



Sri Lanka: Students from kindergarten to junior high school playing on the same field at a school in Kurunegala [Photo by Shinichi Kuno]



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Director General's Message

Human Resource Development

Looking at Development in the Post-MDGs Era, Deepening the Discussion on Education, Health and Social Security

JICA broadly assists with human development from the perspective of education, health and social security. In fiscal 2012, JICA took discussions about the next set of goals for the post-MDGs era to a deeper level. Focusing on aid that combines ODA Loans and Technical Cooperation for an integrated hardware and software approach for schools, hospitals and other related aid, JICA will also concentrate on building academic networks that will lead to reform of Japan's education system.

In fiscal 2012, JICA took its discussions on goals for the post-MDGs era to a deeper level. We deliberated the issues for education, health, improved nutrition, employment and equitable growth and universal health coverage (UHC) under which all people receive healthcare equally. Besides those discussions, we compiled the results and issues arising from TICAD IV in preparation for TICAD V.

JICA is also proceeding with deliberations on projects that offer integrated aid covering expansion and enhancement of hardware and software to policy formulation. We are achieving this broad range of aid by combining ODA Loans and Technical Cooperation. In the health sector, we are looking at providing this type of aid to, among others, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In the education field, we are considering Morocco and other countries as candidates for such aid.

Among new initiatives, we added aid issues that link up closely with issues in Japan. Amid the progressive globalization of higher education, the internationalization of higher education is a major issue for Japan as well as developing countries. Through our aid programs, we will be aiming to provide cooperation that leads to the building of international academic networks with

Japanese universities as their central hub. These networks will create knowledge and disseminate it to the world.

Health is one of the key words of the Japanese government's growth strategy. Underpinned by its unparalleled national health insurance plan, Japan's record in providing citizens with quality healthcare and its medical technology are highly regarded overseas. In that sense, JICA is examining cooperation programs that will combine development of Japan's medical business with meeting health needs in developing countries. Moreover, the aging population problem that Japan faces today will be visited on other Asian countries in the near future. Responding to the desire of other countries to learn from Japan's experiences, JICA is considering how to create opportunities for mutual learning.

In fiscal 2013, the United Nation's General Assembly discussions on its post-MDGs development agenda have gotten under way in earnest. In addition to the issues of vulnerable countries, discussions are increasingly turning to such new issues as adult diseases and social security emerging in more-developed countries. JICA will be aiming to leverage Japan's knowledge to provide cooperation that leads to the mutual solution of issues in developing countries and Japan.