

# Education / Social Security / Health

— Helping People the World Over to Lead Enriched Lives



Of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

The international community is making concerted efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Yet, there are still many people who are unable to live decent lives. For instance, in excess of 60 million children around the world not attending school, and more than 20,000 children die under five years of age every day.

With the aim of enabling people to live healthy and creative lives each day and seek their own meaningful goals, JICA has been cooperating primarily in the three fields of education, healthcare, and social security, based on the concept of human security.

## Education

### ● Overview of Issue

Education is the cornerstone of all development. Acquiring knowledge and skills through education enables people to open up and improve their prospects in life. In addition, the enhancement of people's capabilities promotes poverty reduction, economic growth, and scientific and technological development. Furthermore, the promotion of mutual understanding across all religions and ethnic groups is essential for the stability and peace of the world, and education plays an important role in this regard as well.

Education in developing countries, however, faces many problems. Although the number of children not attending school has decreased by about 44 million compared with 1999, more than 61 million children are still not attending school. In addition, in the least developed countries, one third of the children who enroll in elementary schools drop out before graduation. While demand for secondary education has risen because of the widespread access to primary education, the enrollment rate of secondary education has remained low.

Furthermore, interest in higher education has risen sharply in recent years in developing countries. There are considerable expectations for higher education institutions to play a central

### Case Study Education AUN/SEED-Net Project Phase III

#### Establishing and Expanding a University Network within ASEAN Countries and Japan

By promoting the establishment and enhancement of a network of universities in Japan and developing countries, JICA is aiding with strengthening the capabilities of universities in developing countries while also cooperating with Japanese universities by contributing to their internationalization. A representative example of JICA's efforts is the ASEAN University Network/ Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) project. JICA is aiding in improving the educational and research capabilities of the member institutions of ASEAN countries of the project by strengthening a network of 14 Japanese universities and 26 other universities representing 10 ASEAN countries.

Since cooperation began in 2003, JICA has been providing aid in developing engineering-related human resources necessary for the social and economic development of the ASEAN region. JICA's efforts have taken the form of aid for young faculty members from these developing countries to study abroad at universities in Japan or other ASEAN countries and earn such advanced degrees as master's degrees or doctorates. In addition, the project aims to improve the research and education capabilities of member institutions of ASEAN countries and strengthen the multinational academic network through joint research, regional academic conferences and other activities. Up to this point, JICA has aided with the acquisition of advanced degrees by a total of 900 people, approximately 20% of the teaching staff of the member institutions

of ASEAN countries. Moreover, more than 700 joint research activities have been carried out, with in excess of 1,000 academic papers being published. This process has created a network of 200 Japanese and 400 ASEAN university faculty members and resulted in the launch of an international academic journal in 2011.

JICA began Phase III of the project in March 2013. Utilizing the network built up through the cooperation to date, JICA is aiming to promote measures to upgrade and internationalize regional industry and address common regional issues. To do so, JICA is promoting collaboration within the manufacturing industry, including Japanese companies entering regional markets, and initiating joint research activities that will contribute to solutions for common regional issues. In Phase 3, JICA has increased the number of project members by seven ASEAN

universities and three Japanese universities. By strengthening the research and teaching abilities of these core universities and further widening the multinational academic network, JICA is striving to reinforce the formation of a platform to promote science and technology in Asia.



Young faculty members from ASEAN countries aspiring to earn master's degrees and doctorates

role in responding to the needs of creating a knowledge-based society in each country with a view to the post-MDGs period. Developing countries see higher education institutions achieving that goal through such means as creating knowledge and innovation (research), developing human resources that drive socioeconomic development (education), and resolving development issues that are becoming increasingly complex in keeping with the steady globalization of the economy and society, as well as by returning benefits to industry and society (social contribution).

As a member of the Asian community, strengthening collaboration between Japanese and Asian universities holds significance for Japan beyond just promoting the internationalization of higher education institutions in the region. It is also important from the perspective of contributing to economic growth in the region through fostering the highly skilled human resources required by industry, which can also lead to an increase Japan's social and economic vitality.

With the start of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) expected by 2015, people, goods, and capital will flow more freely throughout the region. As a result, it is expected that that partnerships and networking among higher education institutions will grow in importance going forward. In conjunction with that trend, the globalization movement will also heighten the importance of higher education institutions because of their influence on regional economies and societies. On the other hand, in reality, these institutions of higher education in the developing countries often face issues such as shortages of sufficiently qualified and skilled academic staff and of facilities and equipment for education and research, making it difficult for them to provide high-quality education and research activities. These points show that there is a significant need for aid for higher education. Furthermore, such cooperation will assist with the globalization of Japanese universities as well as providing the benefit of developing human resources in the local industries of partner countries who are familiar with Japan and its ways.

## ● JICA Activities

### 1. Basic Education

Basic education refers to teaching reading, writing and arithmetic—the basic knowledge and skills essential to living. It includes not only primary and secondary education but also early childhood development and non-formal education (including literacy education and community education).

Developing countries face diverse issues in the basic education sector. Among them JICA places particular emphasis on improving primary and secondary education quantitatively and qualitatively. Specifically, JICA is promoting cooperation with a focus on i) construction of school facilities by local contractors, ii) capacity building of teachers through the improvement of teacher training, iii) establishment of participatory school management systems that involve the community and iv) capacity development of administrative officers of central and local governments in charge of education, which is essential for sustaining the effects produced by these other efforts.

In particular, for the Sub-Saharan African countries that form the priority region for basic education aid, JICA is providing aid in accordance with the Yokohama Action Plan that was announced at the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May 2008. JICA's programs involve i) construction of more than 500 elementary and secondary schools, ii) training for 100,000 science and mathematics teachers and iii) expansion of the "School for All": The project on support to educational development through community participation, to 10,000 schools.

Most recently, JICA has focused on getting the results of its cooperation on a ground level reflected in the education policies of partner countries or more closely connected to impact assessment in such terms as improvements in children's academic performance. To that end, JICA is proactively pursuing comprehensive aid by combining cooperation on a traditional project basis with such measures as financial aid to the education sector and dispatching expert policy advisors.

It is the responsibility of the international community to provide aid to enable as many people as possible in the developing countries to receive quality education. JICA is continuing to provide steady cooperation for basic education leading up to 2015, the target year of the Education for All (EFA) and MDGs.

### 2. Higher Education

Higher education is positioned as the final stage of a country's education system. With a view to improving the quality, quantity and equality of higher education, which have been attracting particular attention in recent years, JICA is providing aid to the higher education field in developing countries with the cooperation of Japanese universities. With the main targets being the core universities that play a leading role in promoting the higher education sector of respective country or region, JICA provides aid for the improvement of their education and research capabilities. Actual assistance includes improving the capabilities of academic staff, improving the campus and equipment and facilities for education and research, enhancing the university's governance system, promoting industry- university-community linkages, and establishing a network between universities.

In Asia, while continuing to focus aid efforts on the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network Project (AUN/SEED-Net), JICA is also extending bilateral cooperation to core universities in accordance with their needs. Furthermore, JICA is endeavoring to foster human resources with highly specialized knowledge and skills through long-term training in regular courses at Japanese graduate schools.

In the Middle East and Africa, JICA puts its focus on support for Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) that was partially opened in February 2010, in order to foster human resources with highly specialized knowledge and skills to meet the demand of industry. There are also expectations that E-JUST will take on a greater role in Africa in response to the higher priority being placed on higher education institutions in the region in recent years.

Amid today's technological innovations bring with them dramatic social changes, JICA will continue to provide aid for higher education with an aim to foster human resources who can meet the needs of the world, instigate innovation and become the leading figures within the nation building process of their countries.

## Social Security

### ● Overview of Issue

In recent years, the weakening of the ties between families and local communities due to progressive industrialization and urbanization has advanced in developing countries as well. In addition, their populations are aging. While some countries and regions are experiencing remarkable economic growth, many people are being left behind in the march of progress. The skewed distribution of wealth and widening economic disparities are becoming a source of social unrest.

To establish a stable society while maintaining economic growth, it is essential to enhance health protection and income security. It is also important to build a safe and sound society in which society as a whole is prepared to deal with various risks. Furthermore, providing support for the independence of socially vulnerable people promotes their participation in social and economic activities, which also has the potential to contribute to successful nation building.

### ● JICA Activities

Based on Japan's knowledge and experience in social security systems in developing countries, JICA is undertaking projects aimed at improving social security systems. To do so, JICA is focusing on the following three areas; social insurance and social welfare, disability and development, and labor and employment.

#### 1. Public Insurance and Social Welfare

JICA aids with the development of public insurance systems such as public health insurance and income security (including public pension insurance), as well as strengthening social welfare policies for the elderly and the others. There is a great demand in other countries to learn from Japan's knowledge in these areas in order to build social security systems in their home countries. In response, JICA invites key personnel at government ministries associated with social security systems to visit Japan and receive information about the establishment of Japan's social security systems and exchange opinions. In recent years, there has been a strong interest in Japan experience in dealing with an aging society, particularly among more developed countries in Southeast Asia.

#### 2. Disabilities and Development

JICA views persons with disabilities not simply as recipients of welfare services, but also as important contributors to development. JICA's ultimate goal is to build a society that is

#### Case Study

### Social Security Project on Long-term Care Service Development for the Frail Elderly and Other Vulnerable People in the Kingdom of Thailand

#### Providing Aid for Measures to Deal with an Aging Population in Thailand

**Aging of the population is proceeding at a rapid pace in Asia. Thailand is already experiencing significant aging of its population and urgent measures are required to deal with the issue. In response, JICA is conducting its first Technical Cooperation project addressing long-term care for the elderly.**

In the field of measures to deal with aging society, many countries have great interest in and expectations for the knowledge accumulated by Japan as a country which experienced one of the most rapid aging population in the world.

In the notably high economic growth ASEAN region as well, the aging of the population is progressing along with the improvement in health standards and declining birthrates. Within the region, Thailand has already become an aging society, with people 65 years old or over accounting for 8.9% of its total population. Thailand is forecast to rapidly become an aged society, with this figure reaching 14% in 2024, 11 years from now. The aging of the population in Thailand is progressing at even a faster pace than in Japan.

Because the aging of the population has proceeded at a gradual pace in European countries, they have longer years to prepare measures to deal with the issue. However, an extremely rapid pace of aging is one of the characteristics of Asian countries. This will result in Asian countries having to deal with aging population issues before they achieve

the same level of economic development as developed countries.

The government of Thailand believes that a prompt political response is necessary to deal with the social security needs emerging along with the aging of the population. With long-term care in particular, there has been a weakening of the strong tradition of families providing care for their elderly family members along with the progressive migration of workers into urban areas and growing trend toward nuclear families. If the social services to support the elderly requiring long-term care and their families are not quickly established, in the near future there is the concern that the quality of long-term care and physical and mental exhaustion of families having to care for their elderly will become social problems.

In consideration of these circumstances, JICA is conducting its first Technical Cooperation project addressing long-term care for the elderly; the Project on Long-term care service development for the frail elderly and other vulnerable people (LTOP) over the period from January 2013 to August 2017. Selecting six pilot sites in urban and rural

areas in Thailand, the project is testing long-term care services models. Based on the analytical results of evidence of effectiveness and validation of costs, the project will make policy recommendations regarding sustainable long-term care for the elderly.

Moreover, because measures to deal with aging society are becoming increasingly highlighted particularly in the ASEAN region, JICA plans to share the knowledge and lessons acquired from the project with other ASEAN countries.



Japanese experts checking long-term care conditions of the elderly at a project site in Khon Kaen Province in Thailand.

comfortable to live in for all people, regardless of disabilities.

JICA aims at realizing the “full participation and equality” of people with disabilities in developing countries, with emphasis on aid that ensures active participation of persons with disabilities in society. JICA is working to empower persons with disabilities through leadership trainings and strengthening capacities of disabled people’s organizations, as well as creating barrier-free environments.

### 3. Labor and Employment

In developing countries, industrial accidents are increasing along with economic development. However, there is insufficient establishment of legal frameworks and enforcement of such legislation in the field of occupational health and safety. Consequently, there are many workers who do not receive adequate compensation even though they have been injured at work and run the risk of falling into poverty. Moreover, labor problems, such as increases in unemployment in emerging countries because of economic slowdowns in developed countries and difficulty with finding jobs among young people pose a risk to the security of society. To address these issues, JICA is providing assistance for the improvement of occupational health and safety, strengthening public employment services and support for securing employment.

## Health

### ● Overview of Issue

In developing countries, many people lose their lives because they are not able to receive adequate health care or medical services. The Japanese government has announced its continuation of aid to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Following up on that commitment, JICA is focusing its efforts on the following three issues of improvement of maternal and child health, infectious disease control, and reinforcing health systems.

In other areas, looking past 2015, the Japanese government announced a new “Global Health Diplomacy Strategy” in June 2013. The strategy highlights various issues, such as the importance of universal health coverage (UHC) and global collaboration by the public and private sectors and cooperation with the private sector in Japan. Based on that strategy, it was decided to contribute to advancing UHC in Africa at the TICAD V meeting held in June 2013.

UHC means a system whereby all people can receive adequate services to promote health, prevent disease, and undergo rehabilitation at an affordable price. Until now, JICA had placed its emphasis on reinforcing the abilities of healthcare workers and on strengthening the service supply systems by expanding and improving medical care facilities and equipment. Going forward, however, JICA will now also pursue cooperation in providing access to basic healthcare services to all people, including the poor. Measures will include strengthening the financial administration of healthcare systems and building healthcare insurance systems. To realize the UHC strategy, JICA will take steps to promote the sharing of experiences among countries in Asia and Africa through training and other programs. In Thailand and other countries, JICA plans to conduct surveys of current conditions and follow up on needs

by holding seminars and training sessions to share Japan’s experience with healthcare insurance fee-for-service systems and other aspects of UHC.

### ● JICA Activities

#### 1. Improving Maternal and Child Health

Approximately 99% of the 360,000 pregnant women who die during pregnancy or childbirth and the 8.1 million children who die before reaching their fifth birthday every year live in developing countries. This fact indicates that the health and well being of pregnant women and young children is one of the most serious issues facing developing countries.

In fiscal 2011, JICA prepared a thematic guideline for maternal and child health and has been extending its cooperation to many countries for strengthening health systems that make a comprehensive “Continuum of Care for maternal and child health” more widespread and sustainable. JICA has focused on specific related systems in this field for which it has targeted strengthening frameworks and capabilities. JICA’s measures include: reinforcing administrative and management capacity of health ministries for the development of mother and child services; building capabilities of local health authorities; strengthening capabilities of midwives and other health service providers; improving community solidarity and systems; and strengthening the coordination among health centers, primary and referral health facilities.

In fiscal 2012, JICA started cooperation in the Republic of Djibouti and the Republic of Senegal to enhance the system for ensuring safe deliveries by expectant mothers and providing adequate care for newborn babies. Meanwhile, in regions with poor maternal and child healthcare services in Laos and Tajikistan, it was decided to utilize Grant Aid to expand and build health centers with child birthing facilities and procure equipment and supplies for hospitals. The intention of these measures is to achieve synergies with ongoing Technical Cooperation. Similarly, in Myanmar, it was decided to use Grant Aid for procurement of equipment and supplies for two referral hospitals, an obstetrics hospital and a children’s hospital. The hospitals have not renewed their equipment for many years.

#### 2. Infectious Disease Control

With three major infectious diseases—HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria—alone claiming the lives of several million people each year, infectious diseases pose a direct threat to the people in developing countries. They are also a factor in hindering economic and social development. Infectious disease control is an issue that needs to be addressed not only by specific countries or regions, but also by the entire world, as infectious diseases spread on a global scale through economic activities and as a result of the development of transportation.

Against this backdrop, JICA cooperates with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for which the Japanese government is a donor, UNICEF and other international bodies to address the issue with Technical Cooperation and financial assistance. Technical Cooperation aims to assist with the formation of a national strategy; the provision of information collection, analysis, prevention,

testing and medical treatment services; and improving access to such services. Financial assistance aims to supply countries with polio, measles and other vaccines and mosquito nets and other equipment and supplies to fight malaria. In fiscal 2012, JICA's Technical Cooperation projects involved continuation of the range of cooperation in fighting infectious diseases in such countries as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Zambia and Solomon Islands. In addition, JICA began providing cooperation to strengthen the abilities of operations to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Ghana for the first time. In other areas, JICA is utilizing knowledge gained from infectious diseases research in Japan to carry out joint research with research institutions in Asia and Africa in the fields of AIDS, tuberculosis, dengue fever and other infectious diseases. Joint research is being done under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS).

### 3. Reinforcing Health Systems

"Health systems" refer to the frameworks necessary for the basics in providing of health care and medical services to people. They cover establishing administration and operational systems, improving medical facilities, optimizing medical product supply, identifying and effectively utilizing accurate health information, and securing and managing financial resources. In addition, these frameworks include the fostering and managing of related human resources. While it is necessary

to take a balanced approach to addressing the issues of specific diseases and strengthening of entire health systems, a number of partnerships have been established by various organizations that specialize in strengthening key components of health systems. As a result, JICA's role and cooperation need to be in harmony with the frameworks of these existing partnerships.

JICA actively contributes to the formulation of national health plans and budgets, and supports the smooth implementation of these plans. In Moldova, JICA provided aid for the establishment of an efficient healthcare system, including promoting a process of elimination and consolidation among hospitals. Aid consisted of utilizing an ODA Loan to make concentrated investments in core hospitals. JICA also conducted a preparatory survey with a view to spreading the use of Japan top caliber medical technology.

In Kenya, JICA is strengthening the management capacity of local health administration and community-level strategies that support community activities to promote good health based on the policies of the Ministry of Health. In Tanzania and South Sudan, JICA provides aid to establish databases for health service providers to support the management of these individuals and for increasing the use of these databases. JICA also provides cooperation for the management of human resources for health in French-speaking areas of Africa. Another program aims to utilize a Japanese management method called 5S-KAIZEN to improve the management of hospitals and other health facilities.

## Case Study Health Better Hospital Services in Africa

### Applying Results in Sri Lanka to Hospitals in Tanzania and Other Countries in Africa

**The Asia Africa Knowledge Co-creation Program —Total Quality Management for Better Hospital Services is a program that utilizes a Japanese quality management system (5S-KAIZEN-TQM\*) to reform operations of hospitals. With aid from JICA, the program is spreading the use of 5S-KAIZEN-TQM as a hospital management method. The program uses as a model the case of the Castle Street Hospital for Women, where the method was independently introduced in 2000 achieving an impressive record of reducing infection among newborn babies and improving healthcare services.**

Based on those results, JICA has been introducing the 5S-KAIZEN-TQM method in 15 countries, including Tanzania, since March 2007. Many hospitals in Africa have to grapple with the problem of a scarcity of resources. This includes doctors, nurses, and other staff, healthcare services and equipment and drugs. The health administrators and hospital-related people of such African countries have learned about the principles and practical implementation of the method through inspection of and training in hospitals in Japan or Sri Lanka. They have hopes that using this method in the administration and reform of hospitals in their own countries will contribute to strengthening their healthcare systems.

In Tanzania, with the participation of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, JICA began the program using the Mbeya Consultant Hospital as a pilot project. After the hospital chief received training in Japan and Tanzania, he formed project teams for each section of the hospital, which began sorting

equipment and supplies in the workplace. The teams implemented many improvements, such as preventing incomplete health insurance applications and achieving proper management of inventories of drugs and supplies. By aiming to improve the working environment and quality of service through their own efforts and knowledge, they also raised the level of motivation among hospital staff. The success of process was noted and with the support of the ministry spread to state hospitals throughout the country. In addition, many representatives came to observe the system from neighboring countries, such as Malawi, Zambia and Uganda. There are expectations that the hospital will serve as the base for spreading the method widely throughout Africa.

The Asia Africa Knowledge Co-creation Program —Total Quality Management for Better Hospital Services has been recognized as an excellent example of triangular cooperation whereby Japan and Sri Lanka have provided aid to Africa. In 2012, United States Development

Programme (UNDP) awarded it the South-South Cooperation Solution Prize.

\* A quality management system introducing 5S (sorting, set in order, systematic cleaning, standardizing, and sustaining), KAIZEN (improvement, evidence-based participatory-oriented problem solving) and TQM (total quality management) procedures in stages to improve management of hospitals with limited resources.



Supplies sorted and arranged using the 5S system in an examination room at an outpatient clinic.