



A trainee trying to spread transplant culturing techniques that he learned in Japan within other regions at a seminar conducted during a follow-up project (Activities by JICA Ex-participants Association of Agriculture in Sri Lanka)

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 while assessing the individual efforts of the partner country. Such additional cooperation is referred to as "Follow-up Cooperation."

1. Follow-up to Solve Problems with Facilities and Equipment

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

For instance, on Samoa's Savaii Island, located in the southern Pacific Ocean, Japan provided grant aid to upgrade the facilities and medical equipment of the key hospital on the island in order to improve the quality of medical services for the local residents. However, a cyclone later hit the nation causing extensive damage to the hospital facilities, thus making it difficult to carry out the central role of medical services on the island.

Thereupon, as follow-up cooperation, JICA restored damaged structures (roofs and ceilings) and updated equipment (emergency power generators and automatic water pumps). As a result, problems with facilities and equipment were solved, the hospital was restored to normal functionality, and JICA thereby made significant continuing contributions to improving medical services for the region.

2. Follow-ups to Boost Project Benefits

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

For instance, the Laos Government conducted training for Cambodia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam using JICA cooperation under the theme of rural electrification, which is a common development issue for countries in Indochina. A participant of this training returning home to Cambodia planned a local seminar to be held in Cambodia. Teaching materials from his training in Laos were planned to be recycled in the seminar to enhance the capacity of rural officials that oversee small-scale hydroelectric plants that were built for rural electrification, which is expected to commence domestically in the future. This idea is tremendously meaningful in that it spreads the benefits of JICA cooperation from the pinpoint-level to a wider one. JICA

contributed to realizing a seminar in Cambodia that incorporated practical exercises, such as by providing support for inviting Japanese experts to the seminar.

Follow-up to Alumni Associations of Ex-participants of Training Programs

Follow-up cooperation also includes support for alumni associations of ex-participants of training programs.

JICA has accepted more than 200,000 training participants from developing countries in Japan since its establishment. 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 also important for Japan to maintain and develop friendships with those who have a better understanding of Japan and 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 that reason, JICA promotes the formation and maintenance of networks between ex-participants and their alumni associations. As of FY2007, the total number of alumni associations for ex-participants of JICA programs throughout the world exceeded 113.

In addition, JICA partners with these associations, which can be considered "human assets," to implement effective projects. For instance, as part these activities, an association in Paraguay conducted cavity prevention classes and dental checkups for citizens whereupon JICA provided financial support for distributing free toothpaste.

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