Implementation of the Strategic Training Program

Global Unique Knowledge Co-Creation Program

Implementation methods of JICA’s Technical Cooperation can be divided into two approaches. One is overseas cooperation by dispatching experts and volunteers in various development sectors to developing countries; the other is domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. The latter is the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, formerly called a Training Program, and is one of the core programs carried out in Japan. By inviting officials from developing countries and with cooperation from domestic partners, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program provides technical knowledge and practical solutions for development issues in participating countries.

JICA hosts approximately 11,000 participants every year in cooperation with its 10 international centers and three branch offices across Japan. The majority of the participants is affiliated with the partner governments and is decision makers, technical advisors and practitioners, concerned strategic personnel, and so forth. Moreover, there has been an increase in NGO-affiliated participants and private-sector participants, reflecting the diversified needs of developing countries and capacity expansion of Japan’s cooperation programs. The Knowledge Co-Creation Program is undertaken in cooperation with universities, research institutes, private-sector enterprises, public-interest organizations, NGOs, and other organizations as well as central and local governments.

Implementation of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program has significance with regard to the utilization of Japan’s development experience and know-how by adapting them to each partner country, rather than only sharing Japan’s advanced technologies and skills. To learn and understand Japan’s knowledge, skills, and experience, it is often required that on-site experience concerning Japan’s institutional know-how is put into practice, as well as the background and the transitions underlying Japan’s social system.

One of the specific characteristics of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program is to provide an opportunity for participants to become aware of and reexamine the issues and challenges of their own countries from outside by experiencing Japan. Hence, participants get to be able to tackle various development issues in their home countries with a different perspective. Among the courses of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, the Group and Region Focus courses, in which participants are from several different countries, give opportunities to participants to examine a variety of issues not only from the perspectives of Japan and their

Contribution to Regional Revitalization and Solutions to Development Issues — Formulation of JICA’s Domestic Strategy

Regional revitalization has been emphasized as one of the Japan’s important tasks. Along with the Japanese government’s approach, JICA first developed the JICA’s Domestic Strategy in February 2015 with the following three pillars: (1) re-acknowledgement of the importance of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program; (2) contribution to Japan’s regional revitalization; and (3) re-establishment of JICA’s domestic operational structure. JICA’s domestic offices play an important role in connecting the development needs of developing countries to Japan’s regional resources and know-how. This approach aims for a win-win contribution to both the development of developing countries and the revitalization of Japanese local communities.

In addition to strengthening the existing cooperation with conventional partners, JICA believes that it is also important to establish and expand its linkage with new partners, such as small and medium-size enterprises, for the effective implementation of the JICA’s Domestic Strategy.

“Co-Creation” of New Values through Mutual Learning

JICA’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program not only contributes to regional revitalization, but also facilitates participants’ understanding of Japan’s technologies and quality services. In this regard, the program has been receiving attention from the government approach of Infrastructure Systems Export Strategy. In May 2015, JICA developed the Knowledge Co-Creation Program Strategy to boost Japan’s competitiveness with a worldwide view. Under the concept of “Co-Creation,” which produces new value through interactive learning opportunities, JICA carries out innovative and quality program that can accommodate both the development needs of developing countries and Japan’s policy challenges.

Furthermore, JICA also bolsters the Japanophile network by working with its alumni associations of former participants, who are valuable assets for Japan.
own countries, but also from multifaceted viewpoints among all participating countries by exchanging opinions and information. Group and Region Focus courses thus offer valuable insights and discoveries to each participant.

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program, a globally unique program in terms of its scale and diversity, is an essential tool of JICA’s Technical Cooperation by utilizing Japan’s own knowledge, skills, and development experiences to promote human resource development and to solve development issues in partner countries.

● Multifaceted Benefits of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program

The goal of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program is to contribute to solving development issues in partner countries; meanwhile, the program also has achieved many other benefits. To date, over 320,000 people have participated in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, and the participants have met numerous Japanese people during their stays in Japan and returned home with a deeper understanding and familiarity of Japan by learning about it. Meanwhile, on-site activities designed in the program also benefit Japanese society. For instance, private-sector and public organizations can obtain direct information about developing countries and build relationships that may lead to expansion of their overseas operations and capacity. In addition, university students and researchers can acquire a greater global perspective by interacting with the participants. As a result, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program creates additional benefits of invigorating various regions of Japan and fostering its people with global attitude and knowledge.

Again, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program contributes to solving issues in developing countries. In addition, fostering Japan experts and Japanophiles, revitalizing Japanese local communities, and fostering global human resources are other important benefits of the program. Consequently, JICA implements the Knowledge Co-Creation Program by identifying these significant benefits.

● Implementation of the Strategic Knowledge Co-Creation Program

For the implementation of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, JICA has strived to establish the program to emphasize the multifaceted aspects of its outcomes. Meanwhile, to strengthen the quality of the program with better effectiveness and efficiency, JICA ascertains the trend in other cooperation modalities and also examines all development issues, such as education, agriculture, etc.

JICA has been reinterpreting its Knowledge Co-Creation Program with three main pillars: (1) a fundamental role in realizing effective international cooperation; (2) an opportunity to encourage participants, who will forge the future in developing countries, to understand Japan; and (3) a contributor to globalizing Japanese local communities. Along with the current remarkable growth of developing countries, JICA understands them as important partners and will improve and enhance the Knowledge Co-Creation Program based on the concept of “co-creation,” which produces new values through interactive learning among the participating countries and Japan. JICA will further strengthen the Knowledge Co-Creation Program that can tackle newly emerging issues, crosscutting issues and Japan’s policy challenges.

In addition to the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, JICA is working on organization-wide efforts to provide a more flexible and strategic approach mainly for senior officials and policy makers. This approach aims to deepen the participants’ understanding of Japanese technologies, development experiences, and principles through conversations and discussions with Japanese high officials and concerned agencies.