

# JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs

— Aiming for Qualitative Improvement

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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 Thematic Departments\* engaged in the implementation of cooperation activities in developing countries.

JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs are one of JICA's major activities in Japan. Government officials and people from different fields from developing countries come to Japan to participate in the programs with the cooperation of partner organizations and communities in Japan. At these events, individuals acquire expected technologies and knowledge to tackle development issues of their countries.

The training programs require even more effective and efficient performance while utilizing limited budgets. JICA undertakes several measures to meet this requirement. For example, confirmations are performed to be certain that training matches the priority development issues of participating countries. As a rule, the training and dialogue programs focus exclusively on cooperation programs associated with these development issues. In addition, there are studies concerning subjects to cover for each theme, such as education or agriculture, while monitoring changes in other cooperative

schemes. JICA has also started preparing the most suitable lineup of training and dialogue programs.

Formulating the best possible lineup requires determining whether or not each program is suitable for taking place in Japan. This is why JICA has also begun to select the necessary trainings based on the knowledge and know-how of JICA domestic offices that are monitoring the characteristics of each region of Japan.

To make the training programs more effective, relationships must be maintained among program participants and with JICA after they return to their home countries. Various actions are being used to build stronger networks, mainly by setting up a Facebook page for these participants.

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

## The Multifaceted Benefits of the Training Programs

The goal of the JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs is to help solve development issues of partner countries, meanwhile, the programs also have produced many other benefits.

To date, over 290,000 people have participated in JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs and the 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. Meanwhile, site-visits and



JICA Tokyo held a Participatory Water Management System course for the purpose of providing farmers and agricultural officers effective guidance on managing operations and strengthening farmers' organizations. Participants visited an agricultural cooperative (JA) in Saga prefecture. (Country-focused Training Course: Iran Participatory Water Management System)



JICA Chubu utilized the highly concentrated nature of the automobile industry to hold a training program about manufacturing. (Group-focused Training Course: Japanese MONOZUKURI and Manufacturing in Developing Countries)

some training activities designed by the training programs benefit Japan that receives the participants. For instance, companies can obtain information about developing countries and build relationships that can lead to the start of overseas operations. In addition, students at universities holding training programs can acquire a greater global perspective by interacting with the program participants. As a result, the training programs create additional benefits of invigorating various regions of Japan and fostering people with global skills and knowledge.

JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs contribute to solving issues in developing countries. Fostering Japan experts and Japanophiles, revitalizing the local areas and fostering global human resources are other important benefits of the programs. Consequently, JICA implements its training programs by identifying these significant benefits.

### 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 domestic cooperation.

Implementation of training programs in Japan has significance with regard to utilizing Japan's development experience and know-how, rather than only sharing Japan's advanced technologies and skills. To learn and understand Japan's "knowledge," it is often necessary to use on-site experience concerning 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, participants are able to tackle various development issues of their home countries with a different perspective.

Among the domestic training programs, Region and Group-

focused Training Program, in which group training programs are provided to participants from several developing countries, give opportunities 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 nine domestic offices and three branches across Japan. The majority of the participants are affiliated with counterpart governments. However, there has been an increase in NGO-affiliated participants reflecting the 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 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.



In March 2013, a Facebook page for program participants was set up. The objective is to maintain and deepen the network of ties among participants and with JICA after the completion of the programs and their return home.