

Partnerships with NGOs and Other Organizations

Collaboration with Diverse Actors in International Cooperation

As development issues have become more complicated, there is a greater need for Japanese overseas cooperation to mobilize people, knowledge, and expertise, based on the concept of human security, in order to cope with diverse themes such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In order for more people to become interested in international cooperation and also obtain opportunities to get involved in developmental challenges, JICA has been promoting “civic participation” through providing assistance, cooperation, and dialogue for NGOs, local governments, universities, and private sector entities.

● JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

Joint Implementation of Overseas Development Projects

JICA implements JPP projects jointly with Japanese organizations that are ardent about implementing international cooperation projects, including NGOs, local government entities, universities, and private companies. JPP is based on proposals from these experienced organizations, which helps benefit the local people in developing countries. JPP projects are unique as they directly contribute to improving the lifestyles and livelihoods of the people by carrying out detailed activities at the grassroots level. In fiscal 2013, JICA implemented 250 JPP projects in more than 45 countries.

JPP projects consist of three schemes: the partner type, in which projects are carried out by organizations with a certain level of experience in developing countries; the support type, in which projects are carried out by organizations with less experience in developing countries; and the local government type, in which local government entities play a central role and utilize the know-how accumulated in their localities.

In fiscal 2013, JICA developed a system for the Special Category of Local Economy Revitalization for local governments and also smoothly conducted related projects under the fiscal 2012 supplementary budget, in light of certain relevant policies of the Japanese government (e.g., the Japan Revitalization Strategy, the Economic Measures for Realization of Virtuous Cycles, etc.).

● NGO-JICA Japan Desk

Supporting the Activities of Japanese NGOs

JICA has NGO-JICA Japan Desks in 20 countries to support the activities of Japanese NGOs operating in developing countries. These desks offer consultation and information on various matters, for example, on local laws, local systems, the social situation, and the state of local NGO activities, which are also helpful for NGOs in implementing JPP projects.

● Support for Capacity Building

Strengthening Human Resources and Organization for Better International Cooperation

To support international cooperation activities by NGOs, JICA provides a variety of support programs. These include Project Cycle Management (PCM) method training; training



Viet Nam Farmers' Field School, part of the JICA Partnership Program titled the Project on Production and Marketing Capacity Improvement for Sustainable Agriculture, Farmer Empowerment, Rice Improvement, and Cleaner Environment, conducted by the Agro-Environmental Engineering Laboratory at the Department of International Studies, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo.

for organizational strengthening through human resources development; dispatching advisors with special expertise; and training for quick response to regional NGO-specific issues. In fiscal 2013, the following programs were implemented.

- Project management basic seminar utilizing the PCM method for individuals in charge of international cooperation; 376 participants
- Training for organizational strengthening through human resources development for NGOs; 6 participants
- Dispatch of domestic advisors for NGO organizational strengthening; dispatched to 10 organizations
- Dispatch of overseas advisors for NGO organizational strengthening; dispatched to 3 organizations
- NGO human resources training and Regional NGO-Proposed training; conducted 3 training events

● NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting

Promoting Equal Partnerships

JICA emphasizes the importance of dialogue with NGOs for ensuring deeper mutual understanding and promoting excellent collaboration. Through its headquarters, overseas offices, and domestic offices, JICA exchanges opinions and information with NGOs on regional and sectoral issues. Also, JICA holds a quarterly dialogue meeting with NGOs where both sides discuss the effective cooperation and promotion of equal partnerships.

● JICA Donation Fund for the People of the World

International Cooperation through Donations

The JICA Donation Fund for the People of the World encourages citizens, corporations, and groups to participate in international cooperation. The donations are used to support Japanese civil society groups' activities aiming to alleviate poverty and improve health care, education, and the environment of developing countries. In fiscal 2013 the fund supported eight projects.

Case Study

JICA Partnership Program

World Cities Benefitting from the Lessons of Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction and Regional Disaster Prevention by Local Residents

Indonesia: Community-Based Mutual Reconstruction Acceleration Program by Utilization of Local Resources in Banda Aceh City and Higashimatsushima City

JICA is promoting the reconstruction of Aceh, Indonesia, which suffered damage from the Indian Ocean Tsunami triggered by the large-scale earthquake off the coast of Sumatra in 2004. Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh Province, has been receiving reconstruction assistance from Higashimatsushima Organization for Progress and Economy, Education, Energy (HOPE) in cooperation with Higashimatsushima City in Miyagi Prefecture, a city that was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. JICA is providing assistance not only to Banda Aceh but also to the reconstruction support of Higashimatsushima City.

To support the reconstruction of Banda Aceh, Higashimatsushima City received two training participants from Aceh for a period of one year from March 2013 in order to enhance the friendly relations that started after the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. This training program allowed Aceh to find new issues on reconstruction. On the other hand, Higashimatsushima City marked the fourth year since its reconstruction began. Under the JICA Partnership Program project by JICA, these cities have started mutual cooperation since December 2013 to jointly cope with their common issues and also promote recovery from the tsunami disaster.

Through the exchange of human resources and ideas, these cities are now developing an environmentally friendly city that can withstand natural disasters. At the same time, they are also creating a comprehensive model regarding

community business and administrative functions. These plans are expected to be disseminated widely among the public. In 2014, Banda Aceh will utilize tsunami escape buildings in the coastal villages as public places so that the city can carry out activities to achieve regional disaster prevention by local residents and achieve community development.

By expanding the lessons from this project as an ideal model for mutual reconstruction and community disaster prevention, both cities are looking forward to broadening their collaborative relationships with other cities in the world.

The Voice of an Official in a Cooperating Municipality

Mr. Takafumi Kawaguchi, Higashimatsushima City Office

Higashimatsushima City has been working on various activities through active civic



Discussing local infrastructure for the public and city planning for disaster prevention while visiting a catfish hatchery adjacent to a tsunami escape building.

cooperation. Mutual assistance by local residents also worked very well after the Great East Japan Earthquake. We hope that this civic cooperation model helps solve various issues in Banda Aceh. It would be very wonderful if this opportunity for interaction could help us reveal problems and cover for each other, so that we can both achieve favorable development in the future.

The Voice of an Official in a Local Cooperating Agency

Mr. Parmakope, Banda Aceh City Office

The key goal of this project is to establish collaborative relationships between Higashimatsushima City and Banda Aceh beyond the difference in culture and background. We would like to discover effective approaches to achieve sustainable development by learning each other's knowledge and experiences.

An NPO in Nishinomiya City shares Japan's experiences with an independent living center for persons with disabilities in Costa Rica as technology transfer

Costa Rica: Promoting Independent Living in Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, due to the absence of personal assistant services for persons with disabilities in need of help, many persons with disabilities have been unable to become independent. To address such a situation, JICA is providing personal assistant dispatch service for persons with disabilities in Pérez Zeledón for their independence.

Although the Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act became law in Costa Rica in 1996, the actual situation for persons with disabilities was far from independent. Thus, JICA facilitated the social participation of persons with disabilities through a five-year comprehensive project of community-based rehabilitation. In 2011, the nation's first Independent Living Center for the Persons with Disabilities was also established.

Under the JICA Partnership Program project

initiated in April 2012, the Mainstream Association, an NPO in Nishinomiya City, Hyogo Prefecture, shared their experiences with the center as technology transfer. They have been engaged in developing a system that enables persons with disabilities to utilize personal assistants for independence in their community.

The Voice of an NPO Staffer

Mr. Takeshi Inoue, Project Manager

Since we have difficulties in providing Costa Rica with a Japanese-style personal assistant dispatch services for persons with disabilities, we sometimes feel that things do not work out as we intended. However, two years after the project started, the Independent Living Center, which is the first example not only in Costa Rica but in all of Latin America, has taken root in the community and played a role as

a troubleshooter and one-stop service center for persons with disabilities in the region. We are engaged in various activities for them, such as providing consultation and counseling services, checking barrier-free facilities in administrative institutions or stores, and holding training programs for bus drivers on the proper treatment of persons with disabilities.

The Voice of a Local Staffer

Mr. Luis Hernán, Leader of Independent Living Center in Pérez Zeledón

In February 2014 we held a three-day national rally for persons with disabilities in the capital of Costa Rica. This was the first attempt in our country, and many persons with disabilities in need of help throughout the country joined the event. This rally had about 70 participants, including staff members; some of them had never gone outside their houses for many years, and some experienced their first attempt to take a bus. In spite of many troubles in taking on the new challenge, the satisfied faces of the participants made us glad about our attempt. At the same time, organizing this event was a good opportunity for us to grow.



Marching in a parade in the town after the three-day national rally. Each of the participants made appeals to the crowd.