

# HIGHLIGHTS 2012



In accordance with international guidelines, Japan Disaster Relief Team maintains preparation and organization to execute their full capacity at oversea search and rescue mission. (Photograph is scene from general training at Nov. 2012)

## Dissemination of Experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Relief, Restoration and Reconstruction

JICA is emphasizing the importance of taking a disaster risk reduction perspective for all sectors incorporating both international communities' "mainstreaming disaster risk reduction" trend and from our own experience with the Great East Japan Earthquake and 2011 Flooding in Thailand. On July 2012, "World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku (Sendai)" was held at which the importance of disaster risk reduction was reaffirmed by the ministers and governments around the world. Similarly, after the Flooding in Thailand, JICA supported the formulation of master plan for flood control measures. In January 2013, JICA established "Stand-by Emergency Credit for Urgent Recovery" (SECURE) to address restoration needs of disaster struck countries. Also, the Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR) – the unit responsible for emergency humanitarian assistance during major disaster – has celebrated its 30th anniversary. JICA will continue to support developing countries' disaster risk reduction, emergency relief, restoration and reconstruction with seamless aid.

### Related Articles

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JICA website → "News," Dealing More Effectively with Natural Disasters July 9, 2012

## JICA Sends a Message to the World: IMF and the World Bank Group Annual Meetings

"The core of the global economy comes to Tokyo." In October 2012, it is estimated that as many as 20 thousand members of the global economic and development community gathered in Tokyo. At this major event, JICA jointly held a number of seminars with the World Bank and other institutions, at which JICA's President led discussions about solutions for the diverse global development issues being faced by the world. Through a dialogue with more than one hundred government ministers and principals of international and financial institutions, JICA's President as well as other executive board members exchanged opinions on cooperation programs and donor collaboration. Throughout the event, JICA's President strongly highlighted our endeavors and ideas to the domestic and the international community.

### Related Articles

JICA website → "Press Releases," The IMF-World Bank Group Annual Meetings draws to a successful close, October 15, 2012



JICA President Akihiko Tanaka gives the keynote speech at the Program of Seminars "Can Government Policies Lead to Good Jobs for Development?" held during the Annual Meetings [Photo by Shinichi Kuno].



JICA Senior Vice President Hideaki Domichi shakes hands with MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim after the signing of a framework agreement for peace.

## Further Assistance for Peace Consolidation in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao

In October 2012, the peace panel of the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed a framework agreement for peace, signifying an important step toward the end of the 40-year Mindanao conflict. Peace talks initiated by President Benigno Aquino III and Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, chairman of MILF had paved the way for the agreement. JICA has built a relationship of trust with both the government and the MILF sides through its dispatch of staff to the International Monitoring Team as well as its provision of assistance for capacity building and community development even before the peace agreement. Based on the groundwork laid by these experiences, JICA will extend assistances toward the establishment of a new autonomous government on the conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

### Related Articles

JICA website → "News," Significant Step toward Lasting Peace in the Conflict-Affected Mindanao, October 31, 2012

# Key Topics from Fiscal 2012

## Expanding Assistance to Myanmar: Delivering Fruits of the Reform to the People

Since March 2011, after the inauguration of the new administration, Myanmar has been undertaking political and economic reforms, and is also making efforts to join the international community. Comprehensive agreement was made toward resolving Myanmar's debt issue during "Japan-Myanmar Summit" on April 2012, leading to the restart of ODA Loans as "Social and Economic Development Support Program" for the first time in 26 years. JICA plans to assist the country in conducting socioeconomic reforms to enable Myanmar's citizens to enjoy the benefits from the change.



Restart of yen credit for socioeconomic reforms in Myanmar

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JICA website → "Press Releases," Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, January 30, 2013



Viet Nam loan signing ceremony held in Kobe, Japan.

## First Infrastructure Private Sector Investment Finance since the Resumption of the Program

On January, JICA signed a loan agreement for its first Infrastructure Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) project since the program was fully resumed. The project is to construct, operate, and maintain wastewater treatment systems for industrial parks and a water treatment plant in Viet Nam. Japanese and Vietnamese companies as well as a local public entity are cooperating on the project, which will utilize Japanese technology and management know how. These industrial parks are also expected to attract Japanese investments, especially SMEs, to Viet Nam.

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JICA website → "Press Releases," First Infrastructure Project Signed for Private Sector Investment Finance since Full Resumption of Program, January 30, 2013

## ODA Loan Commitment Expanded to ¥1.2 trillion, Second Largest Ever

The ODA Loan commitment reached ¥1,222.9 billion in fiscal 2012, a 28.9% increase over the previous fiscal year and representing the second largest amount after fiscal 1996 (¥1,281.5 billion). In line with the Japanese government's policies including its "Infrastructure Export Strategy," JICA is proactively supporting infrastructure development in developing countries, notably in Asia, to provide a foundation for social and economic development.



Signing of ¥349.3 billion loan agreement to support sustained growth in India [Photo by Shinichi Kuno]

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Page 128 Supplement to the Annual Report → Pages 18-19



Produced by Kansai Construction Survey Co., Ltd., KUMONOS is an optical surveying instrument that can accurately measure cracks in bridges, tunnels and other structures from a distance (center of the photo). JICA is considering pursuing ODA projects that will prevent accidents from deterioration of social infrastructure and to promote the awareness of structural maintenance.

## Assisting Overseas Deployment of SMEs using ODA

JICA is utilizing its wide network and know-how accumulated and built over many years of ODA cooperation to assist the overseas business deployment of Japanese SMEs. In fiscal 2012, JICA was commissioned by Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs to conduct approximately 50 surveys (¥2.0 billion survey program) to identify overseas business development opportunities for Japanese SMEs. In fiscal 2013, JICA established two new divisions to strengthen its position in the sector and initiated projects to spread and demonstrate Japanese SMEs products and technologies. Utilizing the outstanding technologies and products of Japanese SMEs, JICA is contributing to promoting both the development of developing countries and revitalization of Japanese economy.

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