

East Asia

Key Aid Strategies

Support Regional Stability and Growth That is Sound and Sustained

East Asia contains China, a country dealing with numerous issues that include environmental problems resulting from its dramatic economic growth, and Mongolia, which is pursuing rapid development underpinned by its abundant mineral resources. The sound and sustained

development of these countries has become increasingly important for Japan as well as the rest of the world.

JICA's cooperation in this region is contributing to building stronger economic relationships with China and Mongolia that are both reciprocal and mutually beneficial.

Country Overviews and Priority Issues

● China

Not only has China achieved economic development, its technological level has also increased. To some extent ODA has already played a role in development aid for China; consequently, JICA's additional contribution through providing ODA Loans and Grants was ended.

In line with policies of the Japanese government, JICA's cooperation is currently extended to the common challenges faced by both countries. Examples include measures against cross-border pollution, infectious diseases, and food safety related issues. Furthermore, in terms of technical cooperation, a mechanism for both Japan and China to properly share costs is being implemented in a phased manner, as a new approach of Japan-China cooperation.

Major projects in this region for priority issues include the Project for Environment Friendly Society Building. For "building

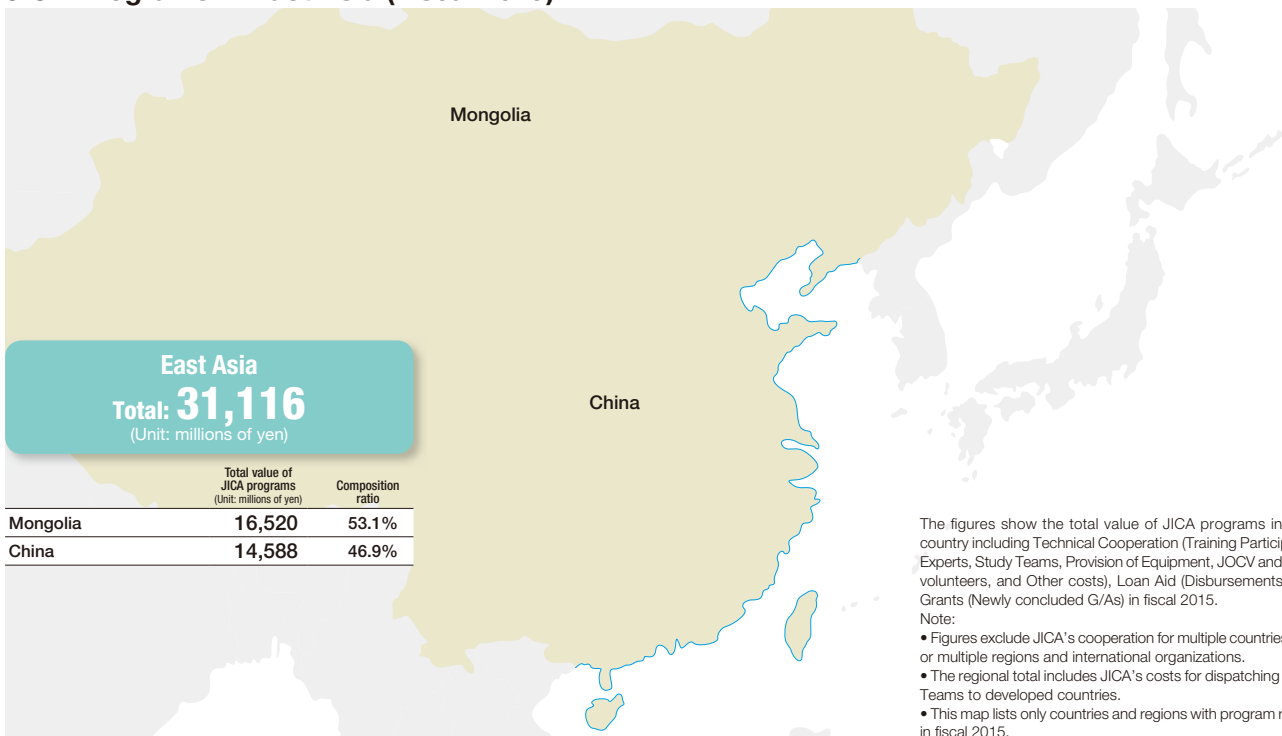
an environment friendly society," which the Chinese government plans to achieve, the project aims to strengthen China's capability in environmental management through initiatives to overcome environmental challenges, mainly focusing on air pollution, which is a common challenge to both Japan and China, such as capacity building for air pollution monitoring, analysis and evaluation, enhancement of local government officials' capabilities to manage air pollution, and support to improve private companies' capabilities in environmental management.

● Mongolia

JICA is focusing on cooperation in accordance with the three priority areas stated in the Country Assistance Policy for Mongolia, announced in April 2012.

(1) Sustainable development of the mining sector and enhancement of governance: establishing systems and training personnel to achieve sustainable development of mineral resources, the key element in Mongolia's economic

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Concrete Initiatives

Region-Specific Activities and Initiatives

Issue-Specific Activities and Initiatives

Other Activities and Initiatives

advancement, as well as establishing systems including those for the proper management of revenues from natural resources.

- (2) **Assisting inclusive growth:** creating employment primarily at micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to diversify industrial activities, and improving basic social services, such as education, health care, and social security.
- (3) **Enhancement of the capacity and function of Ulaanbaatar as an urban center:** improving the city's infrastructure facilities, and upgrading urban planning and management capabilities.

Major projects in Mongolia for priority issues are as follows.

The New Ulaanbaatar International Airport Construction Project: Construction of a new airport in the suburbs of Ulaanbaatar will improve the safety and reliability of air access for the capital city and provide greater convenience for travelers, contributing to further economic development in Mongolia. JICA is also extending technical cooperation for establishing smooth management and maintenance systems to be applied when the airport starts operations.

Two-Step-Loan Project for Small and Medium-Scaled Enterprises Development and Environmental Protection: JICA assists development of SMEs by providing them with low-interest and long-term financing and supports job creation and diversification of industries. JICA also provides financing for environmental improvement efforts by these enterprises such as equipment investment for the measures against ever-worsening urban air pollution. JICA has provided financing for over 650 companies to date, and created new jobs for over 2,100 people. JICA has provided approximately 80 cases of financing for environmental protection, which contributed to a reduction of

34,000 tons of CO₂ emissions annually.

The Project for Strengthening Teachers' Ability and Reasonable Treatments for Children with Disabilities (START): JICA is engaged in development of assessment tools and establishment of a developmental support system to enable every child with a disability to receive developmental support and education in accordance with each child's needs. In collaboration with the Project for Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Ulaanbaatar City, JICA supports the establishment of a cohesive society in Mongolia by providing consistent cooperation from entry (early detection of disabilities) to exit (promotion of employment, social participation, and independence) of assistance to persons with disabilities.

Meanwhile, considering the current conditions and issues of population concentration in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, where half of the country's population resides, and where population inflow continues, JICA is running a basic study on comprehensive regional development to identify a suitable way to develop the country in a balanced manner, including development of regional cities. The relationship between Japan and Mongolia is becoming stronger, as seen in an example of Mongolia's first Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), with Japan, that came into force in June 2016. To enable expansion and investment by Japanese private corporations in Mongolia to become a driver for the development of Mongolia's private sector, JICA has also conducted a study on the investment environment and promotion, and is preparing to publish the results as a guidebook for investment in Mongolia.

Through these new initiatives, JICA is reviewing directions for medium- and long-term cooperation in the future.

Case Study Mongolia: JICA Training Participants Alumni Association

Knowledge and Findings from Training are Disseminated through Activities of the Alumni Association

JICA accepts more than 200 training participants from Mongolia every year, and the cumulative total number of participants exceeds 4,000. In Mongolia, the JICA training participants alumni association disseminates nationwide the knowledge and findings acquired from training in Japan.

The Alumni Association Network Expands Nationwide in Mongolia

There is a proverb in Mongolia, "seeing is believing," the same as in Japan. The alumni association of former participants in JICA training courses contributes to sharing and disseminating knowledge and findings nationwide from "seeing" in Japan and fostering Japanophiles. The association was established in 2000, and more than 800 members are engaged in constructive activities.

A core part of the activities is follow-up seminars. They are planned every year in various fields, such as education, health and medical care, and environmental issues, and the former training participants promote what they have learned and perceived in Japan to

peers at workplaces, local governments, and industry groups as well as to other entities. The seminars have the synergistic effect of disseminating knowledge from the training as well as the motivation enhancement or career development of former training participants, who act as lecturers at the seminars.

Furthermore, based on suggestions by members of the alumni association, publicity activities such as publishing a newsletter and producing a TV program, and social contribution activities such as essay contests at primary schools as well as cleaning and tree-planting events, are carried out proactively.

"We want to present the high-level technologies of Japan to many of our people. We want to continue to disseminate what we



Human resources development training at Narita Airport for the personnel to be responsible for operation of the New Ulaanbaatar International Airport.

learned in the training," says Mr. Oyunbaatar, a former deputy prime minister of Mongolia and the chairperson of the alumni association. He participated in JICA training in 2008 as the commissioner of the General Department of Taxation, and has led the alumni association activities ever since.

JICA will continue to support the alumni association as a key partner.