Chapter 2  Cooperation Modality

Technical Cooperation Projects

Tailor-made cooperation responding to individual needs

Outline of Technical Cooperation Projects

Issues that developing countries have to address for self-sustainable growth and development include developing human resources, establishing a legal system for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental conservation, and post-conflict reconstruction. These issues have become more diverse and multi-phased. In addition to accurate and quick responses to these development issues, JICA’s technical cooperation requires planning and implementing the most highly effective cooperation based on the situations and development issues in each country. Accordingly, JICA extends technical cooperation to developing countries using two schemes. Technical cooperation projects are implemented to help developing countries achieve their development objectives. Development studies are conducted to make plans for development.

Technical cooperation projects are implemented for a fixed period of time to achieve specific objectives for addressing issues in developing countries in combination with cooperation approaches (cooperation tools) such as dispatching experts, inviting people from developing countries to Japan for training, and providing necessary equipment. In order to meet a broad range of needs in developing countries effectively and efficiently, cooperation plans are tailor-made for each issue jointly with the partner country and implemented.

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 partner countries.

The reports are based on study results that provide partner 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 partner countries implement projects with their own funds and carry out other studies.

Implementing Effective Projects

Technical cooperation is implemented jointly by the partner country and Japan. Ownership of the project lies strictly with the partner country, and Japan’s status is that of a cooperating partner. Therefore, the partner country (the government, local governments, NGOs, citizens, etc.) needs to exercise ownership in the project. Most technical cooperation projects thus incorporate participatory methods that involve residents of a project’s target area for planning, administration, and evaluation of the project.

Once the cooperation period is over, the partner country is expected to continue the project alone. Scale and implementation plans of a project are drawn up after consideration is given to the financial capacity of the organization responsible for implementing the project in the partner country and adoption of transferred technology and institutions after the cooperation period has concluded.

Furthermore, JICA promotes the use of private sector human resources, contracts projects to private organizations, and makes public announcement of expert openings, thus aiming for implementation of high quality, results-oriented projects utilizing experiences and know-how in the private sector and in a wider range of fields.

JICA proactively responds to new diversifying aid needs by grasping those needs specific to region and country to draw up cooperation plans.

From the viewpoint of stronger support for good governance as well as cooperation for intellectual support for financial and monetary policies and legal systems, JICA sends policy advisors to a central government organization responsible for policy formulation, providing vigorous support for institution-building and policymaking in various areas. Since reconstruction following conflicts or natural disasters in countries like Sudan and Pakistan requires quick and wide-ranging support, JICA aims to formulate and implement more flexible and effective projects than it did in the past (see pp. 11-14).