

Training and Dialogue Programs in Japan

Keystone for the Intellectual Platform



Technical training participants learning waste disposal (JICA Kyushu)

Working to Accumulate and Circulate Knowledge and Experience

Working closely with its overseas offices, Regional Departments and Issues Departments* engaged in the implementation of projects in developing countries, the Department of Training Affairs and Citizen Participation and JICA's domestic offices manage and operate training and dialogue programs, citizen participatory cooperation programs, long-term programs for degrees, donation programs, collaboration with universities, and other ODA activities based in Japan to support developing countries in resolving their development issues.

As shown below in the diagram, JICA's domestic offices work toward the realization of effective and efficient projects by utilizing local resources where knowledge and experience have developed and accumulated through

cooperation activities in ODA projects in developing countries. Through this collaboration process with local resources, each domestic office has specialized in sector specific training and dialogue programs in response to development sector issues in developing countries.

Domestic offices can be thought of as platforms for knowledge accumulation as well as intellectual foundations. The on-site experience and know-how accumulated by JICA's experts, volunteers, study team members, and other human resources assigned to activities in developing countries are all fed back to domestic programs. This experience and know-how are then combined with the activities of major cooperation organizations and groups in the vicinity of JICA's domestic offices and later utilized again in development projects in developing countries.

Training and Dialogue programs in Japan play a key function in the circulation of knowledge and experience accumulated in developing countries and at local resources around JICA's domestic offices to on-site projects in developing countries.

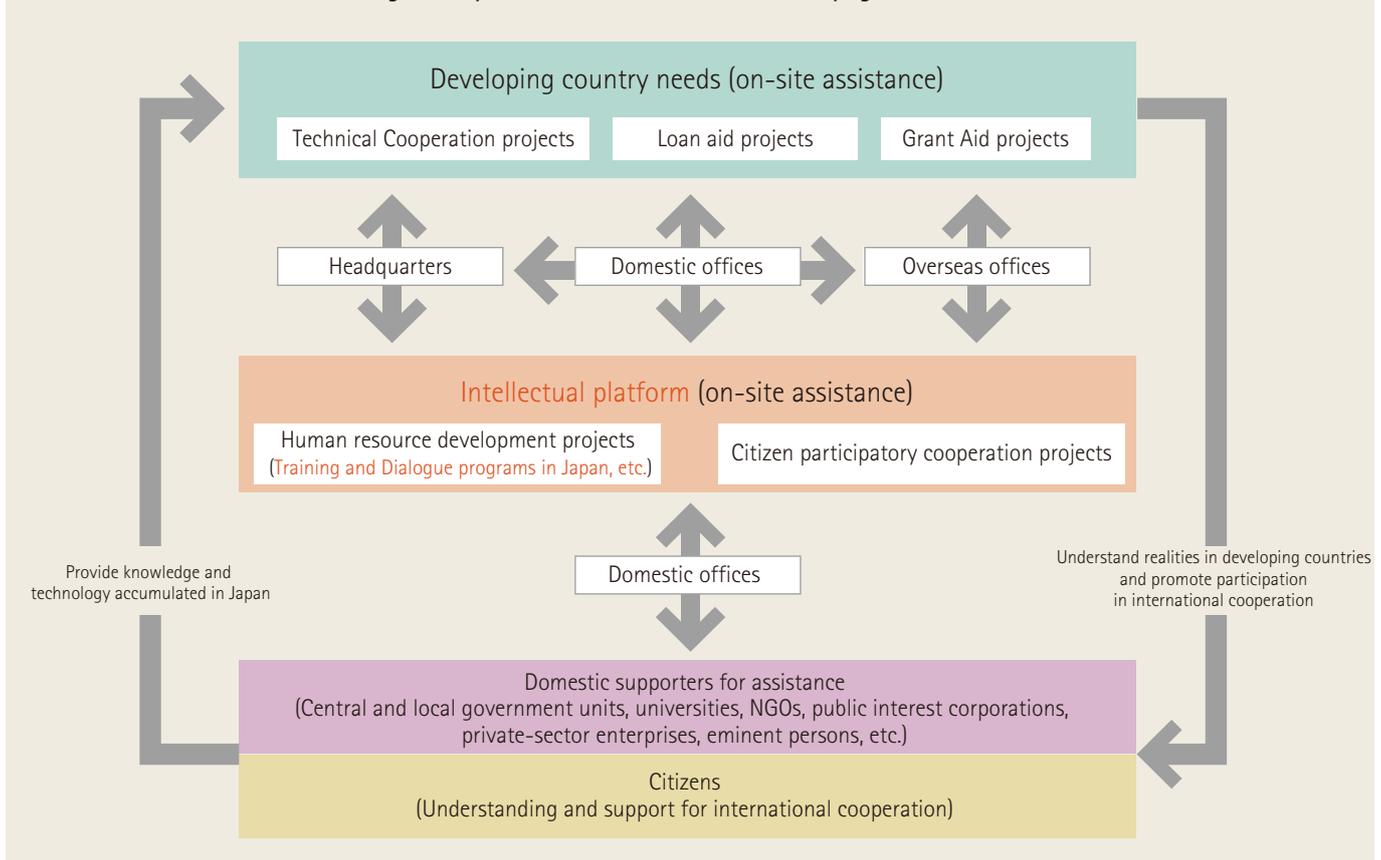
* JICA's organization consists of six Issues Departments: the Economic Infrastructure, Human Development, Industrial and Rural Development, Public Policy and Global Environment departments.

Unique Global Training Programs

Technical Cooperation methods can be divided into the dispatch of personnel from Japan to developing countries for on-site cooperation on the one hand, and inviting people from developing countries to Japan on the other. These are generally referred to as "Training and Dialogue programs."

Knowledge and experience accumulated in Japanese society often means

Accumulation and Circulation of Knowledge and Experience to Provide Assistance to Developing Countries



coming to an understanding through direct experience of things in Japan. This includes organizational know-how and knowledge of underlying social systems. Moreover, a particular characteristic of Training and Dialogue programs is to provide opportunities to participants from developing countries to come into contact with a different culture in order to reassess perspectives based on home-country experiences and realities from the vantage point of a foreign country and to engage in multifaceted analyses of development issues in home countries. Training and Dialogue programs are an important Technical Cooperation channel for utilizing this Japan-generated knowledge to

promote human resource development and to struggle with development issues in developing countries.

JICA has 11 International Centers with training and accommodation facilities across Japan, from Hokkaido to Okinawa. It accepts around 10,000 technical training and dialogue participants every year (10,041 people in total in 2008). While the majority of these participants are affiliated with governments or public organizations, recent years have seen an increase in NGO-affiliated participants. In Japan, Training and Dialogue programs have been secured in virtually every sector within government offices, local government authorities, universities, private-sector enterprises,

public interest corporations, NGOs and other organizations with more than 1,400 programs in 2008. With diversification on such a scale, JICA's Training and Dialogue programs in Japan remain unique and constitute one of the outstanding characteristics of Japan's international cooperation.

As expressed in the descriptive phrase "*wakon-yosai*" ("Japanese spirit, Western skill"), Japan has a wealth of experience in adapting knowledge and technology obtained from abroad and harmonizing it with existing domestic resources. This national experience is unique in the international sphere, and there is much that developing countries will find useful in the process of building nation-states in response to globalization. JICA policy is to place more emphasis on communicating these Japanese peculiarities in Training and Dialogue programs in Japan.

To date, over 200,000 people have participated in Training and Dialogue programs in Japan. These people came to know numerous Japanese people while staying in Japan and returned home with a deeper understanding and familiarity with Japan and a feel for the culture. JICA provides support to the JICA Alumni Association, a group formed by ex-participants themselves in all countries of origin, to foster greater numbers of people with an understanding of Japan in developing countries.



Training participants learn welding techniques. This course helps participants gain internationally recognized welder qualifications (JICA Chubu).



Training participants observe a new type of newborn infant bed designed to simulate the mother's womb (JICA Osaka).