

South America

Implementing Effective Aid While Advancing Inter-Regional Partnerships

South America, gifted with abundant natural and mineral resources and fertile soil, is achieving strong economic growth spurred by the recent increases in worldwide demand for resources and foods. At the same time, however, South American countries are still characterized by large disparities in both income and access to social services, where large numbers of people are forced to live in poverty in the shadows of economic growth.

JICA provides aid that contributes to solving issues considered to be priorities in each country in light of specific circumstances. It also concentrates its aid efforts on conservation of the region's ecosystems, such as the Amazon Basin, which have a significant impact on the global environment.

Going forward, JICA will focus on extending cooperation on economic infrastructure development, global issues, and mitigating disparities, while assisting the development of countries inside and outside of the region through private sector partnerships and partnerships with countries in the region that have achieved relatively high income levels and possess advanced technology, such as Brazil.

Key Aid Strategies

Developing Economic Infrastructure, Addressing Global Issues and Mitigating Disparities

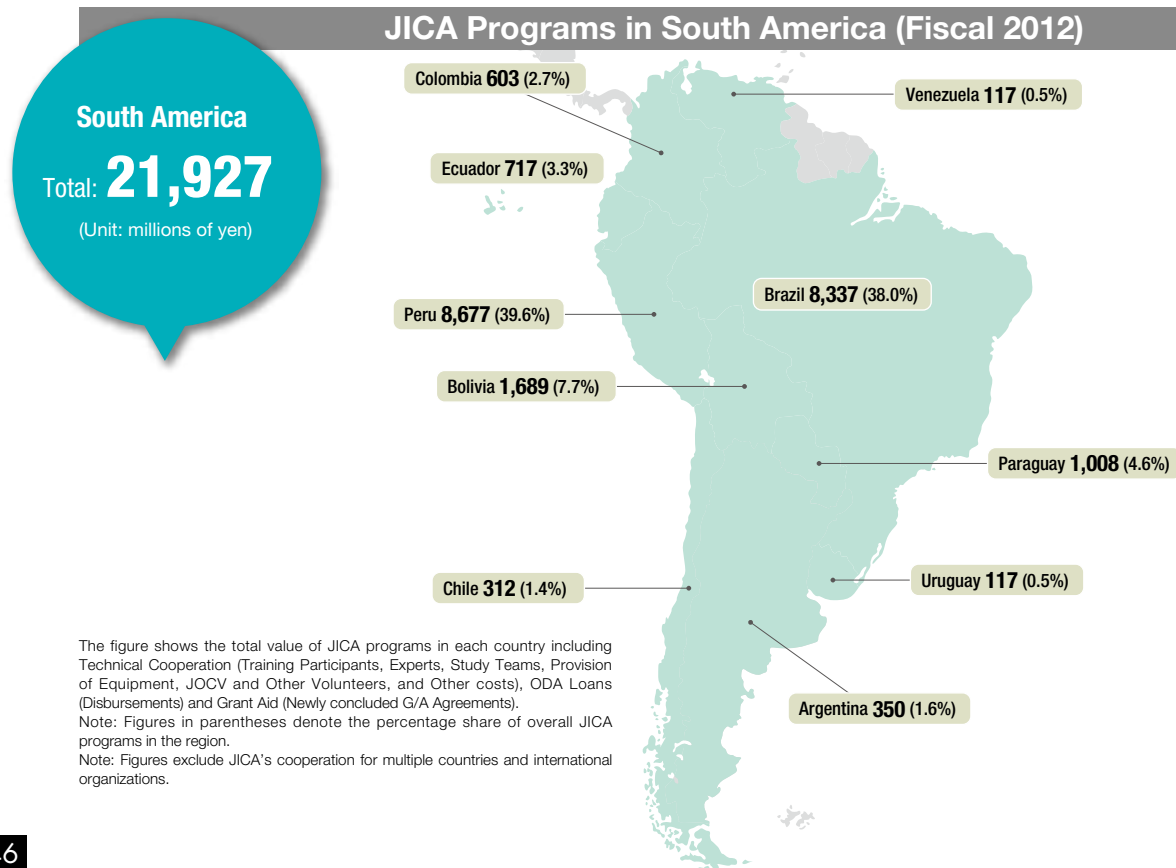
South American economies depend heavily on the production and export of primary products, which makes them extremely vulnerable to global economic and market trends. In the future, these countries will need ongoing industrial development, trade promotion, and an improved investment environment, as well as economic development that facilitates sustainable growth. It is also essential to strengthen the administrative capacities of the governments and maintain stable public security as a foundation for encouraging private sector economic activity. Moreover, there are many areas in

which urban environmental problems are growing more serious due to economic growth, and these problems require an urgent response as well.

In the shadows of the strong economic growth of recent years, there persists considerable social anxiety created by the presence of economic disparities at the national and regional levels. Under these circumstances, in addition to undertakings to foster economic growth, efforts are being made to mitigate disparities and stabilize the economy and society in the region.

Furthermore, it is important to address global issues in

JICA Programs in South America (Fiscal 2012)



Increasing the quality of integral rehabilitation* of victims of landmines with the cooperation of medical care facilities and the local communities

In Colombia, the 50-year-old domestic conflict between the government's army and illegally armed guerrillas continues today. More than 4.5 million people have been internally displaced, fleeing from conflict-torn lands, and more than 500 people die or are injured by landmines annually—higher than anywhere else in the world. To provide aid in peace building and reducing disparities in Colombia, JICA launched a Support to the Victims of Armed Conflict and Their Coexistence and Reconciliation Program in 2008, assisting through multiple technical cooperation, technical training projects and the dispatch of teams of experts. One of those projects was the Strengthening the Integral Rehabilitation System for Persons with Disabilities, Especially for Victims of Landmines project, which was implemented over a four-year period from August 2008 to August 2012. Through this project, the quality of comprehensive rehabilitation has improved in the medical treatment facilities and regional communities affected by the project and the Colombian side of the project has started independent activities to spread the results of the project to other provinces.

Most of the injuries caused by mines laid as a result of Colombia's internal conflict occur in the agricultural areas of impoverished regions. Consequently, transport routes to medical facilities are poor, increasing the chances of secondary infection causing greater injury. Moreover, the quality of rehabilitation is not very high. This project was carried out in Antioquia Department, the area with the most landmine victims, and at the four medical care facilities in Valle del Cauca Department, the only rehabilitation base in southwest Colombia. It provided aid for strengthening the skills of the professional staff engaged in rehabilitation of landmine victims, took measures to promote an improvement in the level of first aid in the community immediately following the incident, and promoted reintegration of the landmine victims into the community. As a result of the project, rehabilitation systems in these areas have been strengthened. Rehabilitation manuals on amputations and sight impairment caused by landmines have been produced and are being utilized. Also, physicians, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists are working together as teams. Furthermore, the project carried out activities to educate people in the targeted regions on how to avoid landmine accidents and provided technical instruction on how to administer first aid after an accident. This knowledge was spread widely to community

leaders, firemen and others. In conjunction with these efforts, victims themselves became instructors, giving seminars on the rights of victims to be reintegrated into and participate in the community. These measures had greatly changed the awareness of not only the landmine victims but also the communities as a whole.

The Colombian institutions involved in the project are seeking to spread its results throughout the country, conducting seminars for the authorities of other departments in Colombia and staff of medical care facilities. In addition, the Colombian government is currently discussing with JICA methods of further strengthening support for the participation of landmine victims in communities in future.

From Our Colombian Counterpart

Soledad Delugado Sierra, Project Leader, Presidential Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (PAICMA)

Two central government institutions in Colombia's capital Bogotá, PAICMA and the Ministry of Social Protection and Health, took the lead on this project, which was implemented in two departments that were substantially different in terms of Colombia's social development index and of cultures. Because a total of 8 organizations were involved with the project, including hospitals, NGOs and

the two departments' health services bureaus, we expected there would be operational problems right from the start. However, the organizations were very positive, taking the view that the results of the project would be spread throughout Colombia. Even now that the project is over, the technology and knowledge gained from Japan during the project is being practically applied by each of the organizations, thus spreading the results of the projects.

During the project, several experts were dispatched to Colombia by Japan. These experts contributed greatly to the project, utilizing their expertise, transferring their specialist technologies to their Colombian counterparts, and implementing efficient project management methods. Most important of all, they made us deeply understand why a comprehensive rehabilitation policy for landmine victims was so necessary and actually made it possible for Colombia to implement the policy. We are very proud that in its final evaluation JICA assessed this project as a good practice in that so many organizations had coordinated and cooperated successfully to achieve the goals.

*Integral Rehabilitation signifies a comprehensive set of activities to deal with landmine victims, including first-aid treatment, rescue routes, treatment at medical care facilities, follow-up functional rehabilitation, and reintegration into the society.



Japanese expert observes rehabilitation treatment at Valle University Hospital.



Educational materials produced by the project on landmine accident prevention, first-aid treatment of landmine victims, the rights of victims, and other topics.

South America because the Amazon, the world's largest rain forest, greatly impacts global climate change, and because this area still offers significant potential for developing both agricultural land and natural resources, which are related to food and energy security.

South America has witnessed frequent major natural disasters in recent years, including an earthquake in Chile and flooding in Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela, making disaster prevention countermeasures an important issue.

In addition, JICA is strengthening its relationships with such countries as Brazil where income levels have grown higher and technological capabilities have also improved compared to other countries in the region, by reinforcing partnerships to development in Central and South American countries and in Africa.

In recent years, Japan has been improving more and more of its resources and food from this region. Based on the large Japanese immigrant community numbering more than 1.6 million people, the relationship between Japan and South America is likely to deepen further in future.

Priority Issues and Activities

Building a Foundation for Sustainable Economic Growth

Blessed with abundant natural resources, South America has achieved steady economic growth in recent years, primarily driven by private-sector investment. Although the region was impacted by the global economic crisis in 2008 and by volatile prices for natural resources, the economy recovered in 2010. JICA is providing support to reinvigorate the economies of rural areas in consideration of mitigating domestic income disparities, which is an important development issue faced by various countries in the region.

In Paraguay, more than 80% of the roads are unpaved and are frequently impassable in the rainy season. These conditions cut off the sales routes of one of the country's major industries, the livestock industry, interfering with economic activity. Though its Rural Roads Improvement Project, JICA is addressing this issue by paving roads or rebuilding deteriorated bridges, and is providing a broad range other support to help establish stable economic growth in the region. JICA is scheduled to grant its first ODA loan with currency conversion option to Paraguay for the Eastern Region Export Corridor Improvement Project, which will provide new road infrastructure to link the production region of its livestock industry with harbors for export.

The Altiplano region of Bolivia, which is a plateau high in the Andes, has lead, zinc, lithium and other mineral resources as well as tourism resources like the Salar de Uyuni salt flats and the Potosi silver mine, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Nevertheless, this area also has the country's highest poverty ratio. Average monthly income is less than half the national average and the income disparity between urban and rural areas is more than four times. Agriculture and livestock are the primary industries in this region. However, the infrastructure is inadequate and the climate is challenging because of an altitude of more than 4,000 meters above sea level. In addition, the effects of climate change have been

lowering agricultural and livestock productivity in recent years. As a result, their future livelihood is the main problem residents are concerned with. In addition to Japan's infrastructure development aid, such as constructing geothermal power plants, JICA is taking other steps to address their issues. Along with these activities, JICA is supporting the creation of plans for industrial promotion in the tourism sector and the agriculture and livestock sector with the aim of improving the livelihoods of residents by increasing the scale of these two sectors.

Addressing Global Issues

South America tends to be affected by global issues such as climate change, but at the same time the region also can have a significant impact on the resolution of such problems. Accordingly, JICA is cooperating in this field with many South American countries. Since this is a region where some countries have relatively advanced levels of technology, JICA pursues research cooperation together with Japanese universities and other research institutes by utilizing Japanese science and technology in order to contribute to resolving global issues.

Brazil uses satellite images in its efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, but has been unable to fully monitor the Amazon region, which is hidden by heavy cloud cover for five months of the year, from above. Through Technical Cooperation provided by the Project for Utilization of ALOS Images to Support the Protection of the Brazilian Amazon Forest and Combat Against Illegal Deforestation, JICA has made available Japan's ALOS (Advanced Land Observing Satellite) images that enable observation of land conditions regardless of cloud cover. JICA provided aid in introducing the ALOS system, establishing the ALOS imaging reading technology, and interfacing the ALOS system with Brazil's existing satellite monitoring system.

The ALOS satellite imaging and related processing and analysis technologies are being used in Argentina to determine the condition of and changes in glaciers in Southern Patagonia. For this purpose, Japan has provided assistance through the Developing a Glacier Inventory in the Argentinean Andes using High Resolution ALOS (Advanced Land Observing Satellite) Data Project (Dispatch of Science and Technology Researchers) by sending a team of experts. Not only do the glaciers in the region serve as an indicator of global warming, they also hold great importance for the approximately 2.5 million regional population in terms of drinking and irrigation water. As result, there are high expectations for the usefulness of determining the actual condition of the glaciers and the mechanism of change.

Colombian farmers plant many crops, such as sugar cane, that require nitrogen-rich fertilizer. Colombia, therefore, requested technology transfer regarding a low environmental impact agricultural production system based on the efficient introduction of the nitrogen fertilizer method developed in Japan for rice growing. In response, Japan provided aid through the Development of Nitrogen Use Efficiency Technology to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Effect in Agriculture System Project, dispatching a team of science and technology researchers to the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), which has its headquarters in Colombia. The team took images of agricultural crops being grown over extensive areas and carried out research to analyze the obtained data. Their

work contributed to the transfer of technology enabling the selection of varieties of crops with superior nitrogen utilization efficiency. The research done is considered to be extremely open ended, with future application in advanced cultivation control and other areas.

Similar to Japan, Chile is a country with many earthquakes and tsunamis. In 2010, an earthquake of magnitude 8.8 that was the sixth most powerful earthquake ever recorded devastated a large area of the country. Damage caused by the tsunami was particularly severe, raising many questions about disaster control measures in Chile. Japan has been sharing information about and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 with other at risk countries, strengthening tsunami disaster prevention measures to prevent such a tragedy from ever reoccurring. To that end, JICA is implementing the Research Project on Enhancement of Technology to Develop Tsunami-resilient Communities under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS). The objectives of this joint research project include developing tsunami damage prediction technologies and a highly accurate tsunami warning method in Chile.

Poverty Reduction and the Correction of Disparities

Measures to address poverty and the correction of disparities are an issue common to all South American countries as well as a cornerstone of each nation's governmental policy. Through its projects, JICA is playing a part in their efforts.

Situated in the mountainous region of Ecuador, Chimborazo Province is struggling with serious, multiple poverty issues. In this region, income from agriculture is low, there is a lack of such basic infrastructure as education and medical services, and deforestation and soil erosion are progressing. Through the Capacity Development for Promoting the Sustainable Integral Rural Development for Poverty Reduction in Chimborazo Province Project, JICA is taking steps to improve the livelihoods and the living conditions of residents in 30 settlements spread across four zones in the province. JICA is endeavoring to enlighten residents in these zones about rural development through participatory programs, strengthening project execution systems through the collaboration and coordination of related government organizations and providing assistance with increasing the skills of workers.



The Capacity Development for Promoting the Sustainable Integral Rural Development for Poverty Reduction in Chimborazo Province Project in Ecuador: Implementing soil conservation in collaboration with the environmental department of the provincial government.

Approximately 13% of Peru's population is said to comprise people with physical and mental disabilities that require some type of expert treatment. Last year, utilizing Grant Aid provided by Japan, Peru built a National Rehabilitation Center for the disabled in the nation's capital, Lima. Through the construction of these essential facilities and installation of necessary equipment and materials, Japan contributes to the expansion of medical rehabilitation services, the nurturing of professionals, and enhancement of medical treatment.

Also in Peru, through the Amazonas Rural Development Project (ODA Loan), JICA is assisting with comprehensive regional development in Peru's poorest province, focusing primarily on tourism. Funds provided through Japanese aid are being allocated to establishing tourism resources, such as maintenance of ancient ruins, building visitor centers and other tourism facilities, and constructing paved roads to improve access. The funds are also being applied to building waste disposal plants to handle additional waste produced by tourists, strengthening tourism administrative capabilities, educating local residents, and supporting participation in the tourism industry.



Peru's National Rehabilitation Center for the disabled was built with Grant Aid from Japan.

Strengthening Relationships with Japan's Public and Private Sectors

Aid from national governments themselves or from foreign countries has a relatively smaller impact on the overall economy in comparatively higher income countries, where private sector economic activity drives development.

In South America, Japanese private sector companies have entered the mining industry to start with in particular because of the region's rich mineral, energy and other resources. The progress of these private sector economic activities will serve to promote further economic development, while also contributing to strengthening the relationships between these countries and Japan.

Recently, JICA dispatched the mission of the Central and South America Private Sector Collaboration Study Team to Brazil and Paraguay. A total of 13 private sector companies and organizations participated in the study team, holding meeting with the governments and local companies in both countries. As a result, some Japanese companies started to consider using JICA's programs to start business in these countries and some local Japanese subsidiaries began to develop concrete business plans.