

Follow-up Cooperation

Follow-up Cooperation Adds Value to Projects

Post-Project Support

Cooperation projects conducted by JICA are completed after a predetermined period. JICA carries out ongoing monitoring after a project has ended to assess the partner country's self-help efforts in maintaining and enhancing the results of the project. JICA also provides indirect support and supplementary support when necessary. Such support is referred to as "Follow-up Cooperation," which may be broadly divided into two categories.

1. Follow-up Cooperation to Solve Problems with Facilities and Equipment

This type of cooperation involves working with the partner country to solve problems that may have arisen with facilities constructed by or equipment provided through Japan's cooperation projects. Such problems can occur owing to a variety of factors, including damage caused by natural disasters, a shortage of financial resources in the partner country due to a worsening economic situation, or problems with the use and maintenance of the facilities or equipment.

In Uganda, for example, Grant Aid was extended between 2003 and 2004 to build hand pump facilities for a safe water supply in 116 locations in the country and procure necessary operation and maintenance equipment. Although the Ugandan government and people have effectively used the facilities paying due attention to maintenance, some of the facilities malfunctioned because of aging and other reasons. Water supply facilities are essential to the daily life of the people and immediate repair was needed. However, the Ugandan government was unable to conduct necessary rehabilitation work through their own self-help efforts. Therefore, JICA decided to implement Follow-up Cooperation to undertake urgent repairs of the facilities and provide repair tools. Moreover, to ensure more effective operation and maintenance of the facilities, JICA also provided support for a workshop to raise awareness of the water sanitation committee consisting of community residents, who are responsible for daily care of the facilities, concerning the importance of regular maintenance. In addition, Follow-up Cooperation also covered training for hand pump mechanics. Japan Overseas



Mechanics learn how to repair hand pumps used to supply water. (Uganda)

Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) serving in Uganda as a "Water Security Action Team" also joined these activities to help local residents acquire repair skills for hand pump facilities, which contributed to enhanced sustainability of the effectiveness of the cooperation.

As a result of this Follow-up Cooperation, all the facilities now function properly and operation and maintenance systems have been strengthened. The Ugandan people now enjoy a stable supply of safe water, which is indispensable to their everyday life.

2. Follow-up Cooperation to Expand Project Benefits

Another type of Follow-up Cooperation is the provision of additional support to the partner country to add new value to a completed project or training program in line with the project goal, thereby promoting and expanding the benefits that accrue from a project.

In China, for example, JICA implemented the Project for Surveillance and Control for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases between 2006 and 2011, as part of cooperation to support countermeasures against infectious diseases ('surveillance' here means researching and aggregating the occurrence of infectious diseases). Aiming at raising the quality of protective vaccination, the project supported integrating three documents (Pregnant Woman's Notebook, Infant Health Notebook, and Vaccination Certificate), formerly issued separately under the jurisdiction of different ministries, into the "Mother and Child Health Handbook" along the lines of Japan's similar concept. The handbooks were distributed at a pilot project site, Nanfeng County, Jiangxi Province. In March 2013, approximately one year after completion of the project, Follow-up Cooperation was extended to hold a workshop with the aim of (i) confirming the degree of change in the health consciousness in the population, in mother and child health services, and in the use of the Mother and Child Health Handbook, and (ii) seeking to further disseminate the outcomes of the project. The workshop revealed that, after project completion, some 6,700 handbooks had been distributed to new mothers. It was also confirmed that the rate of health check-up frequency as well as the level of health consciousness among pregnant women had risen and



Mothers and their children receive health check-ups using the "Mother and Child Health Handbook." (China)

that information sharing among medical institutions was promoted. On the other hand, some challenges were recognized in the workshop. They included the case where handbooks were not distributed to intended mothers and the observation that mothers tend to feel an excessive burden in filling out the handbook. By holding the workshop, all the stakeholders in Nanfeng County, Jiangxi Province, reaffirmed their intention to work together to address these challenges from the users' viewpoints and further bolster efforts for protecting the health of mothers and children.

JICA Kansai (formerly called JICA Osaka) conducted a training course on Capacity Development for the Trade Promotion between Central America and Caribbean Countries and Japan over a six-year period between 2006 and 2011. The training course aimed at supporting the participants (typically staff members of Trade and Investment Center in charge of export promotion in their countries) to analyse Japan's food market and formulate export strategies to Japan so that they can contribute to facilitating the entry of food-related companies in their countries into the Japanese food market. One of the distinctive characteristics of this training course was that, as one of the final goals after the training, it aimed to achieve participation in FOODEX JAPAN (Japan's largest specialized annual food and beverage exposition) by the food-related companies in participants' countries.

JICA implemented Follow-up Cooperation in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua to help the ex-participants in the training course to conduct export promotion activities for local companies. In February 2013, Japanese instructors accompanied these participants to the local companies they are in charge of and gave advice on handling products and their production facilities. In addition, the Japanese instructors participated in a seminar on export promotion to Japan and explained the characteristics of the Japanese food market, particularly regarding preferred taste and packaging, to the participants from local food companies.

As a result of this cooperation, four food companies from the Dominican Republic succeeded in exhibiting their products at the FOODEX JAPAN 2013 for the first time from this country. In the Central America and the Caribbean region, the momentum for export promotion to Japan is now growing.

Support for Alumni Associations of Former Training Program Participants

Follow-up Cooperation also includes support for alumni

associations for ex-participants in JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs in Japan. Since the program's establishment, JICA has hosted in Japan more than 290,000 training program participants from developing countries. These participants will play a key role in the future development of their respective countries while also functioning as "important human assets" that serve as bridges connecting Japan with many countries around the world. To maintain and develop friendships with these ex-participants, who have gained a positive understanding of Japan, as well as to support the ongoing enhancement of the skills and knowledge they acquired in Japan, JICA supports the formation and maintenance of alumni associations of ex-participants in their home countries. As of 2012, there were 130 such alumni associations around the world.

At many of these alumni associations, participants returning from training programs in Japan serve as instructors at study sessions and share their knowledge of JICA activities in their home countries and the results of their own training through the alumni association's website, newsletter or annual meetings.

JICA collaborates with these alumni associations, which it recognizes as valuable human assets, to further enhance the effectiveness of its cooperation projects.

For example, JICA supports the alumni association in Iraq, whose main activity is to hold local seminars in JICA's priority assistance areas, such as infrastructure development, private sector development, and strengthening of governance. Ex-participants serve as lecturers in these seminars and promote information sharing and collaboration among relevant stakeholders. As Japanese nationals' field of activity is limited due to security reasons, ex-participants play critical roles in supporting JICA's activities by visiting and collecting information at JICA project sites in addition to their ordinary workplaces. In March 2013, the alumni association held its first photo exhibition with support from the Department of Literature of Baghdad University. The aim was to introduce JICA's activities in Iraq and Japanese culture to the Iraqi people. The photo exhibition was a great success, attracting a wide range of participants including university teaching staff and students as well as government officials. The story of the exhibition was covered by the national newspaper, which provided an excellent opportunity to introduce JICA's activities throughout Iraq.

Follow-up Cooperation helps to extend and enhance the results of past cooperation projects over longer time periods, thereby increasing the effectiveness and quality of Japan's international cooperation efforts.



Japanese instructors hold a seminar on how to export products to Japan. (Dominican Republic)



Opening ceremony of the JICA alumni association photo exhibition in Baghdad (Iraq)