



Southeast Asia and the Pacific

To Contribute to Improved Regional Connectivity, Reduced Disparities, and “Quality Growth”



Director General’s Message

Yasushi Tanaka Director General, Southeast Asia and Pacific Department

Regional Issues

- In Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Community was launched in December 2015. Even at this major milestone, the region remains in great need of infrastructure development. It is also seeing the emerging challenges associated with the maturing of society.
- For the Pacific island countries, the challenge is vulnerability to climate change and environmental issues.

Fiscal 2015 Initiatives

- As part of its assistance for strengthening physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity as called for by ASEAN, JICA worked on a wide range of areas, from the development of hard infrastructure, including the East-West Economic Corridor and the Southern Economic Corridor, to institutional development, including the digitalization of a customs clearance system.
- JICA also extended cooperation to address cross-border issues such as disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Future Cooperation

- In order to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), JICA is aiming at promoting “quality growth” through “quality infrastructure investment,” support for women’s empowerment, and the development of human resources by means such as scholarship programs.
- JICA will focus on formulating and implementing programs and projects in line with the initiatives the Japanese government has announced, including the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure in ASEAN, the Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative, and assistance pledges made at the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting.

pick up
A look at
programs by
numbers

1.9 days

In 2015, JICA signed an ODA Loan agreement for the East-West Economic Corridor Improvement Project with the Myanmar government. Through this project and other improvements to adjacent sections supported by other donors, the travel time between Bangkok and Yangon by car is expected to drop from the current 3.5 days to 1.9 days.

Laos: Japanese engineers and local staff in action on the Vientiane International Airport Terminal Expansion Project, an ODA Loan project (photo by Shinichi Kuno)