

Technical Cooperation

Using Multi-tiered Assistance to Aim for Capacity Development of Developing Countries

Responding to Diverse Needs

Technical Cooperation is people-to-people cooperation that supports developing countries in enhancing their comprehensive capacities to address development challenges by their own efforts. The needs of developing countries are becoming increasingly diverse. In addition to the development of agriculture, transport infrastructures, industries, healthcare services and education, in recent years, these needs have extended to support for developing legal systems, transitioning to a market economy, peacebuilding, reconstruction assistance, and formulating environmental and climate change measures. Formulating customized cooperation plans with developing countries enables JICA to provide multi-tiered assistance for human resources development, organizational strengthening, policy formulation, and institutional development in developing countries by utilizing the knowledge, experience and technologies of both Japan and Developing countries.

Effectively Combining a Variety of Cooperation Tools

1. Dispatch of Experts

Japanese experts are dispatched to developing countries to disseminate necessary technologies and knowledge to partner country government officials and engineers (counterparts). At the same time, they cooperate with these counterparts in developing and spreading technologies and institutions suited to the conditions in those countries as well as conducting awareness-raising activities. In consideration of a partner country's regional, cultural and other characteristics, when appropriate, JICA dispatches experts from third countries (countries other than Japan or the partner country) in order to deliver services more efficiently.

2. Acceptance of Training Participants

JICA invites competent personnel in developing countries, who are responsible for social and economic development, to Japan as training participants. They participate in training programs in Japan [See page 122] to acquire the knowledge and technologies needed in their countries. JICA also organizes training programs in other countries.

3. Provision of Equipment

Equipment needed by experts for implementing effective cooperation is provided to partner countries.

4. Technical Cooperation Projects

Technical Cooperation projects, which use the optimal combination of the "Dispatch of Experts," "Acceptance of Training Participants" and/or "Provision of Equipment," are the core operation of JICA's Technical Cooperation. Even more reliable project outcomes can be obtained by working with associated organizations in the partner developing country for systematic and comprehensive project operation and implementation from planning to implementation and evaluation.

Implementation Process

1) Project Identification and Formulation

JICA identifies and formulates projects through discussions with the government of the partner country, preparatory surveys and other activities.

2) Request and Approval

Based on a request from the partner country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan decides whether or not to approve the project. JICA and associated ministries and agencies participate in this discussion. The approved project is reported by the Japanese government to the partner country and an international agreement is signed for implementation of the project.

3) Plan examination/Ex-Ante Evaluation

In order to clarify details and expected outcomes of the project and comprehensively examine the appropriateness of implementation, ex-ante evaluation is conducted based on five evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

4) Project Implementation/Terminal Evaluation

JICA and the government organization of the partner country sign a Record of Discussions (R/D) regarding project implementation, details of activities and necessary measures.

As the project is implemented, the project's activities and implementation process are monitored periodically and the initial plan is revised as necessary. Before the project is completed, JICA and the partner country jointly conduct an evaluation (terminal evaluation) to determine progress made toward reaching the project's targets. In addition to a decision whether the project will be ended or not, this process produces lessons and suggestions that can be shared with the partner country and used in future projects.

5) Ex-Post Evaluation

Ex-post evaluations are conducted several years after project completion to check the sustainability and impact of projects. Evaluation results are used as lessons learned for formulating and implementing similar projects.

5. Technical Cooperation for Development Planning

While supporting developing countries' policymaking and public works plans, JICA transfers technologies, including survey/analysis methods and planning methods to counterparts in the partner country.

Following the completion of this cooperation, developing countries will 1) formulate plans for sector/regional development or rehabilitation/reconstruction by utilizing recommendations; 2) implement plans (project) by raising funds from international organizations and others; and/or 3) carry out the recommended organizational/institutional reforms.

6. Science and Technology Cooperation on Global Issues

As a modality of JICA's Technical Cooperation, "Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)" incorporates elements of joint research for developing and applying new technologies and acquiring new scientific knowledge. SATREPS will help address global challenges (environmental, energy, natural disasters (preparedness), infectious diseases, food supplies and other problems that require global cooperation because no single country or region can resolve these issues) by using partnerships that encompass universities and research institutions, etc. in Japan and those in developing countries

[See page 115].

Science and Technology Cooperation on Global Issues

Improve the development of human resources and self-reliant research capability of research institutions of developing countries by promoting international joint research for acquiring new knowledge and utilizing research outcomes for the benefit of society with a view to resolving global issues

Background

In recent years, the importance of international cooperation utilizing Japanese science and technology for global issues in vulnerable developing country has been increasing. Global issues, including the environment and energy, infectious diseases and natural disasters, are difficult to resolve by one country or region alone and need to be handled by the international community as a whole.

In order to tackle these global issues, and to support self-reliant, sustainable development in developing countries, Japan will provide assistance in terms of applying and transferring technology from Japan. In addition to this, joint research will be carried out through collaboration between universities and research institutes in Japan and developing countries, with the aim of developing and utilizing new technologies and gaining new knowledge. Such an approach is necessary because it enables issues to be resolved and at the same time works to improve science and technology standards and overall capabilities at universities and research institutions in developing countries.

To respond to these issues, JICA in fiscal 2008 started Science and Technology Cooperation on Global Issues, which consists of the following two programs.

- (1) Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (Project Type Technical Cooperation)
- (2) Dispatch of Science and Technology Researchers (Dispatch of Individual Expert)

Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)

1. Overview

This program is designed to promote international joint research in which both Japanese research institutions and those of developing countries work together based upon the social needs in developing countries under the framework of JICA project type Technical Cooperation. Its aims are to acquire new knowledge and to utilize research outcomes to the benefit of the society with a view to resolving global issues such as the environment and energy, biological resources, disaster prevention, and infectious diseases.

2. Objectives

- (1) Improve the development of human resources and self-reliant research capability of developing country.
- (2) Build a framework for sustainable activities to contribute to solutions for global issues.
- (3) Acquire new knowledge leading to resolving global issues and advancing science and technology.

3. Implementation System

SATREPS is carried out through collaboration with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Institution the proposer (Principal Investigator) is affiliated with and JICA collaborate to carry out research proposal which was selected in JST's invitation for application of universities and research institutions. JICA provides support for expenses for the activities in partner countries (dispatch of experts, acceptance of counterpart researchers in Japan, provision of equipment, expenses for experts' activities in partner countries, etc.) under the framework of JICA project type Technical Cooperation, while JST provides support for expenses in Japan and third countries under the framework of competitive funds for the promotion of science and technology.

4. Eligible Fields of Research

For fiscal 2012, there was an invitation for applications of research proposals in six areas: the environment, low-carbon society, biological resources, disaster prevention, infectious diseases, and interdisciplinary areas.

Dispatch of Science and Technology Researchers

1. Overview

This program is designed to dispatch the most suitable researchers from Japanese research institutions to developing countries for international joint research and the development of human resources based upon the needs of developing countries under the framework of JICA Technical Cooperation experts (dispatch of individual experts).

2. Objectives

- (1) Support capacity building for developing countries through international joint research.
- (2) Create and energize foundations for exchanges between Japanese research institutions and those in developing countries, provide support for the formulation of future joint research plans.

3. Implementation System

This program is carried out through collaboration with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), which makes effective use of its network of researchers and academic institutions in Japan, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and JSPS will select researchers.

4. Eligible Fields of Research

This program covers all fields of science and technology. There are no restrictions other than the requirement for resolving global issues.

