

Training and Dialogue Programs in Japan

Cornerstone of an Intellectual Platform

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, JICA's Department of Training Affairs and Citizen Participation and domestic offices manage and operate training and dialogue programs in Japan, citizen participatory cooperation programs, scholarship programs, collaboration with universities, and donation programs to support developing countries in resolving their development issues.

As shown below in the diagram, each domestic office is accumulating knowledge for addressing development issues, based on JICA's strengths in each geographic region and its partnerships with the implementing agencies of assistance in each sector and training programs cultivated through JICA's projects to date. The domestic offices work toward the realization of effective and high quality cooperation for responding to the various needs of developing countries.

The field for cooperation activities in Japan can be thought of as platforms for knowledge accumulation and intellectual creation for the resolution of development issues. The field experience acquired in developing countries and the variety of know-how for raising cooperation effectiveness accumulated by JICA's experts, volunteers and study team members who engage in cooperation activities overseas are all harnessed in domestic cooperation programs through this platform. This experience and know-how are also integrated with the activities of cooperation organizations and groups in each region and drawn upon for the further development of developing countries.

Training and Dialogue programs in Japan effectively and organically link cooperation project sites in developing countries with partners in Japan, and play a key function in circulating knowledge and experience accumulated in the field overseas and in Japan.

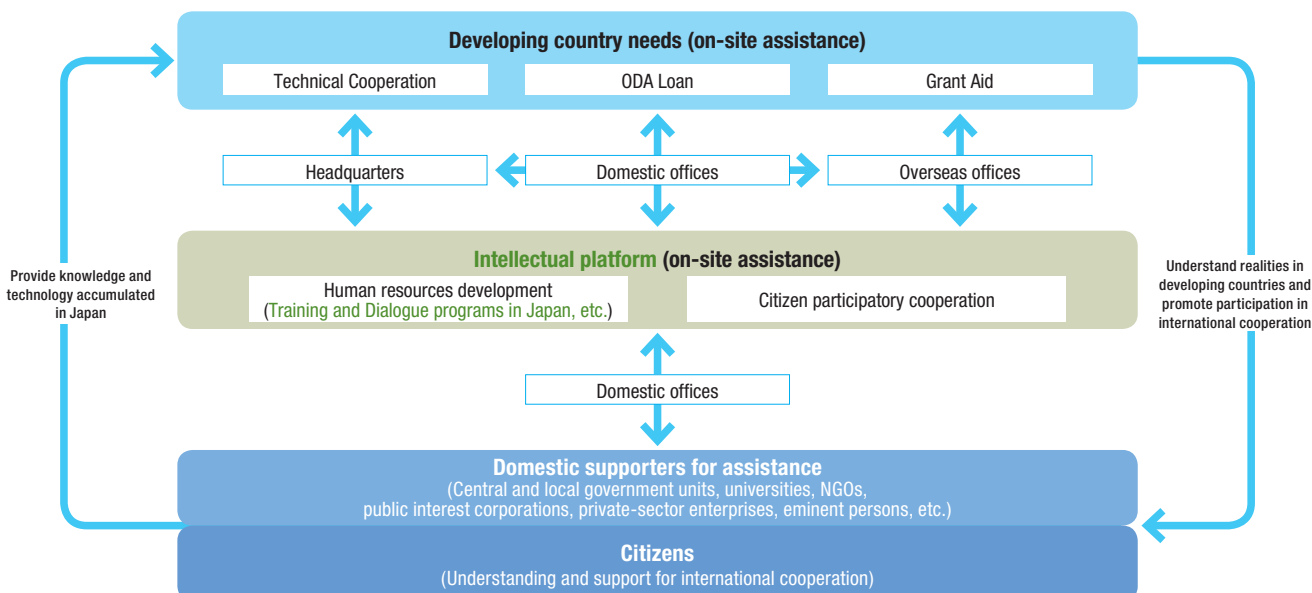
Globally Unique Training Programs

The implementation methods for Technical Cooperation can be broadly divided into: Overseas cooperation through the dispatch of experts in the respective sectors and volunteers from Japan to developing countries; and Domestic cooperation through the invitation of stakeholders from developing countries to Japan. "Training and Dialogue programs" refers to the Technical Cooperation training schemes implemented in Japan.

Implementing technical training in Japan is significant, less for transmitting Japan's know-how and advanced technologies in each sector, than for taking stock of Japan's experience for the development of developing countries. To this end, gaining an understanding of the "knowledge" accumulated by Japan is important. This often requires direct experience with Japan's organizational know-how and the backgrounds and transitions underlying its social systems. Moreover, a particular characteristic of Training and Dialogue programs is to provide opportunities for trainees from developing countries to come into contact with Japan's different culture and to reexamine the experiences and actual circumstances in their own countries from outside their countries. Hence, trainees are able to examine problems in their

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

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





At JICA Okinawa, training is implemented on the theme of tourism development for the Central America and Caribbean region and Oceania where the climate is similar to Okinawa's, as well as the tropical and sub-tropical regions (Group Training "Planning and Management of Eco-tourism in Tropical and Subtropical Area").

respective countries from a different perspective.

Training and Dialogue program is one example of the technical training programs in Japan, in which group training is provided to trainees from a variety of developing countries. In this program, trainees examine the issues not only from the perspectives of Japan and their respective countries, but from a more multifaceted viewpoint through the exchanges of views with other trainees. The program thus offers valuable insight and discoveries to the participants.

Training and Dialogue programs are an essential tool of Technical Cooperation for utilizing Japan's unique "knowledge" to promote human resources development and solve development issues in developing countries.

JICA accepts around 10,000 training participants every year, primarily at three branches and its 11 International Centers at locations across Japan. Although the majority of these participants are affiliated with governments of developing countries, recent years have seen an increase in NGO-affiliated participants, reflecting the developing countries' diversifying needs and expansion of Japan's cooperation programs. When implementing the programs, training is undertaken in almost all fields for resolving the issues in developing countries in cooperation with a broad range of sectors in Japan, in partnership with the national government, local governments, universities, private sector enterprises, public interest organizations, NGOs and other organizations. JICA's Training and Dialogue programs in Japan are extremely unique globally in terms of scale and the diversity of activities and represent a major and outstanding characteristic of Japan's international cooperation.

As expressed in the phrase "*wakon-yosai*" ("Japanese spirit, Western skill"), Japan has experience in skillfully absorbing and adapting new knowledge and outstanding technology obtained from abroad for developing the country in harmony with the domestic situation. There is much that developing countries too will find beneficial from this experience in the process of nation building in response to globalization. Drawing on these elements



JICA Chubu implements numerous training programs for Asia and Africa, Central and South America and the Middle East, including the Group Training "Japanese MONOZUKURI and Manufacturing in Developing Countries" course.

as well as consistently improving and reviewing the programs to ensure that they are effective and efficient for developing countries, JICA's policy will be to continue to further fortify its abilities for communicating these Japanese strengths in Training and Dialogue programs in Japan.

To date, over 270,000 people have participated in Training and Dialogue programs in Japan. These trainees have acquired much know-how and skills through the training and met numerous Japanese people while staying in Japan, and return home with a deeper understanding and familiarity with Japan acquired from learning about Japanese culture. JICA provides support to the JICA Alumni Association and other groups formed voluntarily by training participants in their respective countries. By expanding the human network, JICA strives to further consolidate the know-how that trainees acquired in Japan and promote an understanding of Japan in developing countries [→ Refer to page 132, Follow-up Cooperation].