



A joint training seminar for Japanese-language teachers in Argentina
(Photo: Centro de Cultura e Idioma Japonés en la Argentina)

Support for Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants

Supporting Japanese emigrants to ensure a stable life

Current Support for Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants

Japanese emigration after the end of World War II was systematically restarted with emigration to the Amazon in Brazil in 1952. There are now said to be more than 2.9 million Japanese emigrants and their descendants (Nikkei) living abroad, and they are currently contributing to the development of their countries in various fields. Their presence has helped build closer bilateral relationships, and in Nikkei communities that have entered their maturity, Japanese emigrants and their descendants are important partners in international cooperation.

Major Activities

Introducing the activities of Japanese emigrants and their descendants, JICA disseminates knowledge to deepen the Japanese public's understanding of Japanese emigration and Nikkei communities. JICA also indirectly supports Japanese emigrants and their descendants, prioritizing areas such as human resource development for the children of emigrants that are to be the future leaders of Nikkei communities (including Japanese-language education) and welfare measures for elderly people, as a method of follow-up assistance for their settlement and stable life. JICA dispatches volunteers to Nikkei communities and receives Nikkei training participants as well.

Public Relations

- (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 for Japanese emigrants and Nikkei among the public, 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 technical training in the

technologically-advanced region (Brazil), provides subsidies to foster 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:** As a Japanese-language educational measure in order to develop and secure Japanese-language teachers, JICA assists in joint training for teachers in each country, Japanese-language teachers rewards, teaching materials purchase, and supports joint training for Pan-American Japanese-language teachers and research activities in Japanese language for teachers in Latin America and other areas as well. The joint training for Pan-American Japanese-language teachers has been held every year in São Paulo, Brazil, since FY2004 and 30 teachers participated in FY2007.
 - (4) **Upgrading facilities and equipment:** In FY2007, JICA subsidized the purchase of medical equipment for two clinics in Bolivia as a medical and hygiene measure, and, as a measure for education and culture, provided support for commemorative projects in Brazil (centennial) and the Dominican Republic (50 years) related to emigrants.
- Moreover, in FY2007, as a special assistance measure for Japanese emigrants to the Dominican Republic, JICA subsidized a health and hygiene project for elderly people and provided a short-term training in Japan for young Nikkei leaders.

Human Development of Children of Emigrants

- (1) **Scholarship for Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants in Latin America:** JICA provides indirect support in the form of scholarship for living expenses, school expenses, etc., for the Nikkei students who study at Japanese graduate schools. Ten students were newly approved for scholarship in FY2007.
- (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 carry out home-stays where they gain firsthand experience of Japanese culture and traditions. Forty-eight students took part in FY2007.

Business Loans

JICA's loans to emigrants and Nikkei organizations were terminated in FY2005.