

JICA-Net — A New Form of International Cooperation That Transcends the Restrictions of Time and Distance

JICA-Net is a distance Technical Cooperation modality promoted by JICA. JICA-Net uses a wide range of information and communication technologies, including those for providing distance lectures and seminars, creating multimedia-based learning materials, and delivering learning materials via our website to transcend time and distance restrictions and thereby improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of JICA projects.

JICA-Net was launched in response to the Japanese government initiative announced at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000. Since then the benefits provided by JICA-Net have come to be widely recognized along with the growth in the storage of content, including multimedia teaching materials and distance lectures and seminars, and an expansion in overseas videoconference network bases.

In fiscal 2010, statistics show videoconferencing was utilized approximately 5,800 times, with around 9,400 connection hours and over 69,000 participants in distance seminars and videoconferences. At present, videoconference systems have been installed at 19 organizations in Japan, including JICA's headquarters, and in 72 offices in 69 overseas countries. This system can also be mutually used through the networks of external organizations, such as with the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN).

JICA-Net endeavors to disseminate remote technical cooperation through the following methods.

Distance Lectures and Seminars

As a means of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of activities, JICA has held distance lectures and seminars via a videoconference system in such situations when it's difficult to dispatch Japanese experts or when JICA needed to open a regional workshop for multiple countries connecting simultaneously.

In the Japan Center Project, for instance, distance training was launched in accordance with the November 2011 Mekong-Japan

Summit Meeting with the objective of training human resources in the Mekong region. As a part of this training, distance lectures are being held on themes tailored to the needs of each country, such as business skills and investment promotion, by connecting Japan and the Japan Centers in Viet Nam (Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi), Laos, and Cambodia. These lectures were held four times during fiscal 2010 with the participation of approximately 600 business professionals and university-related personnel (see Chart 1).

Creating Multimedia Teaching Materials

Multimedia-based learning materials incorporate a variety of media, including video, photographs and text that are recorded on CD-ROMs or DVD. These materials are created to digitize knowledge related to JICA projects and to share this JICA knowledge and experience with persons in developing countries and people engaged in JICA activities. The materials are used mainly as learning materials for Technical Cooperation.

To date, approximately 250 types of multimedia teaching materials have been developed. One of these materials, developed in fiscal 2010, "REACHING OUT TO THE UNREACHED—ANM's role in improving Maternal Health services," uses actual footage recorded in India in the project site to illustrate how Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and other health workers have developed their capacity to provide the rural community with quality Maternal Health services.

Sharing Digital Content Via JICA Website

JICA stores digital content, including syllabuses and materials for distance lectures and seminars, as well multimedia-based learning materials, on the JICA-Net website. This web environment allows counterparts or partners of JICA activities throughout the world to share and reuse this content. The website also introduces practices in distance Technical Cooperation and on the usage of JICA-Net to promote further use of it.

(JICA-Net URL: <http://jica-net.jica.go.jp/en2/index.html>)

Chart 1

