



Jordan: a Senior volunteer specializing in art education teaching how to make a boomerang at a school run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) at the Baqaa Refugee Camp. (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)

Director General's Message



Key Phrases: Assisting in Quick Response to International Affairs, Utilizing New Support Systems, and Taking Advantage of Japan's Technologies

Shinichi Yamanaka Director General Middle East and Europe Department

The Middle East and Europe Department covers about 30 countries from Central-Eastern Europe through the Middle East and North Africa. Stabilization of these regions, with their continuous political instability, is very important for Japan from the perspective of energy and trade route security. JICA will provide flexible support meeting characteristics and development needs that differ by region and country, under three key phrases: assisting in quick response to international affairs, utilizing new support systems, and taking advantage of Japan's technologies.

For support in quick response to international affairs, in cooperation with international development and financial institutions, JICA will provide emergency financial aid for economic reform to Ukraine, which has faced political and economic difficulties. In addition, assistance will be provided for the renovation of sewage plants in the capital, Kiev.

In North Africa, JICA is carrying out support activities with a view to correcting regional disparities and promoting youth employment, issues that triggered the Arab Spring unrest. As support for Syrian refugees, JICA provided assistance in the fields of health, education, and water to refugee camps and communities in neighboring countries that are receiving Syrian refugees. In addition to this effort, financial aid was also provided to neighboring Jordan.

With regard to utilizing new support systems, JICA is working on the subject primarily with the Palestinian Authority and the Gulf States.

In fiscal 2013, JICA established a trust fund jointly with the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic Development Bank. This effort contributed to developing a framework enabling Islamic countries in Asia to participate in assistance to the Palestinians. JICA will aim to expand

support in the field of energy utilizing this framework.

As for ODA-graduate countries in the Gulf region, the important task for fiscal 2014 is an early realization of Cost-Sharing Technical Cooperation, declared by Prime Minister Abe when he visited the Middle East in 2013.

Taking advantage of Japan's technologies, a subway system under the Bosphorus Strait opened in Turkey in 2013 financed by an ODA Loan. Not only does this subway system contribute to mitigating traffic congestion and air pollution; it also allowed Japan to demonstrate its advanced technologies. On this account, this is a project symbolizing Japan's cooperation with Turkey.

There is still large demand for infrastructure development in North Africa, including Egypt, as well as in Iraq and the Western Balkan region. JICA is considering support in the fields of transportation, energy, and water supply and sewerage, with a view to introducing Japan's technologies as well as providing business opportunities for Japanese enterprises.

In fiscal 2014, with a focus on these three key phrases, we will continue to expand our support, mobilizing all the strengths of JICA.