

East Asia

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships Aiming for Mutually Beneficial Relationships

Key Aid Strategies

Support Regional Stability and Growth that is Sound and Sustained

East Asia contains China, a country dealing with numerous issues that include environmental problems resulting from its dramatic economic growth, and Mongolia, which is pursuing rapid development underpinned by its abundant mineral resources. The sound and sustained

development of these countries has become increasingly important for Japan as well as the rest of the world.

JICA's cooperation in this region is contributing to building stronger economic relationships with China and Mongolia that are both reciprocal and mutually beneficial.

Country Overviews and Priority Issues

● China

Not only has China achieved economic development, its technological level has also increased. To some extent ODA has already played a role in development aid for China; consequently, JICA's additional contribution through providing Loan and Grant Aid was ended.

In this situation, and in line with policies of the Japanese government, JICA's cooperation is currently extended to the common challenges faced by both countries. Examples include measures against cross-border pollution, infectious diseases, and food safety-related issues. Furthermore, implementation of technical cooperation projects is also in progress in areas other than those mentioned above, with expenses being covered by China in principle, as a new approach of Japan-China cooperation.

Major projects in this region for priority issues include the

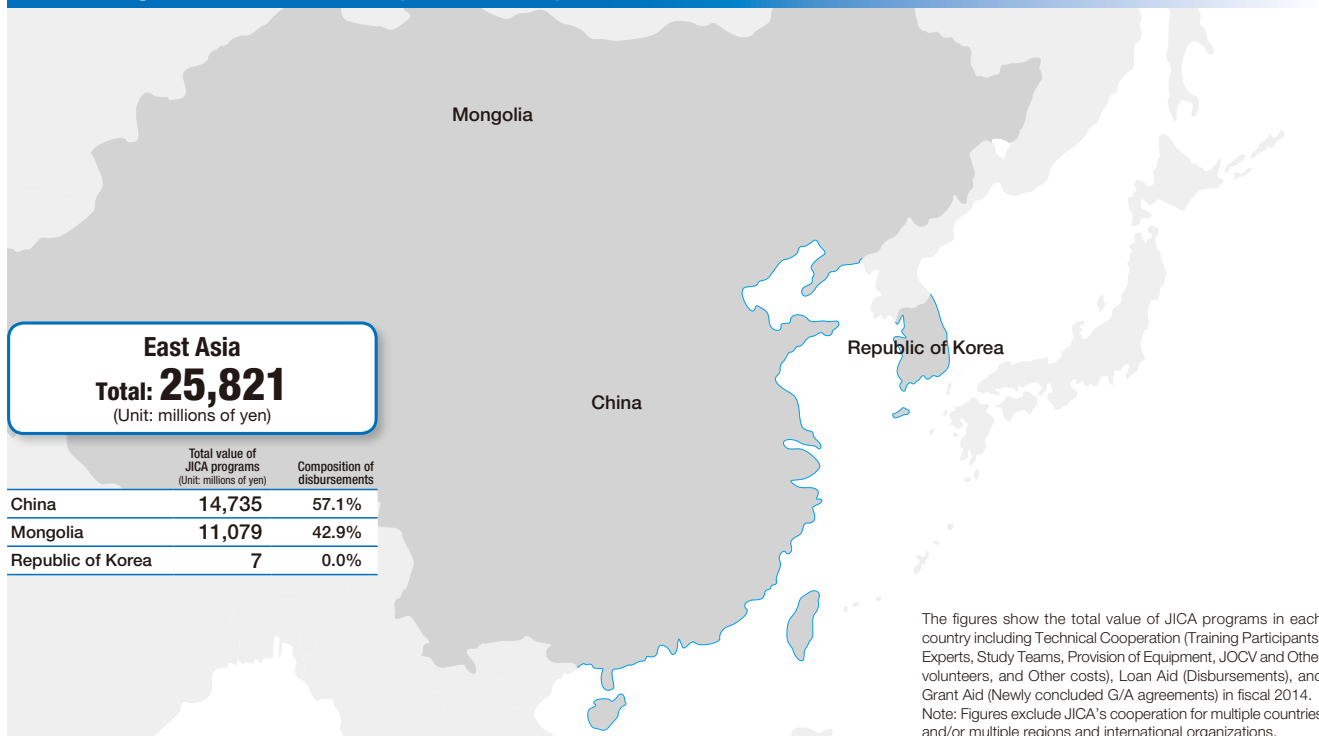
Project for Total Emission Control of Nitrogen Oxide in Atmosphere. Based on Japan's experience with pollution, this project aims to find ways to reduce the emissions of nitrogen oxide, a causative agent for 2.5-micron particulate matter (PM2.5), which, among airborne particles, is particularly damaging to health. To that end, the project is investigating technological measures and public policies and systems and spreading the use of practical control technologies and methods.

● Mongolia

JICA is focusing on cooperation in accordance with the three priority areas stated in the Country Assistance Policy for Mongolia, announced in April 2012.

- (1) Sustainable development of the mining sector and enhancement of governance: establishing systems and training personnel to achieve sustainable development of mineral resources, the key element in Mongolia's economic advancement, as

JICA Programs in East Asia (Fiscal 2014)



well as establishing systems including those for the proper management of revenues from natural resources.

- (2) Assisting inclusive growth: creating employment primarily at micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to diversify industrial activities, and improving basic social services.
- (3) Enhancement of the capacity and function of Ulaanbaatar as an urban center: improving the city's infrastructure facilities, and upgrading urban planning and management capabilities. Major projects in Mongolia for priority issues are as follows.

The New Ulaanbaatar International Airport Construction Project: Construction of a new airport in the suburbs of Ulaanbaatar will improve the safety and reliability of air access for the capital city and provide greater convenience for travelers,

contributing to further economic development in Mongolia. JICA is also extending technical cooperation for establishing smooth management and maintenance systems to be applied when the airport starts operations.

Two-Step-Loan Project for Small and Medium-Scaled Enterprises Development and Environmental Protection, Phase II: JICA assists development of SMEs by providing them with low-interest and long-term financing and supports job creation and diversification of industries. JICA also provides financing for environmental improvement efforts by these enterprises such as equipment investment for the measures against urban air pollution. JICA has provided financing for over 480 companies by 2014, and created new jobs for over 2,000 people.

Case Study Mongolia: Higher Engineering Education Project

ODA Loan Project Aims to Strengthen Industrial Human Resources to Promote Sustainable Economic Growth

Needs for development of human resources in the field of engineering and strengthening of research capabilities are increasing in Mongolia, where rapid economic growth is being achieved through the development of mineral resources. JICA supports the sustainable economic growth of Mongolia by enhancing the functions of educational institutions in the field of engineering, and developing human resources in the field by providing education in Japan for Mongolians.

Supporting the Development of 1,000 Engineers

While the number of new students entering the engineering departments of higher educational institutions in Mongolia increased by 40% in the five years from 2007 to 2012, there is a lack of instructors. Action must be taken to meet this rapidly increasing need in human resources development. Enhancement of educational quality is another challenge. For example, curricula at universities consist mainly of theory-intensive lectures, and there is a lack of practical studies. Currently the ratio of university faculty members with doctoral degrees is only about 20%,¹ a number that is almost 100%² in Japan.

In this project, the following three programs are implemented to resolve these issues.

1. The Twinning Program with Japanese universities, aimed at quality improvement in undergraduate education

In order to improve the curricula of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology by introducing practical content to develop human resources that meet industrial needs, new curricula are being developed jointly with Japanese universities. Necessary educational materials are provided and lecturers are dispatched for implementation of the new curric-



People scheduled to study in Japan who have received certification from the Minister for Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia

ula. Meanwhile, under the Twinning Program, 320 Mongolian students are to be admitted to the third year of relevant departments at Japanese universities after two and a half years of education given in accordance with the new curricula in Mongolia; they will receive undergraduate degrees.

2. Studying in Japan and conducting joint research to enhance educational and research capacities of university teachers

A total of 160 instructor candidates, including teaching assistants from the National University of Mongolia and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, are scheduled to study in Japan either for master's or doctoral degrees. Additionally, a total of 320 non-degree students are to be accepted to study in Japan. Furthermore, 20 joint research projects are to be conducted to strengthen research expertise, for which necessary materials and equipment will be provided and teachers will be dispatched from Japan to Mongolia.

3. Studying at Japanese colleges of technology (*Kosen*) to supply immediately effective engineers

To develop engineers who are immediately ready to lead Mongolian industries, a total of

200 students are to be admitted to *Kosen* in Japan. At the same time, to prepare for the implementation of *kosen* education system in Mongolia, a country-focused training, the Enhancement of Teachers' Capacities toward the Implementation of *Kosen* Education System, is being conducted separately for the purpose of developing necessary human resources, including personnel for the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia as well as colleges of technology.

This project, which sends over 1,000 students to Japan, is widely known as the "Project to Develop 1,000 Engineers in Mongolia," on which high expectations have been placed.

Japan and Mongolia signed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in February 2015, and the accelerating economic relationship between the two countries is drawing attention. It won't be long before the graduates of this project play an active part as Mongolian partners to Japanese companies.

1. Statistical Year Book on Education, Culture, Science and Technology (2011-2012)

2. Results of the Survey of Research and Development (2011) by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications