

South America

Key Aid Strategies

Cooperating with Diverse Development Partners for Effective Support: Addressing Global Issues, Encouraging “Quality Growth,” and Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society

Composed of 10 countries,¹ South America, with a population of 400 million, has 2.1 million Japanese immigrants and their descendants (*Nikkei*) and a deep historical relationship with Japan.

Although many countries have reached a certain income level, countries that rely heavily on the production and export of primary commodities have seen economic stagnation in recent years. In addition, major political changes may affect the future economic growth of some countries in the region. In other words, the economic

situation varies among the nations. South America is a region facing considerable disparities, and international and domestic economic gaps may trigger social unrest in the region.

While strengthening collaboration with development partners such as other international development institutions, private sector entities, universities, local governments, and the *Nikkei* community, JICA is extending its support in response to the development needs of countries within and beyond South America.

South America, rich in natural and mineral resources and fertile soil, achieved steady economic growth spurred by rising prices of, and increased worldwide demand for resources and foods. On the other hand, due to the recent global economic slump and the downturn in resource prices, some South American nations have been slow to shift from their conventional industrial structure, which is dependent on primary commodities, resulting in a deterioration of terms of trade and sluggish economic growth. In order to assist the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in breaking free of the “middle-income trap” and achieving further economic growth, JICA is providing support to improve the lagging infrastructure development and create a better investment environment. Furthermore, JICA is assisting these countries

in enhancing their administrative capability as a foundation to facilitate private economic activities and ensure public security, as well as ameliorating urban environment problems, which has become increasingly serious as the region’s economy has grown.

Considering that there are many people left behind by economic growth and still living in poverty, JICA is also working on enhancing social safety nets for people living in less-developed countries and those being left behind by development as well as stabilizing social order in the region.

Natural disasters, which claim many lives and cause considerable economic losses in a short span of time, are a

1. Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Paraguay. JICA classifies Suriname and Guyana in the Central America and the Caribbean region.

JICA Programs in South America (Fiscal 2015)

South America
Total: 22,953
 (Unit: millions of yen)

| | Total value of JICA programs (Unit: millions of yen) | Composition ratio |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| Brazil | 10,274 | 44.8% |
| Peru | 5,657 | 24.6% |
| Paraguay | 3,157 | 13.8% |
| Bolivia | 1,168 | 5.1% |
| Colombia | 913 | 4.0% |
| Ecuador | 871 | 3.8% |
| Argentina | 387 | 1.7% |
| Chile | 337 | 1.5% |
| Uruguay | 134 | 0.6% |
| Venezuela | 55 | 0.2% |



The figures show the total value of JICA programs in each country including Technical Cooperation (Training Participants, Experts, Study Teams, Provision of Equipment, JOCV and Other volunteers, and Other costs), Loan Aid (Disbursements), and Grants (Newly concluded G/As) in fiscal 2015.

- Note:
- Figures exclude JICA’s cooperation for multiple countries and/or multiple regions and international organizations.
 - This map lists only countries and regions with program results in fiscal 2015.

common issue among countries in South America. JICA also contributes to addressing such global issues. For example, JICA carries out disaster risk reduction activities and emergency disaster relief, provides technical cooperation and financial assistance for developing countries to take prompt action in the wake of disasters, and helps conserve forests in the Amazon basin, which have an immense impact on the global environment [→ see the Case Study on page 88].

Working together with various development partners, including the private sector, universities and the *Nikkei* community, JICA is engaged in working on these issues, with a focus on the following three pillars of aid: addressing global issues, encouraging “quality growth,” and realizing a peaceful and secure society. With development partners such as Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, JICA also supports triangular cooperation for countries within and beyond the region.

Priority Issues and Activities

● Contribution to Global Issues

JICA has been committed to biodiversity conservation, climate change measures, disaster prevention, and other global issues in South America, a region with a rich and diverse natural environment, and the home of the Amazonian rainforest, the world’s largest tropical rainforest, and the Andes with its 6,000-meter-class mountains. Thanks to the relatively high technical level of South America, joint research programs and Science and Technology Research Partnerships for Sustainable Development are also being carried out with Japanese research institutions and universities.

Rapid urbanization has had a huge impact on the natural environment in Brazil, which hosts a large part of the tropical Amazonian forest. Since the Amazon rainforest greatly affects the global environment, it is urgent for the international community to promote sustainable development while mitigating the impact on the global environment. The Biodiversity Conservation in Amazon Based on a New Concept of “Field Museum,” a Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development project initiated in 2014, has been carried out jointly by Kyoto University and other Japanese research institutions and the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA) which is internationally renowned for its research on the biology of the Amazon. Regarding nature, biodiversity, and the very lives of people of the Amazonian forest as exhibits, this project supports the building of a field museum for research, conservation, and promotion activities. It also promotes the establishment of an autonomous utilization organization that will contribute to the sustainable development of local communities. Through these initiatives, JICA contributes to conserving the natural environment in the Amazonian region.

In March 2015, JICA also launched the Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program for Latin America and the Caribbean, a technical cooperation project, to make Latin America and the Caribbean more resilient to natural disasters that frequently strike the region. This project is being implemented jointly with The Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID),



A local counterpart measuring the height and weight of a manatee to check its health in the project Biodiversity Conservation in Amazon Based on a New Concept of “Field Museum.” (Photo: Kyoto University)

the Chilean National Office for Emergency (ONEMI), and other Chilean and Japanese disaster prevention agencies. At Chilean universities, this project, also known as the *Kizuna* (bonds of friendship) Project, will provide advanced disaster prevention programs for professionals and practical training courses for governmental officers from Latin America and the Caribbean, with an aim to establish Chile as the regional hub for developing human resources engaged in disaster risk reduction in the region [→ see the Case Study on page 111]. In 2015, this program provided training to more than 900 experts in disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project has been highly appreciated by Chile and other Latin American and Caribbean countries for enhancing the disaster prevention partnership between the region and Japan.

● Promotion of “Quality Growth”

A number of countries in South America, despite having been freed of poverty, have been caught in the “middle-income trap,” due to their lack of price competitiveness against low-income countries and lack of technical skills in comparison to advanced nations. This situation has led these economies into stagnant growth. In order to achieve “quality growth” —sustained socio-economic growth in harmony with the environment — in such countries, JICA is contributing to the economic infrastructure development of the countries by providing necessary assistance to infrastructure projects in the energy sector among other sectors.

In April 2016, JICA signed an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on expanding the Co-financing for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CORE) Program. This program is intended to facilitate the “quality infrastructure investment” pursued by the Japanese government, respond to the increasing demand for infrastructure development, and promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to Central America and the Caribbean, South America, including Brazil and Peru, which are in great need of infrastructure investments, were newly included in the program this time. JICA and the IDB will be more proactive in financial support for renewable energy development and energy efficiency with a goal of providing loans of \$3 billion in total by fiscal 2020.

JICA’s projects in developing countries in the energy sector are formulated based on each country’s needs. In Ecuador, which is facing an increase in electricity demand due to steady economic growth, a drastic increase in electrical power plant

capacity is necessary. As of 2011, 58% of the electricity in Ecuador is generated by hydropower, while the electricity supply has recently become unstable due to climate change. To address this problem, the Ecuadorian government is promoting renewable energy development, including geothermal power generation, under the Five-Year National Development Plan (2013–2017). This initiative aims to reduce the vulnerabilities of rainfall-reliant hydroelectric power generation and diversify electrical sources. JICA is currently conducting the Preparatory Survey for the Chachimbiro Geothermal Power Plant Construction Project, which includes a test drilling of a geothermal well to assist the Ecuadorian government in introducing its first geothermal power generating system.

In Peru, the electricity generating capacity will need to be increased about three fold by 2030 compared to 2012 in order to meet increasing electricity demand. Although the Government of Peru is developing electrical sources in the central part of the country, there remains a significant electricity supply gap in rural areas, while power supply to northern and southern Peru is also covered by power transmission from the central region. Moreover, the electricity demand in the southern part of Peru is expected to increase due to the future development of mineral resources, making it an urgent task for the country to strengthen the power generating capacity. Under this situation, JICA initiated

the Moquegua Hydroelectric Power Plants Construction Project, an ODA Loan project, in 2014. This project aims to develop electrical sources that utilize renewable energy in rural areas and also reduce the electricity supply gap by building two small hydroelectric generation facilities capable of producing a total of approximately 33 MW in the southern Moquegua Department.

● Realization of a Peaceful and Secure Society

JICA is working on improving public safety and promoting sports to realize a peaceful and secure society where people can live in peace.

In Paraguay, JICA has long provided assistance for sports promotion. Many Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) have been dispatched to the country to popularize judo, wrestling, weightlifting, gymnastics, and other sports to raise the country's competence in these sports. Due to these efforts, Paraguayan athletes have recently come to perform well in many competitions held in South America. To achieve higher performance, a Grant project titled The Project for Improvement of Equipment of the National Training Center was agreed on in March 2016. The purpose of this project is to renew sports equipment at the National Training Center, where a JOCV has been dispatched. The various forms of cooperation by Japan will contribute to realizing a peaceful society where sports are widely enjoyed.

Case Study Peru: Project for Improvement of Equipment for Disaster Risk Management

Promoting the Use of an Emergency Warning Broadcast System Adopting the Japanese Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting System—the First Attempt Outside of Japan

JICA is working on the practical use of the Emergency Warning Broadcast System (EWBS), an information and communication technology for emergencies utilizing the Japanese digital terrestrial broadcasting system (Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial: ISDB-T). This will be the first attempt outside Japan.

Expected to Bring Benefits to 10 Million People

Peru is frequently affected by earthquakes and other natural disasters, and it is an urgent task for the country to take disaster risk management measures. Due to its location on the Pacific coast, Peru suffers from frequent tsunamis and is also vulnerable to the impacts

of the El Niño phenomenon.

To assist the Peruvian government in disaster risk management, JICA started this Grant project in February 2014 and provided tide gauges and EWBS equipment utilizing the Japanese digital terrestrial broadcasting system (Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial: ISDB-T). EWBS equipment was

installed at seven disaster-prevention facilities, while tide gauges were additionally provided to a total of eight coastal areas for tsunami monitoring. These efforts are expected to enhance the Peru's capabilities to transmit disaster information and monitor tsunamis for the benefit of about 10 million residents in the project site.

Digital terrestrial broadcasting systems around the world are mainly divided into four types: the Japanese type (ISDB-T), the American type,



EWBS digital transmission equipment
(Photo: Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.)

the European type, and the Chinese type. Among the four, only the Japanese system has an EWBS function capable of providing emergency warning broadcasts with special signals for prompt warning of natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Upon the introduction of the first EWBS outside of Japan, JICA dispatched an EWBS implementation advisor to Peru, where the ISDB-T was adopted in April 2009.

Through this project, JICA will continue to support the disaster risk management efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean.



A commemorative plaque was presented to celebrate the provision of Japanese Grants.

Support for Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants

Focusing on Human Resources Development and Elderly Welfare and Strengthening Collaboration and Relationship with *Nikkei* Communities

There are currently more than 3.6 million Japanese emigrants and their descendants (*Nikkei*) living around the world making important contributions in many fields in each country and their presence plays a key role as a partner and as an intermediary between Japan and the countries where *Nikkei* reside. Below are main JICA programs and activities for Japanese emigrants and *Nikkei*.

● Changes in the Situation in Countries Where Japanese Emigrants Have Settled and Future Challenges

For Japanese emigrants who have settled in Latin America and the Caribbean in line with the postwar Japanese emigration policy, JICA had been providing assistance to settle in the new lands and to stabilize their livelihoods since the period of the Japan Emigration Service, one of the predecessors of JICA. On the other hand, *Nikkei* communities have matured, and generational transition has also taken place with the passage of time. Accordingly, JICA is committed to strengthening collaboration and relationship with *Nikkei* communities as well as supporting Japanese emigrants and *Nikkei*, with a focus on human resources development and elderly welfare.

● Main Programs and Activities for Japanese Emigrants and *Nikkei*

In 2014, Prime Minister Abe visited Latin American nations. On this occasion, he announced that the Japanese government will further deepen the bond with *Nikkei* communities, and sharply increase the number of participants of the Education Program for *Nikkei* Next Generation and the number of volunteers to *Nikkei* communities. Taking this announcement into account, JICA is conducting the following activities to strengthen relationship with *Nikkei* communities.

1. Dissemination of Knowledge on Overseas Migration

The Japanese Overseas Migration Museum, which opened in Yokohama in 2002, aims to encourage the public—especially young people who will lead the next generation—to learn about the history of Japanese emigration and become acquainted with emigrants and *Nikkei*.



Training participants in the Education Program for *Nikkei* Next Generation, a program for high school students newly launched in fiscal 2015, visiting the Mitsubishi Minatomirai Industrial Museum

The museum consists of permanent exhibits featuring the history of overseas migration and special exhibitions covering a variety of subjects. It also provides information on its website and conducts studies and research activities. The museum had a record 43,272 visitors in fiscal 2015, and the total number of visitors since its opening exceeded 400,000.

Recently, it is considered important to strengthen the connection between *Nikkei* communities and the prefectures in Japan where the emigrants originated from. In fiscal 2015, the museum held a special exhibition featuring emigrants from Wakayama and Fukuoka prefectures.

2. Support for Emigrants Abroad

JICA provided subsidies for the management of *Nikkei* clinics at settlements in Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil, while also supporting travelling clinics for settlements in Brazil. Furthermore, JICA assisted programs involving elderly welfare and medical service in much-needed countries such as the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Bolivia.

In addition, to train and secure the human resources of the local *Nikkei* Japanese-language teachers, JICA provided subsidies for the programs aimed for their training and recruitment.

3. Educational Initiatives for the Children of Emigrants

JICA organizes a program for children of emigrants, which provides a firsthand opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and society, enhance their identity as *Nikkei*, and develop human resources who will lead the next generation. The program includes study in a Japanese school and a homestay in Japan. In fiscal 2015, programs for high school and college students were newly launched, in addition to the existing program for junior high school students. A total of 100 students participated in these programs that year.

JICA also offers a scholarship covering living expenses and tuition to support *Nikkei* students attending graduate schools in Japan. Five new students benefited from this program in fiscal 2015.

4. Support for *Nikkei* Communities and Local Communities

JICA dispatches Youth Volunteers and Senior Volunteers to *Nikkei* communities. They are called *Nikkei* Volunteers, and they mainly assist with Japanese-language education, health care,



Members of the Partnership Promotion Survey Team collaborating with Latin American *Nikkei* communities visiting a Bolivian company run by local *Nikkei* that exports sesame and beans

and welfare services while living with Japanese emigrants and *Nikkei* there. This initiative is intended to provide technical cooperation and support revitalization of *Nikkei* communities as well as to develop partner countries through these communities. The number of volunteers to be dispatched to Brazil will be increased to around 100 [→ See the photo on page 115].

In the Special Participation Program for School Teachers for *Nikkei* communities, established in fiscal 2008, JICA dispatches school teachers in Japan to local government-recognized schools in Brazil. Upon returning to Japan, these former volunteer teachers are expected to take full advantage of their experiences to assist with the education of *Nikkei* children and foreign residents in Japan. In fiscal 2015, JICA dispatched six teachers. There were 29 volunteers who participated in JICA's short-term volunteer program to *Nikkei* communities in fiscal 2015, which was launched in fiscal 2012.

In addition, universities, local governments, public organizations, and private enterprises in Japan submitted proposals to JICA for training programs for *Nikkei* to receive. JICA accepted 131 *Nikkei* training participants under this program in fiscal 2015.

5. Strengthening Partnerships with *Nikkei* Communities in Latin America and Japan's Private Sector

JICA dispatched the Fourth Partnership Promotion Survey Team to Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay in 2015 with an aim to contribute to economic and social development in Latin America, through strengthening partnerships between Japanese private companies and private companies owned or managed by *Nikkei* in those countries. Some of the Japanese companies that participated in the survey now utilize JICA private sector partnership projects, such as the Project Feasibility Survey, the Promotion Survey, the private sector partnership volunteer program, and the training program for Japanese descendants, to promote business partnerships with *Nikkei* companies.

6. Business Loans

The JICA loan program for emigrants and *Nikkei* organizations concluded in fiscal 2005. At present, JICA administers only the repayment of these loans.