

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce *JICA Annual Report 2010*. It illustrates the details of our overall activities and achievements during the period from April 2009 to March 2010.

Two years have now passed since the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) merged with the economic cooperation arm of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in October 2008. The organizational restructuring culminating from the merger was virtually completed. “New JICA” now provides various types of assistance, including Technical Cooperation, concessionary loans (ODA Loans) and Grant Aid, in a flexible manner tailored to local needs.

In Africa, for instance, JICA is supporting transnational trunk road networks with One Stop Border Posts (a scheme for enabling departure, entry and customs-clearance procedures to be completed at single locations) at the borders of principal countries. JICA combines ODA Loans and Grant Aid for the construction of road networks and border facilities, with Technical Cooperation for training immigration and customs officials. Enhanced logistics efficiency will contribute to economic development of African nations.

Another example of New JICA’s efforts coming to fruition is Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) opened in Alexandria, Egypt, in June 2010. Twelve Japanese universities are collaborating with JICA in dispatching faculty members, providing lectures and research guidance and assisting with curriculum preparation. With the opening of E-JUST, JICA is now providing Japanese science and technology education in Africa and the Middle East under the “Team Japan” structure based on its abundant experience in promoting higher education in Asia.

Looking at Asia and other regions, countries such as Korea, China and Brazil have been raising their presence in the international community as emerging donors. However, income disparities and poverty remain serious issues in these regions. It will be essential to verify the results of JICA’s past assistance in terms of promoting growth and equity in order to build new partnerships with these countries under the globalized economy.

Development assistance is an indispensable tool for Japan to co-exist and prosper with the rest of the world. The Japanese government has announced in 2009 that it would “provide a total of US\$5 billion in assistance to Afghanistan over a five-year period.” Also, the government clearly has indicated its intention to pursue Japan’s pledge to “double assistance to Africa,” as announced at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May 2008. JICA will continue to have important roles and responsibilities in fulfilling these commitments.

I trust this Annual Report and our website (<http://www.jica.go.jp/english>) will increase your understanding of JICA and its activities and look forward to your support and encouragement.

2010



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