

Security and Safety Management

Developing countries are commonly confronted by poverty issues and insufficient security control capability, which lead to increased crime. Some countries face the risk of a coup d'état caused by political instability, and some suffer from long-running civil wars. In some cases peacebuilding activities are required in post-conflict countries where it is politically unstable, and they face numerous security issues. Moreover, there are also regions around the world where there is the threat of terrorism. Additionally, there is a high risk of traffic accidents due to inexperienced local drivers and underdeveloped transportation infrastructure where traffic customs differ from those of developed countries.

In this regard, JICA gives high priority to security and safety measures and risk management in order to ensure safe activities of JICA personnel abroad. Criminal cases involving JICA personnel have been decreasing for the last five years. The number of crimes reported in fiscal 2013 was 418; this is 45 fewer cases than in the previous year. This favorable trend is thought to be due to continuous efforts to disseminate crime-prevention awareness through training programs and guidance for overseas offices and personnel, arrangement of security goods, facilities, and communication instruments, and implementation of guidance through security advisory missions from JICA headquarters.

● Implementation of Security and Safety Measures Training for Related Personnel

JICA headquarters conducts security and safety training before dispatching personnel engaged in JICA activities, including staffs, experts, volunteers, and their families. These training sessions focus on prevention and emergency response to crimes such as region-specific crime, selection of housing, dealing with local residents, protection of valuables, as well as response to robbery, car-jacking, or firearms crimes.

Security and safety briefings are organized for newly arrived staff members, experts, and volunteers by the respective JICA overseas offices. Briefings focus on information on domestic security and safety conditions and crime prevention measures taken by JICA. JICA overseas offices hold Security and Safety Meetings one to four times a year to share experiences and lessons learned and provide information on local security and safety conditions. These meetings enable JICA personnel living and working in the same environment to share the latest local safety information, crime experiences and gleanings, and their practical expertise with security measures gained through day-to-day experience.

● Security Advisors for JICA Overseas Offices

JICA assigns personnel with public security expertise as Security Advisors in order to reinforce local security and safety measures. There are 86 of these advisors worldwide, and they collect

and distribute domestic and regional security information and have the responsibility of dealing with wide-ranging cases such as residential crimes, traffic accidents, and terrorism. Security Advisors use their extensive knowledge and experiences on both the nature of local crime and Japanese living patterns in order to provide JICA resident representatives with appropriate guidance on security and safety.

In countries without overseas offices, JICA may assign personnel to collect local security and safety information.

● Establishment of Emergency Communication System for Overseas Offices and Headquarters

JICA establishes emergency communication systems that cover all relevant personnel in the event of an emergency by means of mobile phones, satellite phones, and radio equipment. Since fast contact and confirmation of the safety of related personnel are essential in emergency situations, these emergency communication networks are placed as a vital pillar of JICA's safety measures. There are 760 satellite phones installed in 87 countries.

JICA headquarters has a standby system of managerial staff members on a rotating schedule so that emergency contacts from overseas offices are able to reach the office 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for quick response.

● Dispatch of Security Survey Missions

For countries with particular safety issues or challenges, JICA dispatches security survey missions to assess local conditions, and to then examine specific safety measures. In responding to aid needs, JICA analyses the domestic region-by-region security conditions in a particular country and then makes appropriate decisions on the range of JICA personnel activities. Survey missions were dispatched to 15 countries in fiscal 2013.

In countries with high crime rates, JICA dispatches a security advisory mission to provide direct safety guidance to related personnel. Among other topics, the guidance covers residential crime prevention and how to deal with armed crime. Advisory missions were dispatched to 12 countries in fiscal 2013.

With traffic safety measures, JICA prepares various instruction manuals and distributes these to related personnel. JICA also regularly publicizes information on traffic accidents in various countries and works to foster an awareness of safety. In response to local requests, JICA dispatches missions to study local traffic and provide instruction on traffic safety. Missions were dispatched to four countries in fiscal 2013.

● Security Measures for Residences of Related Personnel

JICA's overseas offices conduct security

checks on the residences of its experts and volunteers to ensure their safety. JICA bears the expenses for the additional crime prevention systems and equipment as necessary. For example, JICA may arrange the cost for allocation of security guards, installation of alarm systems, iron bars, auxiliary locks, the construction of raised fences, the reinforcement of doors and window frames, the replacement of locks, and the installation of auxiliary locks as and when considered necessary.

● Sharing of Safety Management Information with Private-Sector Entities

By creating occasions for sharing safety management information with private-sector activities in foreign countries, JICA introduces a summary of safety management. It also provides opportunities to share information on project implementation, the status and challenges of safety measures, and so forth. Training programs for experts and volunteers are also offered to security personnel for external organizations.

● Awareness to Avoid the Risk of Terrorism

The steady increase in the number of countries and regions prone to terrorism is a cause for concern. In particular, there has been an increase in large-scale terror incidents perpetrated by international terrorist groups in recent years. Consequently, JICA strives to develop an awareness of terrorism among JICA personnel in high-risk regions to help them avoid risk. These efforts include briefing personnel about specific precautions for avoiding involvement in a terrorist incident on such occasions as pre-dispatch training and post-arrival orientation.

● Security Measures in Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Assistance Activities

For peacebuilding and reconstruction assistance, JICA conducts programs in post-conflict countries or countries with ongoing conflicts such as Afghanistan, Iraq, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Pakistan. Taking note of the measures employed by United Nations organizations and other agencies active in the relevant region, JICA routinely monitors volatile political and public security situations, carefully surveys regions of activity, and deploys necessary safety equipment such as radios and armored cars in the ongoing conduct of its projects, in order to reduce potential risks.

Given the ever-present danger of such unpredictable events as kidnappings, coups d'état, riots, and terrorism, practical know-how in dealing with crisis situations is essential. To that end, JICA has been conducting more practical Security Risk Management Training and Web-based training programs in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) eCentre since 2003.