

Partnerships with Local Governments

Local governments in Japan have accumulated extensive skills and knowledge in areas such as water and sewage systems, waste disposal, agriculture, and the like. Such know-how is a great help to developing countries facing similar social problems.

JICA plays a role in connecting the needs of developing countries with regional resources including local governments in Japan in order to produce win-win outcomes, i.e., growth of

developing countries and regional revitalization in Japan.

To do so, it is important to strengthen cooperation with local governments and other organizations as well as to combine or mutually connect JICA's various schemes for flexible and strategic execution. In particular, the following schemes carried out jointly by local governments, are now drawing attention due to the potential of revitalizing both developing countries and Japan.

1. JICA Partnership Program

In fiscal 2015, JICA adopted 31 JICA Partnership Programs (Local Government Type) that assist local governments in conducting international cooperation activities.

As part of the programs, Marugame City in Kagawa Prefecture, which produces about 90% of the total *Uchiwa* (Japanese bamboo fan) output in Japan, shares their *Uchiwa* production techniques with the people of Laos, who earn a living from making bamboo wares. In such a way, the partnership programs also contribute to transmitting Japanese traditional techniques to foreign countries.



Teaching how to make *Uchiwa* in Laos

2. Knowledge Co-Creation Program (former Training Program)

Local governments are important cooperation partners for JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program (hereafter referred to as KCCP), and JICA is accepting approximately 10,000 KCCP participants from about 140 countries every year.

The KCCP is being recognized today as having many positive impacts, not only for the overseas participants but also for global human resources development in many regions in Japan.

3. Project for Assisting SMEs in Overseas Business

This project is intended to solve development issues and achieve the growth of developing countries by leveraging the excellent technologies and products of Japanese SMEs. In this project, local governments accept training participants. Support for domestic SMEs' activities abroad in this program is also expected to rejuvenate the Japanese economy and local communities.

Comprehensive Cooperation Agreements with Local Governments

In 2011, JICA concluded a comprehensive cooperation agreement with Yokohama City, which became the first local government to enter into the contract. The Yokohama Waterworks Bureau has a long history of providing support for developing countries for over 40 years. Especially, the bureau's cooperation through JICA to the water sector in Viet Nam has been provided for more than 15 years and has produced robust achievements. Thanks to the bureau's support, a "Declaration of Safe Water" was issued throughout Hue Province in 2009.

In addition to Hue, the central part of Viet Nam enjoys cooperation outcomes as well, which also allows the member companies of the Yokohama Water Business Conference to promote their water business in Viet Nam. This project is anticipated to provide business opportunities for Japanese companies as well as to hand down Yokohama Waterworks Bureau's technologies to young engineers in Japan.

JICA Domestic Offices: As a Base for Business Expansion that Takes Advantage of the Characteristics and Experience of Local Communities

Kansai International Center (JICA Kansai) as a Base for Development of Human Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction

Operating 14 domestic offices in Japan, JICA provides support for developing countries by making best use of the regional characteristics and experience in Japan under the cooperation of local governments, NGOs, private companies, education-related personnel, and other entities.

JICA Kansai (formerly JICA Hyogo until 2012) was established in 2002. It is located in Kobe City, which was affected by the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. JICA Kansai has been sharing with the world its lessons gained from the disaster response and the process of reconstruction together with Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, and other local governments and organizations.

In response to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, adopted at the UN World Conference on

Disaster Risk Reduction, JICA and Hyogo Prefecture jointly established the Disaster Reduction Learning Center (DRLC) in 2007 on the premises of JICA Kansai. This facility is a base for the development of global human resources for disaster risk reduction. Until the end of fiscal 2015, DRLC provided programs for disaster risk reduction to 2,355 participants, such as administrative officials and engineers from 109 developing countries in cooperation with Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, and other local governments in Kansai region as well as specialized organizations that include the Hyogo Prefectural Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution.

In 2013, JICA concluded comprehensive cooperation agreements with Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe City. In addition to cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction, JICA will further strengthen partnership with local governments and private companies in Hyogo and Kobe.