Follow-up Cooperation

Follow-up Cooperation Adds Value to Projects

**Post-Project Support**

Cooperation projects conducted by JICA are completed after a predetermined period. JICA carries out ongoing monitoring after each project has ended to assess the partner country’s self-help efforts in maintaining and enhancing the results of the project. JICA also provides supplementary support when necessary. Such support is referred to as “Follow-up Cooperation,” which is divided into two categories.

1. **Follow-up Cooperation to Solve Problems with Facilities and Equipment**

This type of cooperation involves working with partner countries to solve problems that may have arisen with facilities constructed by or equipment provided through JICA’s cooperation projects. Such problems can occur owing to a variety of factors, including damage caused by natural disasters, a shortage of financial resources in partner countries due to worsening economic situation, or problems with the maintenance of the facilities or equipment.

For example, Japan has provided support for television industry in Afghanistan since the 1970s. To further develop the industry, JICA provided the country with the Grant Aid project to install broadcasting facilities and necessary equipment in 2002 and 2003. This contribution allowed 24-hour broadcasting in multiple languages.

However, 10 years after the operation was conducted, the broadcasting facilities came to have problems with their equipment due to aged deterioration. Since their self-help efforts were not effective enough to cope with the problems, JICA supported the renewal and repair of the equipment under Follow-up Cooperation.

In consideration of technical renovation, not only was digital program production equipment installed at the facilities, but also JICA invited media engineers to Japan to undertake training programs for smooth operation of broadcasting equipment. This Follow-up Cooperation enabled ongoing stable TV broadcasting; this support contributes to improving the lives of the Afghan people.

2. **Follow-up Cooperation to Expand Project Benefits**

Another type of Follow-up Cooperation is the provision of additional support to partner countries to add new value to completed projects or training programs in line with their project goals, thereby spreading and expanding the benefits that accrue from a project. For example, in 2012, some training program participants from Kazakhstan received trainings in Japan that aimed at strengthening disaster management administration. They were impressed with Japan’s earthquake-resistant construction technologies and efforts for community based disaster management. This experience encouraged them to organize a seminar in their city to popularize such disaster management technologies and concepts.

In August 2013, the seminar was successfully held through the support of Follow-up Cooperation. The venue for the seminar was Almaty, a city with the largest population in Kazakhstan. This city has many aging buildings constructed in the period of the former Soviet Union; therefore, it is predicted that a large earthquake would inflict enormous damage on the city. The urgent issue for Almaty was to renovate these buildings to be earthquake-resistant and also to raise public awareness of disaster management. In the seminar, presentations were made by central and local officials of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, where the former training program participants are employed, as well as by staff members of the Almaty Disaster Prevention Bureau and research institutions. Moreover, participants from the Asian Disaster Reduction Center introduced Japan’s efforts to other seminar participants, and outcomes of the training program in Japan were shared among them.

**Support for Alumni Associations of Former Training Program Participants**

Since the program’s establishment, JICA has hosted in Japan more than 310,000 training program participants from developing countries. These participants will play key roles in the future development of their respective countries while also functioning as “important human assets” that serve as bridges connecting Japan with many countries around the world. To maintain and develop friendships with these ex-participants, who have gained a positive understanding of Japan, as well as to support the ongoing enhancement of the skills and knowledge they acquired in Japan, JICA supports the formation and maintenance of alumni associations of ex-participants in their home countries through Follow-up Cooperation. As of 2013, there were 130 alumni associations around the world.

For instance, in ASEAN countries, training participants who had participated in the “Training Programme for Young Leaders” (former Youth Invitation Program) set up alumni associations in their countries. This activity spread to the whole ASEAN region, and the “ASEAN Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century (AJAFA-21)” was formed in 1988. This organization plays a key role in active interaction among former training participants in the ASEAN countries, by holding interchange forums and association conventions every year.

In February 2014, the Youth Alumni Association of Indonesia hosted an international conference in Jakarta, under the theme “For Sustainable Urban Development in the ASEAN Countries and Formation of the ASEAN Community for 2015.” This conference was successfully held by taking advantage of their networks and eliciting cooperation from relevant institutions in Japan and local banks etc.

Furthermore, this conference had many participants from various fields, such as the ASEAN Secretariat, the Japanese Delegation to ASEAN, the Japan National Tourism Organization, the Japan Foundation, and the local governments. Seventy participants from nine countries, including representatives of each ASEAN country, affirmed the importance of further partnership between Japan and ASEAN in various fields, such as disaster management. To put it another way, this event symbolized the bond between Japan and ASEAN.