

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 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 provide necessary technologies and knowledge to government officials and engineers (the counterparts of the partner country). At the same time, they cooperate with these counterparts in developing and spreading technologies and institutions suited for the conditions in those countries as well as conducting awareness-raising activities. Depending on the 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 to acquire the knowledge and technologies needed in their countries. JICA also organizes overseas technical training programs.

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," "Technical Training" and/or "Provision of Equipment," are the core operation of JICA's Technical Cooperation. Project outcomes can be obtained by working together with the counterparts and associated organizations in the partner country through planning, implementing and evaluating the project in a systematic and comprehensive manner.

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 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 the 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 when necessary. Before the project is completed, JICA and the partner country jointly conduct an evaluation (terminal evaluation) to determine the progress made towards reaching the project's target goals and decide whether the project will be ended or not. In addition, lessons learned and suggestions are shared with the partner country to be reflected in the future projects.

5) Ex-Post Evaluation

Ex-post evaluations are conducted several years after project completion to check the sustainability and impact of the project. Evaluation results are then shared as lessons learned and used as a reference when 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.