

# Follow-up Cooperation

## Follow-up Cooperation Adds Value to Projects

### ● Post-Project Support

Cooperation projects conducted by JICA are completed in a predetermined period. JICA carries out ongoing monitoring after each project has ended to assess the partner country's self-help efforts in maintaining and enhancing the results of the project. JICA also provides supplementary support when necessary. Such support is referred to as "Follow-up Cooperation," which is divided into two categories.

#### 1. Follow-up Cooperation to Solve Problems with Facilities and Equipment

This type of cooperation involves working with partner countries to solve problems that may have arisen with facilities constructed by or equipment provided through JICA's cooperation projects. Such problems can occur owing to a variety of factors, including damage caused by natural disasters, a shortage of financial resources in partner countries due to worsening economic situation, or problems with the maintenance of the facilities or equipment.

For example, the Shokue Irrigation System in Mozambique was developed in the 1950s through the 1970s and enjoyed large rice production, called the "national grain storehouse" at that time. However, budget cuts due to discontinuance of the national farm system and the massive flood in 2000 brought the country into a remarkable decline in irrigation capability. In response to this, Japan started a Grant Aid program in 2001 to support renovation work for the main canal and the water intake and water level-regulating dam at the uppermost reaches of the river. This effort successfully secured the flow rate necessary for irrigation, eventually contributing to sound agricultural production.

However, the flood that occurred in January 2012 not only destroyed part of the irrigation system but also submerged 1,200 ha of neighboring agricultural fields. Even worse, part of the main canal and drainage path was also demolished due to the flood. In spite of efforts by the Mozambican government to restore the irrigation system, the scale of damage was too severe to be handled by the country, and emergency response was also required. Thus, JICA assisted the government in restoring the damaged main canal and drainage path through follow-up cooperation from 2013 to 2014. In addition to the self-help efforts by Mozambique, the timely follow-up cooperation by JICA successfully recovered the original function of the main canal and other facilities that had been developed under the Grant Aid program. As a result, this endeavor minimized damage to agricultural production.

#### 2. Follow-up Cooperation to Expand Project Benefits

Another type of Follow-up Cooperation is the provision of additional support to partner countries to add new value to completed projects or training programs in line with their project goals, thereby spreading and expanding the benefits that accrue from a project. Since the program's establishment, JICA has hosted in Japan more than 320,000 training program participants from developing countries. These participants will



Support for restoring Shokue Irrigation System, destroyed by a flood (Mozambique)



The ASEAN regional meeting held in 2014, gathering former participants from ASEAN countries (Myanmar)

play key roles in the future development of their respective countries while also functioning as "important human assets" that serve as bridges connecting Japan with many countries around the world. To maintain and develop friendships with these ex-participants, who have gained a positive understanding of Japan, as well as to support the ongoing enhancement of the skills and knowledge they acquired in Japan, JICA supports the formation and maintenance of alumni associations of ex-participants in their home countries through Follow-up Cooperation.

In Myanmar, for example, nine former JICA participants set up an alumni association in 2003. After a steady increase in the number of members, as of March 2015 the association has 1,132 alumni who are actively working in various fields today. As one of their activities carried out in 2014, they donated money, stationery, and used books to monasteries to support the socially vulnerable. Moreover, former participants in ASEAN countries organized the first ASEAN regional meeting in 2014 in Myanmar, where they formed a network of alumni not only with the association in Myanmar but also with those in the ASEAN region. In this way, Follow-up Cooperation contributes to forming the network between returning participants and Japan as well as among these participants themselves.