

JICA's Training and Dialogue Program

Making the Training Program More Effective and Efficient

● Aiming for Constant Improvement

JICA's Domestic Strategy and Partnership Department and the domestic offices have been managing and operating the JICA's Training and Dialogue Program, the Citizen Participatory Cooperation Program and collaboration with local universities to support developing countries in resolving their development issues by working closely with the overseas offices, Regional Departments, and Thematic Departments¹ engaged in the implementation of cooperation activities in developing countries.

The JICA's Training and Dialogue Program is one of the JICA's major activities conducted in Japan. Government officials and people in different fields from developing countries come to Japan to participate in the program with the cooperation of partner organizations and communities in Japan. At this event, individuals acquire expected technologies and knowledge to tackle the development issues of each country.

In the JICA's Training and Dialogue Program confirmations are performed to be certain that each training course matches the priority development issues of the participating countries, and the lineups are prepared based on a policy that the program focuses exclusively on cooperation programs associated with these development issues. In addition, JICA continuously works on making the training program more effective and efficient by considering the content to be covered in each course theme by theme, such as education or agriculture, while also monitoring changes and trends in other cooperative schemes.

Formulating the best possible courses require determining whether or not each course is suitable to be held in Japan. This is why JICA has also begun to select the necessary training courses based on the knowledge and know-how of the JICA domestic offices that are monitoring and practicing the characteristics of

each region of Japan.

To make the training program more effective, it is also important to maintain the relationship among program participants after returning to their home countries and also to make good use of information-exchange opportunities such as sharing success stories and good practices. Various actions are being used to build stronger networks, for instance by operating a Facebook page for the participants.

● The Multifaceted Benefits of the Training Program

The goal of the JICA's Training and Dialogue Program is to contribute to solving development issues in partner countries; meanwhile, the program also has produced many other benefits.

To date, over 310,000 people have participated in the JICA's Training and Dialogue Program, and the participants have met numerous Japanese people during their stays in Japan and returned home with a deeper understanding and familiarity with Japan by learning Japanese culture.

Meanwhile, site visits and some training activities designed in the training program benefit Japanese society too. For instance, companies could obtain direct information about developing countries and build relationships that may lead to the start of overseas operations. In addition, students at universities that hold training courses could acquire a greater global perspective by interacting with the participants. As a result, the training program creates additional benefits of invigorating various regions of Japan and fostering its people with global skills and knowledge.

Again, the JICA's Training and Dialogue Program contributes to solving issues in developing countries. Fostering Japan experts

1. JICA has five Thematic Departments at Headquarters: Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department, Human Development Department, Global Environment Department, Rural Development Department and Industrial Development and Public Policy Department.



Participants from Myanmar receiving a lecture about the medical care system in an isolated area from the Okinawa Prefectural Ohara Clinic (Group and Region-focused Training Course: Strengthening of Community Health Systems for Infectious Diseases Control (A))



Participants from Banda Aceh, Indonesia pulling up a fixed shore net to catch salmon together with the local fishermen in Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture (Group and Region-focused Training Course: New Challenges for Regional Development in the Reconstruction Process)

and Japanophiles, revitalizing Japanese local areas, and fostering global human resources are other important benefits of the program. Consequently, JICA implements its training program by identifying these significant benefits.

● Globally Unique Training Program

The implementation methods for Technical Cooperation can be divided into two categories; one is overseas cooperation by dispatching experts from development sectors and volunteers to developing countries; the other is domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. The JICA's Training and Dialogue Program refers to a variety of training courses under the domestic cooperation.

Implementation of training program in Japan has significance with regard to the utilization of Japan's development experience and know-how, rather than only sharing Japan's advanced technologies and skills. To learn and understand Japan's knowledge, skills, and experiences, it is often required to practice on-site experience concerning Japan's institutional know-how, and the background and the transitions underlying the Japanese social system.

Moreover, a particular characteristic of the JICA's Training and Dialogue Program is to provide an opportunity for participants to become aware of and reexamine the experience and the actual circumstance of their own countries from outside by experiencing Japan. Hence, participants get to be able to tackle various development issues in their home countries with a different perspective.

Among the JICA's Training and Dialogue Program, Group and Region-focused Training, in which participants are from several different partner countries, gives opportunities to participants examining a variety of issues not only from the perspectives of Japan and their own countries, but also from a multifaceted viewpoints among all participating countries by exchanging

opinions and information. The training thus offers valuable insights and discoveries to each participant.

The JICA's Training and Dialogue Program is an essential tool of Technical Cooperation by utilizing Japan's unique knowledge, skills, and experiences to promote human resource development and to solve development issues in developing countries.

JICA hosts approximately 11,000 training participants every year in cooperation with its 10 domestic offices and three branch offices across Japan. The majority of the participants are affiliated with the partner governments. However, there has been an increase in NGO-affiliated participants and private-sector participants reflecting the diversified needs of developing countries and capacity expansion of Japan's cooperation programs.

The training program is undertaken in cooperation with universities, private sector enterprises, public interest organizations, NGOs, and other organizations, as well as central and local governments. Involvement with various domestic organizations makes possible the training program dealing with sophisticated but vast development issues.

The JICA's Training and Dialogue Program is truly unique in terms of scale and sphere of activities and is an outstanding characteristic of Japan's international cooperation.



In March 2013, a Facebook page for the program participants was set up to maintain and deepen the network among the participants and the relevant organizations for further cooperation.