy was formulated in 2001. The strategy specifies promotion of cooperation in the ICT fields for foreign countries mainly in Asia and cooperation to bridge digital divide for developing countries as the international policy.

Important Points in Implementing Cooperation
There are some points to keep in mind in the implementation of cooperation in this sector. First, since the major players in the ICT sector are in the private sector, division of roles with ODA must be clarified. Second, due to the fast speed of progress of ICT, cooperation must be implemented flexibly so that the initial expected outcomes are not obsolete at the end of cooperation. Third, computers and software need to be updated every few years, so the necessary fiscal measures for maintenance and operation in the partner country must be checked before making equipment and material plans.

JICA’s Efforts
JICA’s Development Strategies
JICA identified five development strategy goals according to the comprehensive cooperation package on digital divide announced by Japan.

The first goal is capacity building in the area of ICT policy formulation. JICA dispatches advisors for making national ICT strategies, telecommunication policy, ICT industry development policy, to bridge digital divide for developing countries as the international policy.

Students from both ethnic groups learning with IT teaching equipment provided by Japan (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Informatics Curriculum Modernization at the Grammar School Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina

It has been 10 years since the peace accords were signed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, school systems, curriculum, and textbooks differ among the ethnic groups of Muslims (Bosniaks), Croats, and Serbians, showing how the remnants of civil war remain in education.

Thanks to the encouragement of the international community, an attempt at ethnic reconciliation in education began and in September 2004, both Croats and Muslims, who had, in the past, fought fiercely with each other, started to study together in Grammar School Mostar (regular high school). However, they still study in different classrooms using different curricula.

Under such circumstances, in October 2004, the government of Japan provided teaching equipment to be installed in an IT laboratory of Grammar School Mostar with grassroots human security grant aid on the condition that both ethnic groups use the equipment together. When JICA supported extra-curricular lessons using this laboratory, a clay animation drew much attention from the students of both ethnic groups, resulting in production of a school introduction video film by teachers and students from both ethnic groups.

At the same time, in response to the decision of the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to introduce a common core curriculum that integrates educational contents, starting with materials that would not stir up ethnic tensions, JICA supports the development of the curriculum for regular and extra-curricular lessons in the course of information studies common to both ethnic groups.

It is expected that through such cooperation the course of information studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be improved and at the same time students of both ethnicities can attend the same classes, contributing to ethnic reconciliation.
The second is human resources development in the ICT sector. To spread ICT to all the citizens, JICA cooperates in training technicians, policymakers, etc. Cooperation is provided in different ways: a human development project for the purpose of improving capacity of ministrys and agencies, training centers and universities; construction of facilities and provision of equipment; and inviting human resources to Japan for training. Senior volunteers and JOCVs are dispatched to polytechnic and vocational training schools. Human resource development is provided to a wide range of people and has gained importance in technical cooperation in the ICT sector.

The third is development of a communications infrastructure. In order to develop the backbone communication network and the rural communication infrastructure, JICA assists in the formulation of a master plan of the communication network, cooperates with implementation of priority projects, and supports strengthening the maintenance and operation system.

The fourth is improvement of efficiency and benefits through ICT use in various sectors. JICA supports e-government in administration, e-learning in education, e-health in medical care, e-commerce as well as the introduction of ICT in various sectors such as statistics, map-making, and weather observation, leading to improvement of efficiency, effectiveness, and service.

The fifth* is the use of ICT to improve aid efficiency and effectiveness. The JICA-Net (distance technical cooperation) program corresponds to this.

JICA continues to implement various cooperation to connect ICT to effective social and economic development by selecting appropriate ICT in line with the actual situation of a country and region while considering the initiative of the partner country.

In December 2003 the thematic guidelines in the ICT sector were formulated to utilize for project formulation, etc., and regional cooperation policies are planned to be formulated gradually in the future.

* The comprehensive cooperation package of the Japanese government consists of four goals. The fourth goal, the promotion of ICT use in assistance, is divided into the fourth goal, improvement of efficiency and benefits through the utilization of ICT in various sectors, and the fifth goal, use of ICT to improve aid efficiency and effectiveness, in the development strategy goals of JICA's cooperation.

**JICA-Net**

The JICA-Net program, which aims for the use of ICT to improve aid efficiency and effectiveness, consists of (1) distance lectures and seminars, (2) multimedia contents, (3) web-based training (WBT) that allows self-study using the Internet, and (4) video conferencing.

Since the JICA-Net program started in 2002, effectiveness of distance technical cooperation has been increasingly recognized and utilization enhanced in combination with the expansion of overseas satellite centers and accumulation of the developed contents. The contents that have been developed so far include "The Lessons from Livelihood Improvement Experiences in Postwar Japan," which raises the efficiency of technical cooperation by presenting Japan's experiences in an easy-to-understand manner, and "Remote Sensing and GIS Course," which can replace the conventional type of face-to-face training.

JICA will continue to promote the use of JICA-Net in the field of various cooperation: specifically, (1) JICA will actively incorporate distance technical cooperation into planning of a project such as the Japan Center; (2) JICA will further promote collaboration with outside organizations including mutual use with the World Bank's GDLN (Global Development Learning Network), joint hosting of distance seminars, and joint development of contents; and (3) JICA will utilize JICA-Net in public participatory projects, where students in Japan are connected to interact with students in a school overseas through a JICA-Net satellite center.

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### Transportation, Urban and Regional Development

#### Overview

To support sustainable development and growth in developing countries, it is essential to develop economic and social infrastructure in urban and rural areas where people gather and live as well as transportation infrastructure that serves to transport goods and people who live there.

JICA actively promotes residents' participation and collaboration with NGOs, etc., to develop infrastructure that takes into consideration "for what and for whom," focusing on the users and peripheral residents and not just targeting infrastructure development alone.

Transportation

The purpose of cooperation in the field of transportation is to contribute to income generation and better living conditions, as well as to promote economic stimulation through the efficient transportation of people and goods. The demand for improved transportation infrastructure, such as roads, railways, ports, and airports, remains substantial throughout developing countries and the rest of the world. The need for maintenance, management, repair and modernization of aging facilities is expected to increase rapidly.

However, development of a transportation infrastructure has the potential to cause environmental problems and it is therefore necessary to consider the impact on natural environment and social development and countermeasures to deal with problems.

In addition, transportation infrastructure development requires a substantial amount of funds and securing financial resources for that is a big issue. It is difficult to develop all the necessary infrastructure with limited public funds. It is becoming increasingly important, therefore, to consider securing various financial resources, for example, introducing private funds, in providing transportation services expected by users sustainably and efficiently.

Urban and Regional Development

In developing countries, urbanization is progressing due to population growth and influx from rural areas. While the progress of urbanization has had positive impacts in terms of economic development and efficient urban management, it leads to problems unique to urban areas such as deterioration of the urban living environment, heavy traffic, deterioration of public security,
emergence of slums (a group of houses where people with low incomes live in a poor environment). Furthermore, urban fringe areas and rural areas face various problems such as the decline of regional economies and lack of public services.

These problems which occur in urban and rural areas are an inter-affected complex of various phenomena and solving these problems one by one has limitations. It is therefore necessary to consider specific urban or rural areas spatially and take a comprehensive approach in addressing development issues in a medium- and long-term perspective.

**JICA’s Efforts**

Through development in the transportation sector and urban and regional development in developing countries and regions, JICA increases the reliability and safety of people’s living situations and promotes smoother transportation and development of sustainable urban and rural living environments, thus contributing to economic growth and improvements in living standards.

Transportation infrastructure is defined as infrastructure contributing to the well being of people. In addition to conventional cooperation targeting hardware such as roads, JICA is implementing a wide range of technical cooperation such as (1) assistance for the development of basic capacity to improve administrative capacity, (2) assistance responding to globalization and regionalization to facilitate international movement of people and goods and to promote development of regional economic sphere, and (3) assistance to ensure a fair movement of people responding to sustainable development and improvement of living standards in urban areas. Furthermore, in order to improve the living standard in rural areas, JICA provides cooperation to upgrade the transportation infrastructure to the minimum necessary level.

In the field of urban and regional development, in order to facilitate economic and social development focusing on the people living in urban and rural areas, JICA formulates urban development master plans and integrated development plans and implements technical cooperation related to these activities.

Formulation of urban development master plans and regional development plans includes analysis of issues and tasks facing urban and regional areas, creating medium- and long-term visions, formulation of development policies, sector-specific plans, and recommendations of concrete action plans to realize them. The formulation of these plans creates mutual consistency among a group of projects and clarifies inter-relationships and priority.
orders of those projects. Thus, effective and efficient implementation of plans will be possible. JICA’s technical cooperation in urban areas includes support for formulation of urban plans, strengthening of human resources capacity to improve living environment, and improvement of geographic information system to promote effective urban development.

Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Assistance

Overview

Japan’s Medium-term Policy on ODA defines the objectives of peacebuilding as to prevent occurrence and recurrence of conflicts, alleviate various difficulties people face during and immediately after conflicts, and achieve stable development for a long time subsequently. What is needed is assistance in accordance with the stage; for example, prevention of occurrence and recurrence of conflicts, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, and medium- and long-term development. In particular, post-conflict assistance needs to achieve effects that can be observed in a short period of time with speed and flexibility and which brings peace of mind to the people under unstable circumstances in which the government does not fully function.

JICA’s Efforts

Based on the perspective of human security, JICA has implemented peacebuilding assistance incorporating the following viewpoints: (1) medium- and long-term development assistance, (2) consistency in assistance, (3) speedy and effective assistance, (4) combination of assistance for the government and local communities, (5) consideration for the socially vulnerable, (6) assistance taking into account neighboring countries, and (7) assistance to prevent occurrence and recurrence of conflicts. JICA also promotes assistance with an emphasis on partnership and coordination with international organizations and others.

Japan Center

Japan Center was envisaged as the base to support human development responding to the transition to market economies in East and Central Asia and the Indochina area. It also serves as a place for exchange and mutual understanding between people of the partner country and Japan. The Japan Center not only cooperates in the economic field but also aims to be a center wide open to the general public by introducing each country’s society and culture, as well as providing Japanese language courses.

JICA launched Japan Center projects in September 2000. At the moment 10 centers in nine countries are in place and operating (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh in Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine). Though activities differ depending on the situation of each country, business program, mutual understanding promotion program, and Japanese language courses are the core of the basic activities at all centers.

In these countries, it is an urgent matter to foster human resources in the private sector to support the real economy and the business program is expected to offer necessary knowledge and know-how for such human development. Lectures and case studies regarding the Japanese style of management, and practical contents including the diagnosis of factories, have been praised greatly and as a result, there has been a case where former students formed “Kaizen Association” to spread the Japanese style of management among conflicting ethnic groups. JICA aims to rapidly improve living standards through development of infrastructure and increase in income, and to empower people through reconstruction and strengthening of the divided community, while providing opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between opposing groups of Tamils and Muslims, and creating a momentum for coexistence and reconciliation.

For example, in Sri Lanka, which has experienced more than 20 years of civil war between Tamil militant groups and the government, since 2004 JICA has been working on community development and basic infrastructure improvement involving residents’ groups, in Mannar district in the Northeast Province, which is on the frontline of the civil war, in order to support resettlement of more than 40,000 refugees and internally displaced persons. JICA also conducts emergency relief activities and reconstruction assistance in Northeast Province and South Province, where the Indian Ocean Tsunami unleashed massive destruction. As for reconstruction assistance, JICA undertakes formulation of a plan for the construction of Japan-Sri Lanka Friendship Village of the Japanese government, and capacity building of residents’ groups, incorporating the concept of self-help, mutual help, and public help. This scheme is designed to help them stand up against dual hardships, poverty from long lasting civil war and natural disaster, and to promote reconciliation among conflicting ethnic groups. JICA aims to rapidly improve living standards through development of infrastructure and increase in income, and to empower people through reconstruction and strengthening of the divided community, while providing opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between opposing groups of Tamils and Muslims, and creating a momentum for coexistence and reconciliation.