Follow-up

Follow-up Cooperation adds value to projects

Overview

Support after Completion of a Project

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 Cooperation,” which can be divided into two types.

Follow-up to Solve Problems with Facilities and Equipment

One type is cooperation that supports developing countries in solving problems with facilities or equipment being used in completed projects.

For example, in the Maldives, a country made up of islands and located in the heart of the Indian Ocean, a bank was built with Japan’s grant aid to mitigate recurrent damages caused by tidal waves. However, the tsunami that hit countries in the Indian Ocean in 2005 destroyed part of the bank. It just occurred suddenly and there were not enough funds and/or technology to fix the damage in the Maldives.

In response to their fear of greater damage, JICA conducted a Follow-up Study and decided to carry out repair work as Follow-up Cooperation. Participation of engineers from the Maldives in the work was planned so that they could learn how to solve the problem on their own. Actual cooperation is provided according to the plan in fiscal 2006.

Follow-up to Boost the Effect

The other type of cooperation provides additional support that will add some value for the partner country to boost the effect of a completed project.

For example, the landslide that occurred on Leyte Island in the Philippines in February 2006 resulted in as many as 1,000 dead or missing. In order to minimize such a human catastrophe, local residents need to be more conscious of disaster prevention. Accordingly, JICA extended Follow-up Cooperation to designate landslide-hazard areas on Leyte Island in cooperation with the two partner organizations of the past flood control project and geological survey, both of which JICA provided in the Philippines. The results will be shared with the local governments and seminars will be held to teach what local communities and residents should do to increase the awareness of regionwide disaster prevention.

Follow-up to Ex-participants of Technical Training Program and Alumni Associations of Ex-participants of Youth Invitation Program

Follow-up Cooperation also includes support for ex-participants of technical training programs and alumni associations of ex-participants of the Youth Invitation Program.

JICA has accepted more than 170,000 training participants from developing countries in Japan since its establishment. The total number of young people who came to Japan through the Youth Invitation Program exceeds 20,000. They will lead the future of their own countries and it is not an exaggeration to say that they are valuable human resources who act as a bridge between Japan and their own countries. It is essential to maintain and develop friendships with those who have a better understanding of Japan and it is also important for Japan to support their self-discipline and activities even after they return to their home countries so that they can continue upgrading the skills and knowledge they acquired in Japan.

For example, in areas such as Iraq and Palestine, where the implementation of JICA projects is limited due to restrictions on the movement of Japanese people, alumni associations of ex-participants are active as actors in nation-building. When Japan Disaster Relief teams reached the disaster site of the Great Sumatra Earthquakes in Indonesia in 2005, the local alumni association of ex-participants of the Youth Invitation Program offered interpretation service for the team members and arranged vehicles for transportation and lodging, thus playing a major role in operating smooth rescue activities. JICA will work with such alumni associations formed by human resources to implement effective projects.

This type of cooperation, which can be realized with information from overseas offices, boosts the effects and quality of Japan’s international cooperation, contributing to the support for self-development of developing countries.