

## Chapter 2 Cooperation Modality

On-site instruction by Japanese specialists at a sewing factory (Viet Nam)



# Technical Cooperation Projects

Tailor-made cooperation responding to individual needs

### Outline of Technical Cooperation Projects

Issues leading to the independently-sustainable development of developing countries include the fundamental sectors of health and education, assistance for legal systems, development of infrastructure such as for roads and bridges, and environmental conservation. Furthermore, tasks have become more diverse and multifaceted than in the past, now including reconstruction assistance and private-sector development. JICA's technical cooperation requires providing an exact and prompt response to these development issues, while also planning and implementing cooperation anticipated to produce the most results in accordance with the national situation and development issue at hand. For that reason, JICA implements technical cooperation consisting of technical cooperation projects that will help developing countries achieve their development goals, as well as development studies, through which development plans are created.

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 blueprint plans for various public development projects that are beneficial to social and economic development in developing countries. During the course of the studies, planning methods and survey and analytical skills are transferred to counterparts in the partner countries. The reports compiled from the studies serve as resources for partner governments in deciding on policy related to social and economic development, and for multilateral organizations and donor countries when making considerations on financial aid and technical cooperation. In many cases, plans proposed in these studies have been realized with financial assistance such as Japanese yen loans and grant aid cooperation.

### Implementing Effective Projects

JICA responds to diversifying aid needs by grasping those needs specific to a region or country in implementing cooperation. In particular, JICA combines financial cooperation, such as grant aid and yen loans, to proactively implement technical cooperation that generates synergetic effects.

In project management, it is important to make plans before a project begins that will maximize the results of the project. JICA works to enhance preliminary studies for making better technical cooperation plans. Once the cooperation period is over, the partner country is expected to continue the project alone. A project's plans are therefore formulated after considering the post-project financial capacity of the partner country as well as the appropriateness of technology and institutions for the target country.

In addition, JICA has recently been aiming to implement high-quality technical cooperation projects emphasizing results. Projects should promote the active use of private sector human resources, implement contracts with enterprises, and utilize the experience and expertise of the private sector across a wide range of areas.

Technical cooperation is implemented jointly by the partner country and Japan. However, ownership of the project lies strictly with the partner country. Therefore, the partner country (the government, local governments, NGOs, citizens, etc.) needs to exercise ownership in the project. For this reason, JICA implements its technical cooperation projects on the principles of a “participatory method,” where the residents of the target region participate in forming plans for, managing, and evaluating the project.