HIGHLIGHTS 2013

Major Topics of Fiscal 2013

Assisting Further Change in Myanmar, Asia’s Last Frontier
Providing ODA Loans for the First Time in 25 Years

JICA has expanded its assistance for the Myanmar government’s efforts to make various changes by integrally providing a variety of ODA projects. In May 2013, Prime Minister Abe paid an official visit to Myanmar, which was the first visit by a Japanese prime minister in 36 years, where he announced that the Japanese government and the private sector would give support to Myanmar with concerted effort. In June, ODA Loans for three projects were provided for the first time in 25 years. JICA will continue its assistance so that people in Myanmar can enjoy the benefits of the changes being made.

The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development Held in Yokohama
Strengthening Support for Inclusive and Dynamic Development

The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) was held in Yokohama on June 1–3, where the Yokohama Declaration 2013 and the Yokohama Action Plan 2013–2017, which present a future direction for African development for the next five years, were issued. JICA, as a major implementing agency of Japan’s TICAD V commitments, will extend its support for inclusive and dynamic development in Africa, based on the three pillars of robust and sustainable economy, inclusive and resilient society, and peace and stability.

Completion of the Bosphorus Rail Tube Crossing
Using Japanese Technology, Constructing an Underground Tunnel to Cross the Strait, Which Has Been Turkey’s Dream for 150 Years

In the presence of Turkey’s then President Gül, then Prime Minister Erdoğan, and Japan’s Prime Minister Abe, an opening ceremony was held for the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in October 2013. This is an ODA Loan project to support construction of a subway to connect the east (Asia) and the west (Europe) sides of Istanbul across the Bosphorus, and Japanese advanced technology was used to construct the world’s deepest immersed tube tunnel, 60 meters below the ocean bed. Crossing the strait, which took nearly 30 minutes by ferry, is now shortened to 4 minutes with the opening of the subway. A decrease in chronic traffic congestion and air pollution caused by sources such as car exhaust is expected.
Supporting the Philippines, Stricken by Typhoon Haiyan

Providing a Variety of Cooperation by Making Use of Experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Japan Disaster Relief Team provided various forms of support, including dispatch of medical teams, to the Philippines, which was stricken by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. Based on experiences gained at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the team proactively paid medical visits to villages which were lacking support in the affected areas. X-ray and other inspection equipments carried in from Japan were also used by other foreign teams, thus contributed widely to on-site medical activities. In addition, JICA provided relief supplies such as tents, generators, water purifiers, and water, and dispatched expert teams to engage in activities such as dealing with oil spillage from ships stranded by the typhoon and conducting research, reporting, and making suggestions for rapid recovery. JICA will continue to focus on seamless support for reconstruction and will provide support for the Philippines’ recovery and strengthening capacity for disaster risk reduction.

Expanding Citizen Participation in International Cooperation

More than Ten Years Have Passed Since JICA Partnership Program Started / One Million People Have Visited the JICA Global Plaza

JICA Partnership Program is a technical cooperation program run in collaboration with partners in Japan such as NGOs to provide fine and careful cooperation on a grassroots level that might be left out of cooperative projects on a government-to-government level. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the program, JICA is planning to further strengthen partnerships with collaborative organizations such as NGOs and consider future directions to achieve effective collaboration.

More than one million people have visited the JICA Global Plaza, which was established in 2006 as a hub for citizen participation in international cooperation. The Partnership Program is an example of such participation. Many visitors enhance their understanding in the Virtual Global Experience Area, where the realities of developing countries and international cooperation are exhibited.

40 Years of Ties between Japan and ASEAN

Toward Strengthening of the Partnership and Enhancement of Unity within ASEAN

The year 2013 was the 40th anniversary of Friendship and Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan. The ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting was held in December. The Japanese government announced a total of ¥2 trillion in ODA provision over the next five years to support ASEAN’s initiatives, including enhancement of connectivity and narrowing of the development gap within the region toward the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015. JICA held commemorative events in various countries and locations. On the first day of the summit meeting, JICA also co-hosted “The Future of Asia” Special Symposium, “ASEAN 2025 — Vision and Challenges for ASEAN in the Future,” co-organized by JICA and Nikkei Inc.

At JICA Global Plaza, you can learn about the realities of developing countries through exhibits that you can see, listen to, and touch. (Photo by Tomohito Ishigo)