

JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs — The Cornerstone of an Intellectual Platform

Accumulation and Circulation of Knowledge and Experience

JICA's Training Affairs and Citizen Participation Department and the domestic offices have been managing and operating JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs, Citizen Participatory Cooperation Programs, scholarship programs and collaboration with local universities to support developing countries in resolving their development issues by working closely with the overseas offices, Regional Departments and Issues Departments* engaged in the implementation of cooperation activities in developing countries.

As in the diagram shown below, each domestic office has been accumulating knowledge to address development issues. It is based on JICA's strengths in each region and its partnerships with leading supporters for international cooperation in each sector and implementing agencies in training. The domestic offices have been working toward the realization of effective and high quality cooperation in response to the various needs of developing countries.

Domestic fields for cooperation activities are being regarded as "a platform" for knowledge accumulation and intellectual creation in resolving development issues. Field experience acquired in developing countries and know-how in cooperation effectiveness accumulated by leading players such as JICA's experts, volunteers and study team members in their cooperation activities are all effective in domestic cooperation activities through this platform. Furthermore, these experience and know-how are integrated with the activities of cooperation

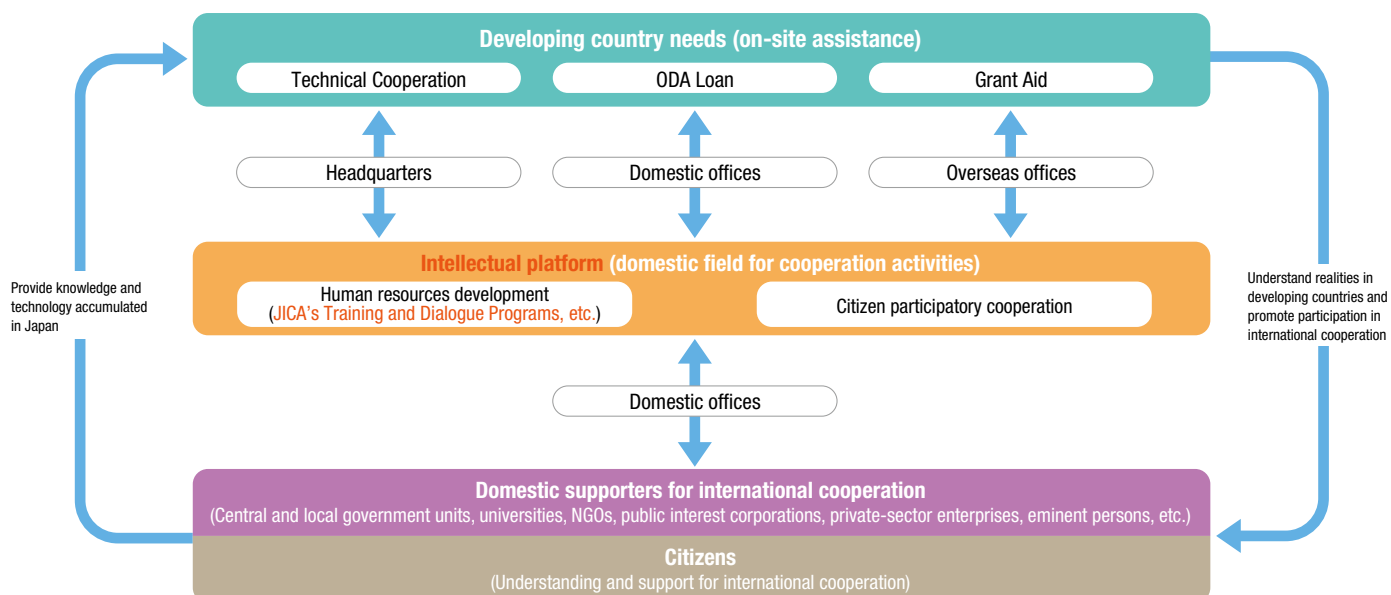
organizations and groups in each region, and drawn upon for the further development of developing countries.

JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs are "the platform" that links cooperation activities in developing countries with partners in Japan both effectively and organically. Eventually, this "platform" plays a key function in circulating accumulated knowledge and experience.

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake, there have been calls for a unified approach to dealing with issues in Japan and overseas. People want to seek ways to use knowledge and experience gained from international cooperation activities to help solving problems in Japan. There is also interest in ways to utilize international cooperation activities for solving problems in Japan. In fact, there is a close relationship between issues in Japan and in other countries; hence, there have been increasing numbers of examples recently where international cooperation does not merely involve a one-way provision of aid, because Japan also receives benefits from the cooperation.

To date, over 280,000 people have participated in JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs and the participants have acquired much know-how and skills through the programs. In addition, participants have met numerous Japanese people during their stays in Japan, and returned home with a deeper understanding and familiarity with Japan by learning Japanese culture. JICA provides support to the JICA Alumni Association and other groups formed voluntarily by the participants in their respective countries. By expanding its human network, JICA strives to further consolidate the know-how that participants

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





JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro): A training course on environment-oriented agriculture by utilizing Obihiro's characteristic as an agricultural production base (International Training and Dialogue: Environment-oriented Agriculture for Increase of Food Production)

acquired in Japan, and to promote greater understanding of Japan in developing countries.

JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs contribute to solving issues not only in developing countries but also in Japan. Fostering Japan experts and Japanophiles is another important benefit of the programs. Consequently, JICA takes the initiative to identify these benefits and to apply them in the initial stage of planning programs.

*JICA has five Issues Departments at Headquarters: Economic Infrastructure Department, Industrial Development and Public Policy Department, Human Development Department, Global Environment Department and Rural Development Department

Globally Unique Training Programs

The implementation methods for Technical Cooperation can be divided into two categories; overseas cooperation by dispatching experts from development sectors and volunteers to developing countries; and domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs refers to a variety of training programs under the domestic cooperation.

Implementation of training programs in Japan has significance with regard to utilizing Japan's development experience and know-how, rather than sharing Japan's advanced technologies and skills. To learn and understand Japan's "knowledge", it is often necessary to use on-site experience upon Japan's organizational know-how, and the backgrounds and transitions underlying its social system. Moreover, a particular characteristic of JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs is to provide an opportunity for participants to become aware of and to reexamine the experience and the actual circumstance of their own countries from outside by experiencing Japan. Hence,



JICA Tokyo: A training course on firefighting techniques by sharing Japan's firefighting and rescue activity skills that could be applied to developing countries. (Region Focused Training and Dialogue: Training on Firefighting Command Techniques - Vietnam)



participants are able to tackle various development issues of their home countries with a different perspective.

Among the domestic training programs, Training and Dialogue Programs" in which group training programs are provided to participants from several developing countries, give chances to participants to examine a variety of issues not only from the perspectives of Japan and/or their own countries, but also from a multifaceted viewpoint by exchanging opinions among themselves. The program thus offers valuable insight and discoveries to each participant.

JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs are an essential tool of Technical Cooperation by utilizing Japan's unique "knowledge" to promote human resource development and to solve development issues in developing countries.

JICA hosts approximately 10,000 training program participants every year in cooperation with its three branches and nine International Centers across Japan. The majority of the participants are affiliated with counterpart governments; however, there has been an increase in NGO-affiliated participants reflecting diversified needs of developing countries and capacity expansion of Japan's cooperation programs. Training programs are undertaken in cooperation with universities, private sector enterprises, public interest organizations, NGOs and other organizations as well as the central and local governments. Involvement with various domestic organizations makes possible programs dealing with sophisticated but vast development issues. JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs are truly unique in terms of scale and sphere of activities, and are an outstanding characteristic of Japan's international cooperation.

Effectiveness and Efficiency

Effective and efficient implementation of JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs based on the limited budget is a critical issue. For instance, in the Training and Dialogue Programs where common development issues are brought up as a course theme, JICA tries to follow up aid implementation policies of counterpart regions and countries, and to apply them to the curriculum and/or contents of each program.

JICA is dedicated to constantly improving and reexamining JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs to be effective for developing countries in an efficient way.