



Cambodia: an aspiring teacher attending a physical education class. (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)

## Director General's Message

## Dynamic Development for People's Lives and Dignity



Takao Toda Director General Human Development Department

**In fiscal year 2013, the Japanese government announced several policies regarding education, health services, and social welfare. In accordance with the concept of human security, JICA has been aiming to achieve "Inclusive and Dynamic Development," in which all those who participate take a leading role and also benefit from the development. In addition, we are working toward fast-moving and dynamic business development in line with the new policy framework.**

In the health sector, the Japanese government set the promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as one of the highest priorities in its Japan's Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy in May 2013. UHC is defined as the condition that all people can receive the necessary health services at an affordable cost. Through close collaboration with developing countries, international organizations and academics, JICA is advocating the importance of UHC to the global health community and currently formulating projects contributing to its achievement. JICA's cooperation aims not only to improve the current health systems, but also to assist in reforming the health financing system in developing countries. In Kenya, JICA will shortly start a program by combining technical and financial assistance. JICA is also preparing a program to promote UHC in Myanmar.

As an example in the education sector, we rigorously prepared for the the launch of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative). This initiative is conducive to the National Security Strategy of December 2013, which stresses human resources development in developing countries and strengthening international interactions, and it was announced at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013. Young professionals from Africa

will study at graduate schools in Japan and intern at Japanese companies. This will assist in developing high-quality human resources and strengthening the industry-academia network. It will also contribute to the growth of African countries by utilizing the vitality of the Japanese private sector as well as to the revitalization of local communities in Japan. The first batch of students is expected to arrive in September 2014. JICA aims to expand its activity globally by providing assistance that utilizes Japan's strengths in the areas of science and technology, and also focusing on improving the quality of primary and secondary education.

In the field of social security, we have begun efforts to address the issue of aging. Aging has become a serious issue in ASEAN countries as well as other developing countries. Utilizing the experiences Japan has accumulated in this field and reflecting on the lessons learned, JICA has been providing opportunities for Japan and developing countries to discuss challenges and lessons and to learn from one another. Additionally, we will continue our efforts to raise awareness on disability and to support the empowerment of persons with disabilities so as to incorporate their perspectives in all aspects of the development process.