

Partnerships with NGOs and Other Organizations

Collaboration with Diverse Actors in International Cooperation

In order for more people to become interested in international cooperation and also obtain opportunities to get involved in developmental challenges, JICA has been promoting “civic participation” through dialogue, cooperation, and providing assistance for NGOs, local governments, universities, and private sector entities.

● Partnerships with NGOs

1. Dialogue

NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting

— Promoting Equal Partnerships

In fiscal 2015, JICA hosted four dialogue and other meetings with respect to matters of mutual concern and interest as well as for the promotion of cooperation activities.

The priority issues in fiscal 2015 were “Promotion of NGOs’ Participation in Technical Cooperation (based on a request from the partner country’s government)” and “Utilization of JICA through the Support Program for NGOs and Other Organizations.” In the former, a new task force was set up to discuss the framework in which NGOs and JICA work further in technical cooperation based on the experience of JICA Partnership Program (see next section about JPP). In the latter, NGOs and JICA agreed on the future directions and contents of the Support Program for NGOs and Other Organizations, which makes full use of their advantages and local characteristics.

2. Cooperation

JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

— Joint Implementation of Overseas Development Projects

JICA implements JPP projects jointly with Japanese organizations that are ardent about implementing international cooperation projects, including NGOs, local government entities, universities, and private companies. JPP projects consist of two schemes: the partner type, in which projects are carried out by organizations with a certain level of experience in developing countries and the support type, in which projects are carried out by organizations with less experience in developing countries.

In fiscal 2015, the JPP system was reviewed to encourage more small and medium-size NGOs and other organizations to participate in JPP and make project proposals that can cope with issues existing in Japanese society today. This effort successfully increased the number of both proposals and adopted projects from new partner organizations as well as the number of proposals focusing on problems in both developing countries and Japan.

JICA Donation Fund for the People of the World

— International Cooperation through Donations

The JICA Donation Fund for the People of the World encourages citizens, corporations, and groups to participate in international cooperation. The donations are used to support Japanese civil society groups’ activities in developing countries.

3. Activity Support

Support Program for NGOs and Other Organizations

— Supporting Organization and Activities for Better International Cooperation

JICA provides training programs that support the organizational management and enhance project execution capabilities of NGOs and other organizations engaged in international cooperation activities. The ideal concept of the program was reviewed in fiscal 2015 through NGO-JICA Dialogue Meetings. Accordingly, JICA developed a new direction in its support activities based mainly on partnerships with NGOs and other organizations as well as regional initiatives.

NGO-JICA Japan Desk

— Supporting the Overseas Activities of Japanese NGOs

Established in 20 countries, the NGO-JICA Japan Desk provides local information useful for JICA Partnership Programs and other activities as well as consultation services for Japanese NGOs.

● Partnerships with Universities

1. Partnership Agreement and Memorandum

To strengthen the partnerships with universities, JICA has concluded comprehensive cooperation agreements and exchanged memorandums with 33 universities in Japan. In fiscal 2015, JICA signed new agreements with three of these universities.

2. Technical Cooperation Project, SATREPS, etc.

JICA strives to improve the quality of human resource development programs and carries out the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) and other activities in collaboration with universities [→ see page 110 for details].

3. JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

In fiscal 2015, in cooperation with universities, JICA adopted and started four JICA Partnership Programs in the fields of peacebuilding and support for children with disabilities, among others.

4. International Cooperation Field Study Program and Internship for College Students

As part of global human resource development, JICA dispatched 40 college students to India and Laos to let them experience and learn about the situation of developing countries. In addition, JICA also accepted more than 100 interns from foreign countries.

● Partnerships with Local Governments

[→ See “Partnerships with Local Governments” on page 124]

Case Study JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

Aiming to Popularize an Exciting Physical Education Curriculum that Encourages Students to Learn the Importance of Social Rules and Become Cooperative

Cambodia: Project for Human Resource Development and Establishment of Sustainable Diffusion System of Primary School Physical Education (a partner type project)

Project Operator: Hearts of Gold (HG)

Since 2006, Okayama City-based Hearts of Gold (HG) has been engaged in improving the quality of physical education (PE) classes in Cambodian primary schools and popularizing the new curriculum. HG has been working on spreading the outcomes of its efforts throughout the country since 2013.

Focusing on Target Schools in 15 Provinces

Before HG provided support, the activities in PE classes in Cambodian primary schools were very limited, such as playing soccer, volleyball, and other sports or studying different subjects after having a 10-minute warm-up because teachers were less familiar with PE teaching methods.

However, the new PE curriculum created



Sixth-grade children playing a baton relay in a primary school in Kampong Chhnang [Photo: Hearts of Gold]

with the help of HG has allowed teachers to develop the behavior, knowledge, skills, and cooperative personality of students according to different stages of child development. The new curriculum is composed of six athletic activities, including track and field, rhythmic exercise, and soccer. One of the purposes of PE is to encourage students to observe social rules and become cooperative with others in the workplace and the community. In other words, this school subject is expected to develop human resources who will contribute to the future of Cambodia, an economically developing country.

The Voice of an NGO Staff Member

Mr. Koji Tezuka,
Project Manager

Physical education is an important school subject for healthy

and sound development of children. Since HG started 10 years ago to create the teaching guidelines and the teachers' manuals in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, we have developed many national and regional trainers who disseminate the new PE curriculum mainly to the targeted primary schools and teachers' training schools in 15 provinces. I am looking forward to seeing the ministry promote this curriculum in primary schools without our help.

The Voice of a Counterpart Organization

Mr. Dok Kirirath
Deputy Director of the Department of PE and Sports for Students,
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

Thanks to the support from HG, teaching guidelines and teachers' manuals became available for Ministry of Education officials, allowing them to provide appropriate guidance to students at teachers' training schools and to primary school teachers. The Ministry made 50,000 copies of the teaching guidelines and distributed them in 25 provinces. Now children love and enjoy PE classes.

Aiming to Support the Life of Community Residents and Protect World Heritage through the Utilization of Cultural Resources

Guatemala: Project for the Improvement of Livelihood and Support of Community Residents through the Preservation and Utilization of the Mixed World Heritage Site Tikal National Park (a support type project)

Project Operator: Kanazawa University

The Tikal ruins of the Mayan civilization receive many tourists today. In order to protect and pass this cultural heritage down to future generations, it is essential for community residents to be aware that the ruins are their cultural resource.

For Sustainable Preservation and Utilization of the Ruins

While conducting research on the Mixed World Heritage of the Mayan Civilization, Kanazawa University is also committed to preserving and utilizing the heritage by regarding the ruins as a cultural resource for improving the life of community residents. This JPP project was initiated based on the suggestion by Guatemalan training participants in the issue-specific training for preservation and utilization of world heritage, which was consigned by JICA to Kanazawa University.

The villages located alongside the main road to Tikal National Park are very poor, and many of the people there are farmers or day laborers. They are less interested in the ruins and not aware that world heritage belongs to them.

This project is carried out jointly by the Tikal National Park and Kanazawa University.

Targeting three poor villages around the national park, this project aims to improve the life of community residents by encouraging them to utilize the Tikal ruins as a cultural resource and reaping economic benefits from the activity. The JICA project is working on helping community residents understand the value of world heritage as a cultural resource and raising their awareness of protecting it for the sake of their benefit. The ultimate goal is to achieve sustainable protection and utilization of the world heritage through resident participation.

As part of this initiative, JICA provides various programs, such as training sessions for prospective licensed guides to the Tikal ruins, bird-watching training for people who wish to become nature guides, workshops for planning and creating tourist-oriented local crafts and commodities using local materials, training programs for techniques to restore and preserve



Bird-watching training [Photo: Kanazawa University]

the ruins and relics, and outdoor experience classes for primary and middle school students to raise their awareness of world heritage.

JICA will further develop these activities and also establish an organization where community residents can engage in voluntary activities.