Japanese emigration after the end of World War II was restarted with emigration to the Amazon in Brazil in 1952. There are now thought to be more than 2.6 million Japanese emigrants and their descendants (Nikkei) living abroad and they are now playing key roles in their countries’ development in various fields. Their presence has helped build trust in Japanese people and closer bilateral relationships, and thus they are now important partners in international cooperation.

JICA supports them indirectly by placing importance on the human development of children of emigrants, including Japanese language education, welfare for the aged, etc., as follow-up for settlement and a stable life for emigrants.

Current Support for Japanese Emigrants and their Descendants

Major Activities

Public Relations

To deepen the Japanese public’s understanding of Japanese emigrants and Nikkei communities, JICA performs the following activities:
1) Backing up the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad
2) Management of the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum
The Japanese Overseas Migration Museum and a library with materials related to emigration opened at JICA Yokohama in October 2002. The museum presents a history of Japanese emigration and the development of Nikkei communities, etc., under the basic theme of “We have taken part in molding new civilizations in the Americas.” The purpose is to promote greater understanding of the history of Japanese emigration and Nikkei among people, especially the young generation who will lead the future.

Support for Emigrants Abroad

1) Extension of farming systems: To improve farm management skills, JICA implements training in the region of advanced agricultural technology, fosters agricultural study groups, etc.
2) Medical care and hygiene: JICA assists in the management of five clinics for emigrants in Paraguay and Bolivia, and circuit medical treatment in remote areas of Brazil.
3) Education and culture: In order to develop and secure Japanese-language teachers, JICA assists in joint training for teachers in each country, rewards Japanese-language teachers and purchases teaching materials, co-hosts joint training for Pan-American Japanese-language teachers, supports research activities in Japanese language, develops Japanese textbooks for Spanish-speaking youth, etc. The joint training for Pan-American Japanese-language teachers has been held every year in São Paulo, Brazil since fiscal 2004 and 29 teachers participated in fiscal 2005.
4) Upgrading facilities and equipment: To support improvements in social welfare and living infrastructure, JICA subsidized the purchase of medical equipment for three clinics in Paraguay in fiscal 2005.

Human Development of Children of Emigrants

1) Scholarship for Japanese Immigrants and their Descendants in Latin America: To develop human resources who will lead the future Nikkei communities, JICA provides scholarships for living expenses, school expenses, etc., for the Nikkei students who study at Japanese graduate schools. Fourteen students were approved for scholarships in fiscal 2005.
2) Training for students of Japanese language schools: Outstanding students of Japanese language schools managed by Nikkei organizations are invited to Japan to attend junior high schools and home-stays for the purpose of gaining first-hand experience in Japanese culture and society and improving their language proficiency. Forty-seven students took part in fiscal 2005.

Business Loans

JICA offers loans to emigrants, and Nikkei organizations that contribute to the settlement of Japanese emigrants. In fiscal 2005, loans totaling about 420 million yen were provided to emigrants and organizations in Paraguay and Bolivia.