Partner countries often face challenges in terms not only of insufficient economic and physical infrastructure, but also of insufficient legal and administrative infrastructure, such as legal and judicial systems as well as administrative and fiscal systems. Bottlenecks in legal and administrative systems would hinder efforts of partner countries toward sustainable development and reduce efficiency/effectiveness of development assistance. Support for building a social infrastructure as part of assistance in the area of public policy is a key to achieving capacity development (CD) of partner countries in an effective and efficient manner. Hence, “governance” and “fiscal and monetary systems” are introduced as approaches tackling challenges in the field of public policy, in addition to “gender mainstreaming,” “peacebuilding” and “poverty reduction” as cross-cutting issues.

**Governance** —Enhancing Capacity of Institutions in Partner Countries—

**Working in Partnership through Dialogue**

**Topic Overview**
Developing countries often face such problems as an ineffective legal and judicial system, lack of competencies and resources in public administration and service delivery, or limited participation of citizens in the decision-making process in public affairs.

The notion of governance is not limited to something related to government or public administration, but includes both process and mechanisms that guide and regulate state-society relations, taking a historic view on the entire system or the outcome of the institutional setting that runs society. Since the 1990s, governance is considered to be an important factor that greatly influences the development process and its outcomes.

Since dealing with issues of governance may be associated with making changes both in existing systems and practices and in state-society relations at various levels, international cooperation needs to be carefully pursued, building upon a long-term perspective and a deep understanding of history, culture and customs of partner countries.

**JICA’s Approach**
The goal of JICA’s governance assistance is to enable partner countries to become capable of investing, allocating and managing their resources efficiently and in ways that reflect the needs and the will of the people for their social stability and economic development.

As noted above, since governance issues deal with institutions and systems of a state, external assistance should be consolidated in overall efforts for the development process of the partner country, in a way that encourages its policy ownership and leadership. Therefore, JICA places importance on working together with partner countries through dialogues and cooperation. In this partnership, JICA thinks together and suggests viable solutions to problems they face, rather than enforcing a specific policy or system, and strives to foster their leading roles in realizing what they wish to achieve. Its assistance includes, for instance, strengthening national institutions, improving mechanisms and systems that provide public goods and services, and capacity building for better functioning of such mechanism and systems. The primary areas of JICA’s support in governance focus on 1) the legal and judiciary sector, 2) the public administration sector, and 3) democratic institutions.

**Legal and Judiciary Sector**
A major focus of JICA’s assistance in the legal and judicial sector is on development of legal and judicial systems and enhancement of public safety.

JICA’s legal and judicial support rests on the following core elements: 1) supporting the development of rules and regulations including the drafting of specific bills and their promulgation; 2) supporting the improvement of the capacity of public organizations (the improvement of the capacity of the organizations that implement laws or apply laws to dispute resolution); and 3) supporting the legal empowerment of people and society (the improvement of people’s access to legal and judicial systems). As a foundation for these three elements, JICA’s approach also stresses 4) supporting the development of legal professionals, including legal and judicial affairs officers, in order for them to independently promote legal and judicial development in the long term.

In the area of public safety, JICA supports the efforts of partner countries to strengthen functions of civilian police and refine expertise of forensic science for effective investigation.

JICA believes it is essential to design and implement laws and systems in a way that they are built on and work together with the existing systems, culture and social and economic norms. Furthermore, close attention needs to be given to the partner country’s current stage of development and its political, economic and social surroundings. Again, JICA seeks to develop partner-
ship through dialogues so that joint efforts can lead to desirable outcomes for the partner country.

Support for the Improvement of Administrative Capabilities

As JICA offers support for the appropriate allocation and management of resources, it also primarily aims to strengthen the administrative capabilities of partner countries in order to facilitate the effective provision of public services that meet citizens’ needs. In doing so, it provides concrete support for the improvement of supervision over formulation and implementation of development plans, keeping of government statistics, enhancement of civil service employee competence, strengthening of autonomous administrative capacities in local regions, boosting administrative transparency, bolstering community organizations and promoting participation in enforcing public policy. In fiscal 2008, JICA participated in a project to enhance local government capacity in Thailand (see page 89) and in Cambodia’s first full-scale national survey (see page 88).

In the end, this kind of support enters a realm that can be considered the core of a country. While carefully taking into consideration the conditions of a region, JICA hopes that this realm may also include dynamic transformation.

Democratic System Development

As a key element of holding the government accountable, JICA works on supporting democratic institutions, which enables citizens to address their needs through participating in decision making. Its assistance is to strengthen such institutional settings, rather than to enforce specific policy or system. In fiscal 2008, JICA supported a seminar in Nepal on elections and political party management so as to contribute to its democratic state building after a decade of conflict. JICA will continue to support the efforts of Nepal in reinforcing election committees, revising civil codes, promoting citizens’ participation in the political process, and facilitating roles of mass media, all of which contributes to democratic development of the country.

Example

Governance
Nepal
“Support for the Building of Democratic Institutions”

Providing Essential Support for Democratization
Conflict in Nepal that lasted more than 10 years finally came to an end in 2006. Later in April of 2008, its monarchy was abolished and constitutional assembly elections were held. The country, however, is still exploring how it will build and manage a new democratic system. The foundation of its coalition government remains unstable while adversity affects the livelihoods of its people. Under these circumstances, dissatisfaction and mistrust of the government add to the challenges facing Nepal.

As the country is in the midst of searching for a new national framework, JICA is actively supporting Nepal’s efforts to build itself anew.

In October 2008, Japan supported a seminar on election and political management, calling on the attendance of Nepal’s constitutional congressional deputy, constitutional secretary high officer and election management committee chairperson. The seminar provided the officials with the chance to observe Japan’s own congressional and election systems and to exchange ideas with academics, providing valuable knowledge applicable to Nepal’s national framework and nation building efforts. It became a valuable experience for the participants to actively interact and discuss the new national system, regardless of their political affiliation.

Again in February 2009, in Nepal, Japan supported a forum on democratization and peacebuilding. In addition to themes such as the role of the federal government in the creation of a new constitution, discussions took place over stronger democratic media independent of political influence and revision of civil codes and their possible effect on people’s livelihoods.

JICA is continuing the dialogue with the various stakeholders in Nepal to ascertain how to go about formulating its constitution, holding both general and local elections and coping with efforts for democratization.
The Fiscal and Financial Sector
—Development Results Are Greater under the Stability of a Fiscal and Financial System—
JICA Continues to Offer Its Support for the Strengthening of the Fiscal and Financial Sectors of Recipient Countries

Topic Overview
It is no overstatement to say that sound fiscal and financial systems are vital to sustainable economic development. If the government and central bank fail to implement and manage appropriate economic policies, the living standard of people could decline due to inflation and the funds needed for local small and medium-sized enterprises may not be provided. Should fiscal and financial systems collapse, the impact on the economy would be severe.

JICA’s Initiatives
“The prevention of economic and financial crisis” is a critical issue for developing countries in reinforcing their fiscal and financial structure. Many people in ASEAN countries lost their assets and jobs due to the 1997 financial crisis in Asia, which resulted in enormous economic losses. The vulnerability of ASEAN countries’ financial systems was one cause for that financial crisis. Moreover, the increased global financial crisis triggered last year by the sub-prime loan crisis.

Example
Governance and Administration
Cambodia
The Project on Improving Official Statistics

Statistics Are the Foundation for Nation Building—Supporting Countries’ Efforts for Implementing Self-Reliant Official Statistics
Statistical data is essential in determining the policies that support a nation’s foundation. Cambodia lagged behind in developing official statistics due to the long-running civil war. After a long pause, Cambodia resumed implementing official statistics in the 1990s with the support of the United Nations. In 1998, the first population census in 36 years was implemented, but it did not include every household.

After that, the government of Cambodia decided to implement a population census in 2008, and consequently, the first phase of the Project on Improving Official Statistics was launched in April 2006. The first phase focused on training to enhance the capacity of staff in the National Institute of Statistics in the field of official statistics. In April 2007, the second phase of the project was initiated to support the 2008 population census. The second phase will last until September 2010 providing Technical Assistance to facilitate the planning, tallying, analyzing, and advocating the importance of the use of the census to form and monitor national/local policies.

JICA assisted the population census that was conducted in March 2008. The census was Cambodia’s first to cover all households.

In order to cover the entire nation, a massive number of enumerators were mobilized for the census. Nearly 28,000 enumerators took part in the census to cover every household. Training of enumerators was conducted step-by-step starting from the national level working through to the local level based on administrative district levels. Difficulties arose in securing the cooperation of citizens in the census. In an effort to gain support, enumerators had to explain the purpose of the census by answering the question “What is a population census?” Enumerators also had to consider local conditions and pay careful attention to interviewees on how to ask questions while taking the census.

Census analysis results will be utilized as basic data for determining national policies. At the same time, it is valuable for the country to obtain reliable data through the census as a tool in monitoring Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The tallying of census figures is complete and we have now entered the results analysis phase. While analysis requires time and is a technically difficult area, it is tremendously important work. Each subject undergoes wide-ranging analysis and the results are expected to be used for determining policies pertaining to various policy domains including health, education and social welfare.
Recycling bank activities by a group of Sento housewives: small item recycling through waste proposals by enhancing its understanding and JICA began examining specific cooperation for capacity building of local authorities. Meanwhile, past support for economic policies and the financial sector was focused on providing know-how such as the introduction of Japanese fiscal and financial systems. However, from the end of the 1980s to the beginning of the 1990s, when former socialist countries shifted to market economies, the direction of JICA’s cooperation in these areas changed. “The support for the transition to a market economy” which included drastic reviews of the economic policies, systems and organization of former socialist countries, became one of the priority issues for Japan’s ODA.

In light of this, JICA has been providing development support in line with the following.

1. Reinforcement of Fiscal Systems

JICA strives to improve the administrative capacity of national taxes and customs which comprise a major portion of tax revenues of developing countries, as well as to enhance the capacity of fiscal and debt management. Specifically, JICA supports capacity development of finance ministries and other central governments and policy organizations to assist them in formulating economic policies properly collecting taxes based on relevant laws, as well as managing and using the budget. Moreover, JICA focuses on providing assistance to inspection agencies in order to improve the capacity for conducting internal and external audits. This is because if there is no capability for inspecting whether a country’s finances are being properly administered or not, economic development and projects for that country cannot be properly implemented.

Example

**Governance and Administration Thailand**

**Program on Capacity Building of Thai Local Authorities**

**The Results of JICA’s Cooperation Are Reflected in the Constitution in spite of Administration Changes**

Thailand continues its steady economic growth in the 21st century. However, there still remains a substantial gap between Bangkok and local areas, and calls for regional development have been strong. The government has prioritized a decentralization policy by establishing the 1997 Constitution and the Decentralization Act of 1999, which called for capacity building of local authorities.

JICA began examining specific cooperation proposals by enhancing its understanding and analyzing the issue of decentralization in Thailand. Between 2000 and 2002, Japanese and Thai scholars in the field of local administration implemented joint research on the following four issues: 1) reviewing the criteria for classifying local authorities; 2) interlocal cooperation; 3) merger and consolidation of local authorities; and 4) coordination among the development plans of local authorities, and recommendations as the result of the study were provided from the Thai side. The most vital issue among these four was the theme of promoting interlocal cooperation. There are approximately 8,000 local authorities in Thailand. Taking the problem of waste disposal as an example, since each local authority does not have enough capacity to manage its own dumpsites, attempts have been made to solve the problem through interlocal cooperation.

The Project on Local Management Cooperation Phase 1 and Phase 2 executed since 2003 has supported the implementation of interlocal cooperation programs and the transfer of results to guidelines of the Department of Local Administration (DLA). During Phase 1, training on interlocal cooperation in Nagano Prefecture became a major milestone for DLA’s policy development.

During Phase 2, there was a major change in political power and a new constitution established. It had a major impact that the university professors who had cooperated previously with JICA drafted interlocal cooperation in the constitution. More details on interlocal cooperation will be reflected in the Local Autonomy Code, which is to be enacted soon.

Along with institution building, the project supported organization building that enables effective management of interlocal cooperation at local areas, which built a mechanism of cooperation among local administrative officials.
2. Reinforcement of Financial Systems

The stabilization and efficient management of financial systems underpins the foundation for nations’ balanced and sound economic policies. JICA provides assistance to central banks, development banks and other finance corporations for small and medium-sized enterprises in improving the capacity of financial supervision, enhancing financial intermediary functions, developing capital markets, and improving the financial system for small and medium-sized enterprises, etc.

3. Development of a Macroeconomic Management Infrastructure

JICA provides support for the development of economic laws such as competition laws, the creation of macroeconomic models and the improvement of economic statistics including interindustry relations tables. JICA sends Japanese experts into the field, sponsors joint research and seminars and invites counterparts to Japan for training.

Since, in the fiscal and financial sector, other donors provide a lot of support for revenue management, debt management, internal audits, general budget support, donor harmonization and coordination with such financial assistance is inevitable. Meanwhile, JICA is expected to construct its own assistance framework to show its presence among other donors in spite of the limited human resources in these sectors. Providing multiple policy options for economic development while raising the profile of Japanese assistance is a future challenge in the fiscal and financial sector.

* General budget support: A method of assistance that directly releases funds into the general account of the recipient country based on a strategy agreed to by a developing country together with donor countries and organizations with the aim of achieving development results at the national level.

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Example

The Fiscal and Financial Sector
East Africa

The Project on Capacity Building for the Customs Administrations of the Eastern African Region

This Project Seeks to Promote the Intraregional Distribution of Products by Building a Customs Clearance System Suitable for the Conditions of East Africa

One Stop Border Post (OSBP) is one of the customs clearance management systems that have attracted attention in the drive to standardize and streamline the customs clearance process. OSBP promotes the distribution of goods by reducing the time it takes to cross borders. This is achieved by conducting import and export clearance simultaneously at one point instead of the method of conducting them twice that is normally required by both countries, thus reducing freight congestion at the borders. Although the OSBP system is already being introduced at land borders all over the world, the configuration of the system varies, even in countries with adjoining borders, because of the differences between each country’s economic, political and social conditions. This project is designed to contribute to improving the customs clearance capacities of the Revenue Authorities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda—members of the East African Community (EAC)—as well as promoting the transportation and distribution of commodities so that the OSBP system, which is tailored to the conditions of East Africa, functions properly.

East African countries give priority to national strategies aimed at continuous poverty reduction through macroeconomic stability and economic growth, and have hammered out policies that promote trade, diversification and stable supply of goods, strengthen domestic markets and promote distribution of goods. “Transport of more goods safely, faster and at lower cost” is an important issue for revitalizing international trade.

![Border facility between Kenya and Tanzania](image-url)
Gender Mainstreaming
—The Vulnerable Might Be Negatively Impacted by Development Assistance—
JICA’s Challenge to Gender Diversity—Beyond Focusing on Women

**Topic Overview**
The tsunami caused by the Indian Ocean earthquake in 2004 reportedly killed three times more women than men.

Women are generally in a socially, politically and economically disadvantaged position as compared to men. If various development projects are implemented without recognizing different needs of both men and women, they might benefit only men. In this way, numerous gender issues can always be identified in the whole process of development assistance. As a result, “gender mainstreaming” is much emphasized in international society.

**JICA’s Initiatives**
Building a Framework to Promote Gender Mainstreaming
For many years, JICA has considered the importance of gender issues and developed a basic strategy for implementing gender-responsive projects. JICA also established an organizational framework for gender mainstreaming to promote gender-equality efforts in its network.

Gender mainstreaming is a comprehensive approach to incorporate the perspective of gender equality in all development policies and practices including all the process of projects such as formulation, planning and decision-making. It is also an approach in which both men and women may become beneficiaries of development through their equal participation.

In April 2008, JICA established the Gender Equality Division, in the Gender Equality and Peace Building Group, Public Policy Department. The division has conducted projects for gender mainstreaming and gender equality, while it has accumulated and shared knowledge and lessons learned within the organization. On the other hand, the Planning Department has the role of coordinating JICA’s activities for mainstreaming gender in JICA. In this organizational framework, JICA is continuing efforts to promote gender mainstreaming.

**Initiatives to Promote Gender Mainstreaming**
Gender is unconsciously constructed by cultures, traditions and customs of a country. It also affects various policies, systems and organizations, while people are not even aware of its influences. Consequently, JICA works to improve the policy-making capacity of developing countries and develop an awareness of gender by assisting them in building various gender-responsive systems. Efforts are needed for the innovation of policies and systems that will contribute to gender equality.

One problem is that many of the existing statistics, data and various indices collected are not gender-disaggregated because of little recognition of gender issues. If the concept of gender is adopted with the insufficient understanding of the targeted local community, it could widen the gender gap and create a negative impact. It is critical to collect and comprehensively analyze basic data needed for a variety of programs and projects by gender, age, ethnicity and religious affiliation, and to develop human resources with the perspective.

Moreover, women’s empowerment requires changing the consciousness of men, decision makers and socially influential people such as administrative officials, educators, politicians and religious leaders. In other words, it is necessary to make efforts to reform the social structure and systems surrounding women.

**Approach to Disseminate the Concept of Gender**
In many cases, the benefits of development assistance were unable to reach the vulnerable and the marginalized groups such as women of low status.

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**Example**

**Fiscal and Monetary Systems**

**Tanzania**

**Internal Audit Capacity Building Project in Tanzania**

**Achieving Independent and Reliable Implementation of Internal Audit Practices**

Beginning in 1998, the government of Tanzania launched a reform movement through its Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, targeting the government’s management of public finances. Although efforts have largely been successful to date, Tanzania still faces a number of challenges, including how best to strengthen monitoring functions and appropriate adequate budgetary resources. Among these challenges, one other key issue that must be addressed encompasses efforts to improve the nation’s internal audit framework.

Accordingly, enhanced governance, government accountability and management capacity of public finances represents a core area of Japan’s aid strategy toward Tanzania. Japan recently resumed its ODA loan program in Tanzania in 2006, and because financial assistance provided to the country has largely been expanded, JICA’s policy has focused on contributing to this reform movement by strengthening policy dialogue in key areas including public finance management.

The primary aim of the Internal Audit Capacity Building Project is to assist with the correct implementation of internal audit practices in all Tanzania government ministries, departments and agencies (MDA), including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, and as a result, achieve self-directed policy initiatives through the proper MDA implementation of budgets, monitoring as well as necessary improvements found in internal audits. In order to achieve this goal, JICA is currently providing training programs to employees of the Accountant General’s Department within the Central Internal Audit Unit (CIAU) to enhance monitoring functions and internal audit practices and procedures. JICA specialists, CIAU, and local third-party training agencies have been responsible for the development of training program content and reference materials tailored to the current conditions and challenges facing the country. In utilizing local resources to the fullest to move the program forward, the ultimate objective is to have CIAU staff directly provide training to MDA employees. Once this three-year project has been completed, JICA is also looking to see the CIAU emerge as a provider of completely independent internal audit training programs.
The Gender Equality Division makes suggestions and advises on the gender perspective, which often tends to be overlooked, in all of the project process. For example, in a project constructing wells and taps, it is important to consider whether these are located in accessible places for women and whether women can go to wash themselves with privacy. In this way, JICA examines in advance whether the gender perspective is incorporated in all the projects of Technical Cooperation, ODA Loan and Grant Aid.

While the word “gender” tends to be misunderstood as a women-oriented perspective, there is a question of whether the vulnerable are exclusively women. Men could be socially oppressed if they are in a low caste, an ethnic minority or have disabilities. While 80% of human trafficking victims are women, many children are not even aware of themselves as victims. There are diversified people who are in need of support.

Through the projects such as the Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Project in Nepal (see page 94) and the Project on Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand (see the example below), JICA tackles the challenge to promote gender mainstreaming that goes beyond the stereotyped concept of gender.

Example

Gender Equality
Afghanistan
Project on Poverty Reduction for Chronically Poor Women (CPW)

Working to Promote Gender Mainstreaming While Attempting to Understand the Social and Cultural Context

In Afghanistan, after 23 years of conflict, and then under the Taliban regime, women have been forced into living lives that are heavily restricted politically and socially. Having also been deprived of learning and work opportunities, women’s entry into the labor force has not progressed. To recover women’s rights and raise their status, the Afghanistan Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) was established based on the Bonn Agreement of December 2001. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) is advancing the goal of achieving gender equality. Within this goal is the urgent task of MoWA to attain by 2010 the target of a 20% reduction of people living in extreme poverty in households headed by women through higher employment.

From fiscal 2003, JICA dispatched experts to MoWA and assisted in strengthening MoWA’s organizational capacity through the implementation of pilot projects in the “Project on Enhancing Women’s Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan,” a Technical Cooperation project that began in fiscal 2005. In 2009, this new project began aiming to strengthen MoWA’s organizational capacity to improve the economic situation of chronically poor women (CPW) by cooperating with other ministries’ activities for CPW. In this project, MoWA provides information on the situation of CPW as well as advice and training to other ministries/agencies. MoWA is enhancing its own capacity by means of such cooperation.

Social participation by women is more difficult in some regions than in others. Accordingly, JICA implements its activities with a deep understanding of the social and cultural background in those particular regions. Through the implementation of this project we hope to contribute to poverty reduction among women and that women will understand their potential and gain dignity as human beings and social recognition.

Women of Afghanistan selling goods on the street
Peacebuilding
—Even When a Conflict Ends, Most Countries Return to a State of Conflict!—
In JICA's View, Support for Peacebuilding Should at the Same Time Support Efforts to Prevent the Recurrence of Conflict

Topic Overview
Virtually all conflict in the world today is civil war, and though most of these civil wars take place in developing countries, they break out in the poorest countries and regions. Moreover, the number of civilians who become victims is increasing while the clear dividing line between combatant and civilian is fading. Not only are ordinary citizens and children victims, but in an increasing number of cases, perpetrators are becoming party to the conflict.

In order to prevent and resolve conflicts and consolidate peace in these situations, there are limits to dealing through only political means such as preventive diplomacy, arms control, and mediation. To resolve the gap between the rich and poor, unequal opportunity and other such factors that cause conflict, the role played by development aid in support of peacebuilding is emphasized.

JICA's Initiatives
Peacebuilding Support in Four Areas
In 2003, peacebuilding was identified as a priority issue in Japan’s ODA Charter announced by the Japanese government, and in response to this, in the medium-term policy on ODA instituted in 2005. In line with these policies, and in putting particular importance on the following four points, JICA conducts peacebuilding assistance, focusing mainly on development assistance following peace accords.

1) Support for the reconstruction of social capital
2) Support for the restoration of economic activities
3) Support for the recovery of the governing function of the government
4) Support for contributions to increased public security.

In addition, as a cross-sectoral perspective, consideration is given to 1) promoting reconciliation and coexistence, and 2) the socially vulnerable.

Furthermore, in implementing the above-mentioned assistance, we keep in mind the following seven points especially, in order to reflect the perspective of human security.

Example

Gender Equality
Thailand
Project on the Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for the Protection of Trafficked Persons

Protecting Victims of Human Trafficking
In Thailand, cases of human trafficking have multiplied since the 1980s due to rapid economic development. Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking. As a country of origin, Thai victims are trafficked to Japan, the United States, Europe and other affluent countries. Moreover, Thailand is a destination for victims who are trafficked from the Mekong region such as Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia, while some are trafficked through Thailand to third countries. As a result, measures to combat trafficking in persons need to be carried out comprehensively to target policy and legal development, international network, prevention of trafficking, protection of trafficked persons (including return and reintegration), and prosecution of traffickers. The project focuses on the aspect of “protection and reintegration of trafficked persons” and is aimed at strengthening functions of the Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), which consist of various responsible agencies and experts, coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development Human Security of the Royal Thai Government.
Example

Gender Equality
Nepal
Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion (GM/SI) Project

Disseminating the Concept of Gender and Delivering the Voices of the Socially Vulnerable to the Government

Nepal is a multilingual and multiethnic nation with a diverse geography, almost 60 ethnic groups, different castes, and a variety of cultures and customs, where opportunities for education, employment and social participation for women and low-caste individuals remain limited.

The November 2006 peace agreement ended the domestic conflict, the provisional three-year national development plan was initiated. Taking a lesson from the past history, the plan emphasizes Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion (GM/SI). In the process of building a new nation, the participation of people in socially vulnerable positions such as women, people of low caste, and ethnic minorities is encouraged. Ensuring a budget that takes into account support for the socially vulnerable at the central and regional level, and constructing a system for implementing administrative services so that these people can receive proper administrative services, are major challenges. However, the results have been recognized as insufficient and the Government of Nepal has requested from the Government of Japan a Technical Cooperation project aimed at enhancing administrative capacity.

JICA reached an agreement with the Government of Nepal to implement policies and measures from the standpoint of GM/SI in the central government and in two districts (Syanja and Morang) based on a detailed planning survey conducted in September 2008. In February 2009, the first year of this project, a team of experts was dispatched and a detailed exchange of opinions about the project activity plan was conducted with the Government of Nepal.

JICA believes that the concept of gender extends beyond just men and women. This project starts from the belief that we must understand the circumstances of Nepal, support socially vulnerable people and reflect their voice in administrative services.

Various Efforts to Prevent Conflict Recurrence

Even if conflicts end, more than 40% of post-conflict countries face the risk of relapsing into conflict within 10 years after a peace accord. It is important to support countries in which conflicts have ended and countries with factors leading to conflict so that these countries can avoid conflict by themselves and work toward sustainable development over the long term. Therefore, JICA implements a Peacebuilding Needs and Impact Assessment (PNA) as an approach and process in its support, and works to give full consideration to avoiding fostering conflict and preventing the generation and recurrence of conflict.

Moreover, JICA has worked to accumulate experience and lessons learned from its support for peacebuilding. The information accumulated is then fed back to relevant divisions and overseas offices where it helps to raise the expertise of staff and concerned persons and their ability to respond.

What is important, together with the sharing of experience and lessons learned, is the development of human resources. In addition to conducting training six times in fiscal 2008 for experts prior to their dispatch, JICA implemented Capacity Enhancement Training on the theme of peacebuilding in July 2008 and January 2009 for consultants and NGO staff, which focused on the view of conflict prevention. At the same time, by participating as a panelist in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), DAC, international conferences, and peacebuilding forum seminars, JICA actively exchanges and disseminates information.

Participatory workshop held as a part of project activities
Poverty Reduction —People Can Get Out of Poverty If Given the Chance—
JICA Supports the Strengthening of the Five Human Capabilities and Conducive Environments

Topic Overview
Today, the population living in absolute poverty on less than US$1.25 a day in all developing countries has declined from 41.7% in 1990 to 25.7% in 2005. However, the difference in improvement between regions is substantial, with 50.9% of the people in Sub-Saharan Africa still suffering extreme poverty. Even in Asia, where poverty reduction has been progressing in a relatively smooth fashion, the recent impact of food and financial crises has been considerable and the increase in population falling into poverty is a concern.

Problems such as disease, unemployment, low education and social discrimination influence each other. Once you fall into a trap, another unfavorable situation arises, and the rapid deterioration of life ensures, which makes it more difficult to escape from poverty.

JICA’s Initiatives
Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction
Reducing poverty through equitable growth is one of JICA’s four missions. The 1) strengthening of the five essential capabilities that poor people have, namely, economic, human, political, socio-cultural, and protective capabilities, and 2) the creation of conducive environments where these capabilities can be demonstrated have been made pillars of cooperation for reducing poverty. At JICA, the Peacebuilding and Poverty Reduction Division of the Public Policy Department is a secretariat and the Poverty Reduction Task Force has been established, comprising internal resource persons, in order to promote the mainstreaming of poverty reduction in JICA’s cooperation. In addition, a variety of research and seminars are sponsored for staff and concerned parties to deepen their understanding of poverty reduction.

Poverty Measures and Consideration
In JICA’s cooperation for poverty reduction, there are two types of assistance depending on who are the beneficiaries of the project: 1) “poverty measures” that directly help poor people to maintain a sustainable livelihood; and 2) “poverty consideration, which maximizes their advantages by putting additional inputs and considerations through project implementation, although poor people are not always the primary target. JICA addresses both types of assistance.

For instance, with regard to Technical Cooperation, in the Project for the Eradication of Opium Poppy Cultivation and Poverty Reduction in Kokang Special Region in Myanmar, which forms a part of measures implemented against drugs, JICA supports the Kokang Tribe, an ethnic minority that has historically relied on poppies as their limited income source, to maintain their sustainable livelihoods by switching to the cultivation of alternative crops. Moreover, in the Project for Capacity Strengthening of LBT (Labour-Based Technology) Training in Tanzania, local government workers and community leaders study applied technology as it relates to road maintenance that a wide range of people in the community including poor people are able to participate in. Consideration is given to poverty with the aim of building and maintaining rural roads in a participatory manner to meet those people’s needs.