



Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar Thermal Power Plant No. 4, the largest power generating capacity in the country. Japan has continuously provided support to this power station since 1992.

## Director General's Message

## Support That Meets Each Country's Needs, and Making 2014 a "Year of Central Asia"



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**2013 was the year, when the relationship between Mongolia and Japan further deepened, through the visit of Prime Minister Abe to Mongolia in March and the return visit of the Mongolian Prime Minister Norov Altankhuyag to Japan in September.**

**In 2014, JICA will work on to formulate new projects in Central Asia and to raise interest in the region among private companies and people in Japan, taking advantage of the biennial foreign ministers' meeting of the "Central Asia Plus Japan" Dialogue.**

The construction of the New Ulaanbaatar International Airport, the major ODA Loan project in Mongolia, finally started in 2013. Preparatory work for new cooperation in human resources development in the field of engineering education was also implemented in 2013. As a result, a new ODA Loan project was signed in March, 2014 with an aim of forming a foundation for Mongolia to grow as an upper-middle-income country. This project is composed of several components including "Twinning Programs" in which Japanese universities acknowledge Mongolian universities' credit. Moreover, it also incorporates a component in which Mongolian professors will pursue doctoral or masters' degree courses in Japanese universities.

Meanwhile, in Central Asia, an ODA Loan Agreement for enhancing a thermal-electric power station was signed in Uzbekistan. As for the Kyrgyz Republic, cooperation has entered a new phase, with preparations being made for possible resumption of ODA Loans.

After 23 years of independence of the Central Asia and the Caucasus regions at the collapse of the Soviet Union, disparities within the region are widening. While the countries endowed with rich resources, such as Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan have achieved rapid economic growth in the past decade, people's

income levels have remained low in the countries lacking of resources, such as the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. Continued assistance is necessary to promote economic growth in resource-poor countries.

In 2014, JICA will start a new technical cooperation project on operations and management of the aforementioned new international airport in Mongolia in conjunction with the ODA Loan project. In addition, JICA will support the strengthening of the governance of Mongolia, through promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public-private partnership (PPP). Furthermore, utilizing the opportunity of the foreign ministers' meeting of the "Central Asia Plus Japan" Dialogue held in the Kyrgyz Republic in July 2014, JICA will work on to raise interest in Central Asia among private companies and people in Japan and make 2014 a "Year of Central Asia."

As for China, based on experience and know-hows that JICA has accumulated through past cooperation projects, JICA will carry out cooperation in selected areas. The focus areas will be related to issues that are relevant to both Japan and China, and also have direct impacts on Japan, such as cross-border issues including air pollution as well as infectious diseases.