

JICA-Net

A New Form of International Cooperation That Transcends the Restrictions of Time and Distance

JICA-Net is a distance Technical Cooperation modality promoted by JICA. JICA-Net uses a wide range of information and communication technologies, including those for providing remote lectures and seminars, creating multimedia-based learning materials, providing multilingual content, and supporting video conferences. By transcending time and distance restrictions, these activities improve the efficiency and quality of JICA projects.

JICA-Net was launched to put into practice the Comprehensive Cooperation Package to Address the International Digital Divide, an initiative of the Japanese government announced at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000. Since then, the benefits provided by JICA-Net have come to be widely recognized along with the growing volume of digital content, including multimedia-based learning materials, reference materials for distance lectures and seminars, and the expansion of overseas video-conference network bases.

In fiscal 2013, the JICA-Net video-conference system was utilized approximately 7,200 times, with around 11,600 connection hours. At present, the systems have been installed at 18 JICA offices in Japan and at 78 network bases in 75 foreign countries. In addition, the JICA-Net video-conference system can be used for setting multipoint video conferences between JICA and external organizations. Especially with the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) coordinated by the World Bank, JICA has been planning distance seminars and cross-border events.

JICA-Net endeavors to disseminate remote technical cooperation through the following methods.

● Remote Lectures and Seminars

As a means of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of project activity, JICA has held remote lectures and seminars via the video-conference system in situations when it is difficult to dispatch Japanese experts or when JICA needs to hold a regional workshop for multiple countries simultaneously.

For example, individuals from four Central and South American countries — Honduras, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia — participated in the Region-focused Training Program on the Study on Education Improvement of Training Courses of Teacher. After finishing the training course in Japan, the video-conference system was used to maintain the relationship among participants and to share the information gained through regional activities.

As in the case above, the JICA-Net video-conference system helps improving the efficiency and effectiveness of JICA projects.

● Creating Multimedia-Based Learning Materials

Multimedia-based learning materials are digitalized materials consisting of various content such as video, photographs, animation, and text. They are prepared mainly as training materials for JICA's Technical Cooperation projects, and are used in ways such as sharing knowledge on JICA projects with people

JICA-Net Library

The JICA-Net Library is operated to assist JICA activities by storing and publishing multimedia-based learning materials, seminar materials, and other digital content that were developed in JICA's technical cooperation projects.



JICA-Net digital content is distributed through the JICA-Net Library.

from developing countries and with JICA partners. Currently, approximately 270 titles of multimedia learning materials are available mainly in English, Japanese, French and Spanish.

Furthermore, some of them are available in other languages as the need arises. They are utilized to disseminate knowledge and lessons such as Japan's own experiences and good practices in international cooperation projects extended to developing countries.

For example, the project titled IRODORI: Rural Community Empowerment through Exploring Local Resources, which introduces regional development experiences that exploit local resources in Kamikatsu-cho, Tokushima Prefecture, has been translated into seven languages, including Sinhalese and Persian, and is widely utilized in many countries and regions.

● Providing Digital Content Via the JICA-Net Library

The JICA-Net Library stores syllabi and training-course plans, reference materials for remote lectures and seminars as well as a wide range of multimedia-based learning materials for counterparts and partners of JICA activities across borders to share and reuse. As of March 2014, approximately 550 files are stored in the JICA-Net Library; anyone can search the stored content from anywhere in the world through the Internet.

JICA-Net Library URL:

<http://jica-net-library.jica.go.jp/en2/index.html>