

# Follow-up Cooperation

## Follow-up Cooperation Adds Value to Projects

### Post-Project Support

Cooperation projects conducted by JICA are completed after a predetermined period of time. JICA carries out ongoing monitoring after a project has ended to assess the partner country's self-help efforts in maintaining and enhancing the results of the project. JICA also provides indirect support and supplementary support when necessary. Such support is referred to as "Follow-up Cooperation," which may be broadly divided into two categories.

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

This type of cooperation involves working with the partner country to solve problems that may have arisen with facilities constructed by or equipment provided through Japan's cooperation projects. Such problems can occur owing to a variety of factors, including damage caused by natural disasters, shortage of financial resources in the partner country due to a worsening economic situation, or problems with the use and maintenance of the facilities or equipment.

Through Grant Aid to the Palestinian Authority, JICA has provided medical equipment to the Gaza Strip in fiscal 1995 and fire engines to the West Bank in fiscal 1999 and contributed to the improvement of medical services and fire-fighting activities.

In the Gaza Strip, however, the blockade has hindered the inflow of supplies and prevented the smooth refurbishment of medical equipment. Meeting the needs of the increasing number of patients was therefore a pressing challenge. With that, JICA, in partnership with the Palestinian Authority and the World Health Organization, extended Follow-up Cooperation to replace some of the aging equipment for protecting the health and lives of the people of the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, too, with fire engines deployed more frequently with urbanization and population growth, the aging of the vehicles and equipment had gradually compromised the fire-fighting activities. The financial situation was dire owing to the long ongoing conflict, and the Palestinian Authority lacked sufficient resources for repairing the fire engines. In response,



A test being conducted using a replaced X-ray equipment at a medical center in the Gaza Strip.

through Follow-up Cooperation, JICA dispatched engineers from the fire engine manufacturer, and repaired and improved 11 fire engines in total. By providing refresher trainings in maintenance and inspection, JICA also contributed to the enhancement of fire-fighting activities in the West Bank again.

#### 2. Follow-up Cooperation to Expand Project Benefits

Another type of Follow-up Cooperation is the provision of additional support to the partner country to add new value to a completed project or training program in line with the project goal, thereby promoting and expanding the benefits that will accrue from a project.

As part of the cooperation to support Mongolia's transition to a market economy, JICA implemented the Establishment of Tax Education System Project from 2006 to 2008. This project provided support such as technical training to carry out fair and equitable taxation services, the establishment of a human resources development system related to taxation, and support for improving taxpayer services. Following the project's completion, from 2009, a working group for promoting tax education was formed on the initiative of the Mongolian government and the Future Taxpayer Program was established.

In order to support this program, JICA implemented Follow-up Cooperation in 2010. JICA dispatched trainers from Japan to offer advice, and supported the establishment of teaching materials and programs for tax education suitable for the current circumstances of Mongolia and conducted a pilot course. As a result, tax education was incorporated into the social science courses of junior high and high school students across the country beginning from the new term in September 2010. In addition, the Mongolian government has created educational materials, such as "What Are Taxes?" aimed at elementary school students, "The Essence of Taxes" for junior high school students, and "Tax and Taxation System" for high school students. Using these materials, the Government also created 12 TV programs for an educational series titled "Future Taxpayers" and broadcast them on national television. By providing children with accurate information about taxes, these programs are expected to promote proper tax payments in the future and contribute to the strengthening of the financial infrastructure.

At JICA Tsukuba, the training course "Development Farm Machinery for Small-Scale Farmers" is offered every year. The course accepts trainees from farm machinery and farmers' organizations from various countries, and provides basic knowledge and training in practical techniques necessary for farm machinery manufacturing. In 2008, an engineer from the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources participated in the training, who, upon returning to his country, made use of the know-how acquired during the training for manufacturing threshing machinery using locally available materials. This earned him high praise from agricultural stakeholders.



Engineers testing the fanning mill (Rwanda)



Course materials for students and manuals for teachers created for tax education (Mongolia)



Seminar on earthquake resistance (left side are participants from the Dominican Republic and Haiti and on the right is the instructor from El Salvador)

This engineer also attempted to manufacture a fanning mill used in Japan, too, in the past. However, he felt he lacked the technical know-how and harbored concerns, and therefore, consulted JICA. In response, JICA implemented Follow-up Cooperation and dispatched two Japanese instructors who provided the training at JICA Tsukuba to Rwanda for three weeks. Training on fanning mill production was offered to 20 engineers and workers.

In Rwanda, over 90% of the agricultural work is done by hand. Livestock and agricultural machinery are rarely used. Many farmers utilize simple tools such as spades and hooks, and more efficient machinery are sought for reducing the agricultural work and improving productivity. JICA's Follow-up Cooperation which contributes to resolving this critical issue has gained the attention of and earned praise from Rwandan stakeholders.

### Support for Alumni Associations of Former Training Program Participants

Follow-up Cooperation also includes support for alumni associations for ex-participants in JICA's Training and Dialogue programs in Japan. Since the program's establishment, JICA has hosted in Japan more than 270,000 training program participants from developing countries. These former program participants will play a key role in the future development of their respective countries while also representing "important human assets" that serve as bridges connecting Japan with many countries around the world. To maintain and develop friendships with these former participants, who have gained a positive understanding of Japan, as well as to support the ongoing enhancement of the skills and knowledge they acquired in Japan, JICA supports the formation and maintenance of alumni associations of ex-participants in their home countries. As of 2010, there were 125 such alumni associations around the world.

At many of these alumni associations, participants returning

from training program in Japan give lectures at study sessions and share their knowledge of JICA activities in their country and the results of their own training through the alumni association's website, newsletter or annual meeting.

JICA collaborates with these alumni associations, which it recognizes as valuable human assets, to further enhance the effectiveness of its cooperation projects.

For example, with the cooperation of the JICA Alumni Associations of both the Dominican Republic and El Salvador, a seminar on earthquake-resistant construction was held in the Dominican Republic in March 2011. This seminar was intended to introduce the outcomes of JICA's Technical Cooperation on earthquake-resistant construction in El Salvador to the Dominican Republic and neighboring countries. University professors participating in this project were invited as instructors.

In coordination and cooperation with the alumni associations of both countries, two seminars were held in the capital city of Santo Domingo and another city in the Dominican Republic. The participants included not only domestic stakeholders, but also many government officials and university personnel from the neighboring country of Haiti. A heated Q&A session took place on earthquake-resistant construction methods and cost effectiveness with the over 240 participants.

In recent memory, collapsed buildings, etc. killed over 300,000 people in the Haiti earthquake in 2010 and once again the importance of earthquake-resistant engineering was noticed. In coordination and cooperation with alumni associations, Japan's know-how on earthquake resistance is being spread across the region.

Follow-up Cooperation helps to extend and enhance the results of past cooperation projects over longer time periods, thereby increasing the effectiveness and quality of Japan's international cooperation efforts.