



# East Asia and Central Asia

Toward Stability and Sustainable Development in a Geopolitically Important Region



## Director General's Message

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### Regional Issues

- Most countries in this region are landlocked, and those countries that are poor in natural resources have to address the issue of insufficient basic social services, while those that are rich in natural resources face the challenge of widening economic disparity and the economic vulnerability of the fluctuation of resource prices.
- Development of human resources with a global perspective is still important for further development of market economies.

### Fiscal 2015 Initiatives

- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visits to Mongolia and Central Asia in October 2015 served as a trigger for the agreements on Japanese assistance with the governments of three countries in the region. This assistance focuses on water supply and agriculture in Tajikistan, power supply and health care in Uzbekistan, and infrastructure development in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- In Mongolia, the Higher Engineering Education Program is fully in progress, and the first group of 15 Mongolian students came to Japan to study at Japanese graduate schools and *kosen* (Japanese colleges of technology). This kind of cooperation under the program promotes closer human relations between Japan and the countries in the region.

### Future Cooperation

- JICA has consistently provided assistance for the human development of technocrats by providing the opportunity to study at universities of social sciences in Japan. JICA will expand the assistance to its area to include the development of industrial human resources. JICA will also continue to support infrastructure development in the field of improvement of energy efficiency and disaster risk reduction where Japan's technology and expertise can be utilized.
- As for China, JICA will focus on technical cooperation, among other modalities, in areas that concern the two countries and have a direct bearing on the lives of the Japanese people.

pick up  
A look at  
programs by  
numbers

**47,670** persons

This figure represents the number of people who participated in business courses offered by the four Japan Centers for Human Development in the region (Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic) from their foundations to the end of 2015. JICA takes advantage of these centers to develop human resources for the business sector in the region and strengthen business relations with Japan for the purpose of supporting further development of the market economy.

Tajikistan: JICA supports the construction of deep wells and water supply facilities, including conveyance and distribution pipes, in Khatlon Province with ODA Grants. (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)