

Education / Social Security / Health

Human Resources Development that People in the World Promote Together



Of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

Human resources development is a process to create an environment where each person makes good use of his or her potential and can fulfill a productive and innovative life according to his or her necessity and concerns. People are the wealth of society, and people's happiness itself is an objective of development.

A new framework for development was established in the international community in 2015. To achieve the

objectives of the framework, JICA continues to assist in people-centered development in the fields of education, social security, and health. When doing so, in addition to carefully conducting each project, JICA will dynamically link projects and facilitate people in the world to proceed with their development efforts while learning from one another.

Education

● Overview of the Issue

Education is the cornerstone of all development. Education enables people to open up and improve their prospects in life. The enhancement of people's capabilities promotes social and economic development. Furthermore, the promotion of mutual understanding is essential for the stability and peace of the world, and education plays an important role in this regard as well.

Toward achieving universal primary education, the primary net enrollment ratio has been expected to improve from 84% in 1999 to 93% globally in 2015, but nearly 58 million children of primary school age were still out of school.¹ Approximately 40%, around 250 million children, of the primary school-age population in the world are not learning basic literacy and numeracy skills.² The target of gender parity by 2015 will not be achieved by approximately 30% of the countries in primary education and by approximately 50% of the countries in secondary education.³ Provision of technical and vocational education and training to mitigate the high youth unemployment rate (13% for ages 15 to 24),⁴ and livelihood improvement of socially vulnerable populations, which include people affected by conflicts, women, and persons with disabilities, remain challenges to overcome. Furthermore, in higher education, a decrease in education quality due to rapid expansion and brain drain are two emerging issues, while higher education institutions are playing greater roles in the knowledge-based economy.

To respond to these situations, Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advocates to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” In addition, the Development Cooperation Charter set out by the Cabinet in February 2015 states that “Japan will provide the assistance necessary for the promotion of science, technology, and innovation, and vocational training and industrial human resources development, in order to secure the foundations and the driving force for economic growth, along with assistance necessary for quality education for all, and empowerment of women, in order to promote people-centered development.” Furthermore, concerning promotion of public-

private collaboration, collaboration among local governments, collaboration with universities and research institutions, and other types of collaboration, active moves are evident in the field of education. Examples include collaboration with the Japanese education industry, internships for overseas students at Japanese enterprises, indirectly supporting internationalization of Japanese universities through provision of support to universities in developing countries, and collaboration with Japanese companies for vocational training.

● JICA Activities

1. Basic Education

Basic education provides literacy and numeracy — the basic knowledge and skills essential to living. It includes early childhood care and education, primary and secondary education, and non-formal education that provide wide groups of people, including adults, with learning opportunities for literacy and fundamental skills acquisition necessary to improve their lives and livelihoods.

Focusing on equity and inclusion, JICA has been supporting learning improvement in basic education. From viewpoints of equity and inclusion, JICA has contributed to expanding learning opportunities, especially for women and girls in the Non-formal Education Promotion Project in Pakistan, by developing a curriculum and teaching materials that are relevant to the lives and interests of the learners. In Mongolia, a project for education of children with disabilities will be launched. Also, for improvement of learning achievement, JICA provides assistance in curriculum reform and textbooks for all primary school education subjects in Myanmar, in collaboration with a Japanese textbook publisher that has rich expertise in the area. JICA also operates a project in Ethiopia that focuses on development of assessment capacity in mathematics and science education [➔ see the Case Study on page 82]. JICA plans to provide support in Senegal with an integrated approach that combines improvement of school management

1. Source: UNESCO (2015), EFA Global Monitoring Report 2015

2. Source: UNESCO (2014), EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/2014

3. Ratios among the countries for which data is available. Source: UNESCO (2015), EFA Global Monitoring Report 2015

4. Source: ILO (2015)

and research on teaching, centered on mathematics education.

In addition to support at the country level, JICA is involved in cooperation where practical knowledge on basic education, such as mathematics and science education, lesson study, and school-based management, is learned from one another on regional and global levels, along with sharing and communication of related knowledge.

2. Higher Education

JICA is providing support to higher education in developing countries in close cooperation with Japanese universities. With the main targets being the leading universities of the respective country or region, JICA provides support for improvement of their education and research capabilities. Assistance includes improving the capabilities of academic staff, upgrading the campus with equipment and facilities for education and research, enhancing the university's governance system, promoting industry-university-community linkages, and establishing networks among universities. In addition, a new type of assistance has been initiated to create a system for quality assurance.

Assistance to leading engineering universities is characterized by introduction of "Japanese-style engineering education," which focuses on research conducted by laboratories, each of which functions as a unit. In Japanese laboratories, practical education is provided through conducting research, where research directions and themes are shared among laboratory members, including professors, younger faculty members, graduate students, and senior undergraduate students. Since this style enables universities to equip their students with expertise and capabilities to work as a team in order to identify and solve problems, the style has been promoted in assistance in higher educational institutions such as the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT) and the Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology (E-JUST). Moreover, in the ASEAN region, JICA extends assistance that contributes to increasing sophistication of ASEAN industries and to solving issues that are common across the region by strengthening networks among

universities within the ASEAN region and in Japan under the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network Project (AUN/SEED-Net).

The Master's Degree and Internship Program of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) is another core initiative to support development of industrial human resources [→ see the Case Study on page 83].

3. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

To make contributions to diversification and sophistication of industries and mitigation of unemployment problems among young people in developing countries and regions, JICA extends assistance in development of curriculum and teaching materials, improvement of trainers' capacities, establishment of employment and entrepreneurship support systems for students, and introduction of national trade skill testing and certification systems, among others, so that technical and vocational education and training institutions develop human resources that meet the needs of related industries. In Viet Nam, in cooperation with the Hanoi Industrial College (presently Hanoi University of Industry), since 2000 JICA has launched vocational training courses such as those for machining, which develop 350 technicians annually and have a strong reputation with Japanese companies. The implementation and stabilization of Japanese-style vocational training and national trade skill testing and certification systems are anticipated to be conducive to the overseas development of Japanese companies in future. Similar types of cooperation by JICA have been put in place in Senegal, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and are scheduled in Cambodia and Paraguay.

Some of the activities in the field of vocational training aim at supporting the reconstruction of post-conflict countries and improving the livelihood of the socially vulnerable. In Sudan, by providing vocational training for the socially vulnerable, such as women, persons with disabilities, and demobilized soldiers in the areas such as Kassala State, near the eastern border, and the Darfur Region that have been affected by the conflict, JICA

Case Study

Ethiopia: The Project for Capacity Development for Improving Learning Achievement in Mathematics and Science Education in Ethiopia (LAMS)

A New Initiative to Revise Questions for Assessment Examinations

With a central focus on basic education in international cooperation shifting from "education for all" to "quality learning for all," JICA is involved in the introduction of quality education in Ethiopia through improvement of assessment examinations.

Aiming at Quality Improvement of Educational Assessment and Examinations

JICA's achievements in the past include the establishment of an in-service teacher training model for incumbent teachers of mathematics and science to improve their classroom practice. However, since the question items used in the actual examinations that children take have too much focus on memorizing the content of subject, teachers cannot fully practice active

learning for children in their classrooms with higher-order thinking.

To cope with this situation, this project, which started in 2014, focuses on assessment. The project targets quality improvement in mathematics and science education by strengthening educational assessment capacity through cooperation with Ethiopian government officials in the development of assessment tools and teaching materials for mathematics and science.



Education officials in daily discussions to improve the questions for assessment examinations as part of the project's activities

Along with the implementation of this project, JICA also dispatches educational advisors for mathematics and science, and supports construction of primary and secondary schools, to overcome various challenges that the basic education sector of Ethiopia faces.

works for improvement of livelihoods and regional stabilization.

Social Security

● Overview of the Issue

Social security is not only an internationally established human right but also a means to create a more stable society through reducing poverty and enabling the people to live a secure life. From a viewpoint of improving the quality of lives of all citizens, formation of social security systems, such as health insurance and pensions, is a pressing policy issue in developing countries, too. The populations of some countries in Southeast Asia are aging at a rapid rate, and it has become necessary to cope with emerging needs, including long-term care services for the elderly.

Furthermore, participation of socially vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities, in communities and in economic activities will lead to forming a country with inclusive and sustainable growth and vitality. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the Japanese government in January 2014, stipulates that participation of persons with disabilities must be secured in international cooperation activities. The elimination of social, cultural, economic, political, or physical barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from social participation is a major challenge.

Moreover, in developing countries, industrial accidents are increasing along with economic development. However, the establishment of a legal framework in the field of occupational health and safety and its enforcement have not been sufficient. Consequently, there are many workers who do not receive adequate compensation even though they have been injured at work and run the risk of falling into poverty. Increase in unemployment or underemployment among young people can be a cause of social instability.

● JICA Activities

Based on Japan's knowledge and experience in social security, JICA is implementing activities aimed at improving social security in developing countries. To do so, JICA is focusing on the following three areas.

1. Social Insurance and Social Welfare

In recent years, there has been a strong interest in Japan's experience in dealing with an aging society, as a country that faced similar challenges slightly earlier, particularly among middle-income countries in Southeast Asia. JICA supports the development of social insurance systems such as health insurance and income security (including pension insurance), as well as strengthening social welfare policies and long-term care services for the elderly [→ see the Case Study on page 84]. There is a great demand in other countries to learn from Japan's knowledge in these areas in order to build social security systems. In response, JICA invites key personnel at government ministries associated with social security systems to visit Japan and receive information about the establishment of Japan's social security systems and exchange opinions.

2. Disability and Development

JICA views persons with disabilities as important contributors to development. JICA's ultimate goal is to realize a society that accommodates all people, regardless of disabilities. JICA aims at realizing the "full participation and equality" of persons with disabilities in developing countries, with emphasis on cooperation that ensures their active participation in society. Specifically, toward the realization of the society, JICA is making efforts to promote the mainstreaming of disability in its activities by engaging persons with disabilities as beneficiaries and contributors. In addition, JICA is also promoting the empowerment of persons with disabilities through leadership trainings and strengthening capacities of their organizations, as well as creating barrier-free environments. In fiscal 2014, JICA started a project to promote

Case Study

Africa: Master's Degree and Internship Program of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

Japan-Savvy African Students Bridge Gaps between Japanese Corporations and Africa

Through the ABE Initiative,* JICA works on development of African industries and expansion of business opportunities for Japanese corporations. The first group of 156 working-adult students from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, and other countries arrived in Japan in September 2014, and they are studying at 48 universities. The second group of 317 students from 33 countries has arrived in September 2015.

Boosting Japanese Companies' Development in Africa

To facilitate network building between Japanese companies and African students, JICA held a business fair in March 2015 in which 90 companies and organizations that were interested in expanding their activities into Africa participated. Many African students visited the booths of Japanese companies. Students that majored in agriculture, engineering, economics, etc. provided the companies that manufactured and sold products such as

teaching materials and clothing with proposals to improve their products and services to meet local needs in Africa.

By now more than 170 companies have signed up for the ABE Initiative. A company that established an office in South Africa in 2014 accepted a student on summer vacation for an internship, and plans to hire this person as a key staff member in future manufacturing in East Africa.

Another company that is starting a waste treatment business in Kenya has nominated



International students visiting a booth and proposing improvement of products and services to meet local needs in Africa

its local business partner as a candidate for international student.

* African Business Education Initiative for Youth links to one of the policies that the Japanese government announced in the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in 2013. In order to develop Japan-savvy human resources with good knowledge of Japanese technologies and industries, the initiative is designed to accept a total of 1,000 young people from Africa and give them opportunities to earn master's degrees at Japanese universities and join internships at Japanese enterprises.

social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Colombia, focused on the areas that were seriously affected by the conflict. JICA also revised its thematic guidelines, which were compiled to present points of attention and approaches for implementation of projects, to promote inclusion of a viewpoint of “disabilities” in all projects. In addition, JICA conducts training for executive and staff members to embed this concept.

3. Labor and Employment

Through improving industrial health and safety and enhancing labor standards inspection, JICA assists in creating an environment where people can work free from anxiety. As well as strengthening public employment services to support employment, JICA works on development of industrial human resources through improving technical and vocational education and training in collaboration with the private sector.

Health

● Overview of the Issue

In developing countries, many people lose their lives because they are not able to receive adequate health care or medical services. Despite technical and financial assistance from international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), donor countries and private foundations, it seems to be difficult to achieve MDGs by 2015. In light of the “Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy” set out by the Japanese government, JICA is accelerating the effort to support developing countries to achieve MDGs in cooperation with international organizations and donor countries. Furthermore, for promotion of the “Universal Health Coverage (UHC)⁵,” JICA is addressing challenges in the fields of health from the following perspectives.

● JICA Activities

1. Health Systems Strengthening

“Health systems strengthening” is defined as a process

to improve and expand the structural foundation, such as administration and finance, human resources, facilities, materials and equipment, that provides both public health and medical services to people in need. Health systems strengthening is essential to achieve UHC, which aims both at preventing financial catastrophe due to medical costs and at addressing geographic, financial, and sociocultural barriers to essential health services.

To mainstream UHC in global health and development, JICA has contributed to the international discussions by advocating UHC in many international conferences and events where world leaders gathered. JICA’s activities in this regard in fiscal year 2014 included: participation as panelists in side events for the World Bank Group - IMF Spring Meetings in April, and the United Nations General Assembly in September; hosting a side event at the Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in September; co-hosting the Prince Mahidol Award Conference in January; and co-hosting a workshop at that conference with the World Bank.

JICA has also provided country-level support to steadily achieve the tasks for internationally agreed goals. In Kenya, for example, JICA has launched the UHC support program by combining it with a Development Policy Loan to assist the Kenyan government’s effort to realize UHC under devolution, the dispatch of an advisor to the Ministry of Health, and a technical cooperation project that aims to strengthen local health administration. In Indonesia, JICA has implemented a new technical cooperation project to improve the social security system with a focus on health security. JICA also provided learning opportunities for various Asian countries, including Thailand and Myanmar, on the design and management of the universal health insurance system of Japan by conducting training in Japan. In the Central and South American region, JICA continues to support the enhancement of community health systems that are structured in primary health care.

5. WHO defines UHC as “ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.”

Case Study

Thailand: The Project on Long-Term Care Service Development for the Frail Elderly and Other Vulnerable People

Development of Long-Term Care Service Models to Cope with Rapid Aging of the Population

JICA joins the quest for a long-term care service that suits Thailand, based on Japan’s expertise as “a country experienced in dealing with an aging society.”

Jointly Developing an Elderly Care Model in the Thai Context

Long-term care at home provided by family members has been common in the culture and traditions of Thailand. But with a trend of people working in cities away from home and the growth of nuclear families, development of social services to support the frail elderly and their family members has become a matter of utmost urgency.

The project has selected six pilot project sites in urban and rural areas; is developing

care plans for elderly people who require long-term care through collaboration among local governments, medical institutions, local volunteers, etc.; and is trying out models to provide appropriate long-term care services to each of the elderly people in need.

Periodic monitoring indicated that home-visit care has become suitable to fill elderly people’s needs, and also identified positive results such as improvement in service receivers’ activities in daily life. Furthermore, JICA also promotes development of care workers through training



Project members investigating the living conditions of an elderly person

in Japan and in Thailand.

JICA means to prepare policy recommendations to have the knowledge gained in this project reflected in the Thai government’s long-term care policies, and to share this knowledge with other ASEAN countries that also face aging populations.

2. Improving Maternal and Child Health

Approximately 99% of the 280,000 pregnant women who die during pregnancy or childbirth and the 6.3 million children who die before reaching their fifth birthday every year live in developing countries. This fact indicates that the health and wellbeing of pregnant women and young children is the most serious issue in developing countries.

In fiscal year 2011, JICA prepared a thematic guideline for maternal and child health and has been extending its cooperation to many countries for strengthening health systems that make a comprehensive “continuum of care for maternal and child health” more widespread and sustainable. JICA’s measures include: reinforcing administrative and management capacity of health ministries for the extension of mother and child health services; building capabilities of local health authorities; strengthening capabilities of midwives and other health service providers; empowering the community and raising their awareness; and strengthening the coordination among health centers and primary and referral health facilities [→ see the Case Study on page 43]. JICA also puts emphasis on contributing to achieving UHC through expansion of maternal and child health services.

JICA continued to provide technical cooperation and Grant Aid to many countries in fiscal 2014. More and more maternal and child health improvement initiatives are included in JICA Partnership Programs and private-sector collaboration projects. Moreover, since malnutrition among pregnant women and infants has a serious impact on their health condition, JICA engages itself in nutrition improvement activities from cross-functional points of view, as seen in promotion of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) network that facilitates effective measures under global cooperation between the public and private sectors, and attempts to ensure food security. JICA participates in the SUN network and promotes integration of nutritional efforts into the maternal and child health program. In fiscal 2014, JICA launched “Improvement of Maternal and Child Nutrition,” issue-specific training for the SUN member countries, and “Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) by Public Private Partnership Approach,” country-specific

training for Ghana.

3. Infectious Disease Control

The Ebola outbreak that started in 2014 in West Africa clearly indicated the scale of influence that an infectious disease could have on society and the economy where globalization has progressed. To minimize the impacts of infectious diseases, each country needs to prevent outbreaks through preventive measures such as vaccinations, as well as to promptly identify outbreaks through testing and diagnoses, and to take necessary countermeasures according to the characteristics of each disease and epidemic, in collaboration with other relevant countries and organizations. Resilient health systems that can continuously provide health services, even in cases of epidemic outbreaks, are essential, and such health systems are also indispensable fundamental elements to prevent, promptly identify, and cope with infectious diseases.

Based on these perceptions, JICA focuses on health systems strengthening (as described above in column 1), and also assists in capacity building in the processes of prevention, early detection, and implementation of countermeasures. In the area of prevention, JICA provided technical cooperation for the improvement in manufacturing capacities of vaccines and periodical vaccination services, and financial assistance for procurement of vaccines, including polio vaccine, in fiscal 2014. For early detection of infectious diseases, JICA promoted development of rapid diagnosis kits and early warning systems, and improvement in surveillance and laboratory capacities in Asian and African countries. Regarding countermeasures against epidemics, JICA dispatched epidemiologists and other required personnel, provided emergency supplies, conducted awareness campaigns for local residents to render assistance in the containment of the Ebola virus, and supported emergency measures such as training for medical staff and border police officers in more than 15 countries, including the countries surrounding the Ebola-affected areas [→ see the Case Study on page 54].

Case Study

Philippines: The Project for Cordillera-Wide Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services

Maternal and Child Health Services for All

Although the Cordillera Administrative Region, located in northern Luzon, is a region without good access to health and medical services due to its mountainous geographic features, JICA’s cooperation improved the rate of facility-based deliveries by 10% in two years.

Awarded by the Government of the Philippines

In cooperation with the Department of Health, Cordillera Administrative Region Office, JICA has been strengthening a system to provide local maternal and child health care services since 2012, with the goals of improving maternal and child health and reduction of maternal and infant mortality.

The project enables hospitals and rural health units to handle basic emergency

obstetrics, and develops necessary human resources, to cope with problems in labor. At the same time, it works to improve physical and economic access to health and medical services through initiatives that include the promotion of participation in national health insurance coverage, especially to pregnant women. As a result, the rate of facility-based deliveries improved from 79% in 2012 to 89% in 2014, and the rate of health insurance participation by pregnant women from 50% in



A mother and a child in a health unit in the Cordillera region

2013 to 70% in 2014, in the areas covered by the project.

In 2014, the project received the Good Practice Awards (GPA) from the National Economic Development Authority of the Philippines, which is given to excellent ODA projects. In a region with limited resources, the facilitation of cooperation among local government entities, which led to improvement in health services, was highly evaluated.