



Southeast Asia and the Pacific

To Contribute to the Diversity of Development Needs and Enhancement of Growth in the Region as well as in Each Country

Director General's Message

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Regional Issues

- ➔ With annual average economic growth forecast at around 5%, the countries of Southeast Asia are facing challenges as to how they can best meet their massive infrastructure development and investment demand. There is also a need for action to ensure this economic growth is maintained, including measures to deal with aging and urbanization, narrowing the development gap within individual countries, and securing quality higher education.
- ➔ For the Pacific island countries, the challenge is vulnerability to climate change and environmental issues.

Fiscal 2014 Initiatives

- ➔ JICA focused on providing support consistent with the various development needs of each country within the region through enhanced policy dialogue, and also consistent with Japanese government policy.
- JICA continued to conduct policy dialogue (Indonesia, Philippines), strengthen disaster management cooperation with ASEAN, provide support for establishing customs systems (Myanmar, Viet Nam), provide support for developing economic corridors including the construction of the Tsubasa Bridge (Cambodia), and boost support for the Pacific region.

Future Cooperation

- ➔ In tackling infrastructure development based on the government's Infrastructure Systems Export Strategy, human resources development, and support for women's empowerment, JICA is aiming at "quality growth" in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.
- ➔ In fiscal 2015, JICA will focus on formulating and implementing programs that strengthen physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity within the region with a view to the establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015, and that work toward narrowing the development gap within individual countries, as well as programs based on the declaration of support made at the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7).

pick up
A look at
programs by
numbers

1/80

During busy times, boarding a ferry to cross the Mekong River on Cambodia's National Road No.1 could require a wait of anything up to seven hours, but with the opening of the Tsubasa Bridge in April 2015, the time it now takes to cross the river has been drastically reduced to about five minutes (during normal times), or about 1/80th of the previous time. This has helped to alleviate a former bottleneck on National Road No.1, an important route in southern Indochina.

Morning and evening traffic congestion in Jakarta, Indonesia is unrelenting. (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)