Technical Cooperation

● Responding to Diverse Needs

Technical cooperation is people-to-people cooperation that supports developing countries in enhancing their comprehensive capacities to address development challenges by their own efforts. The needs of developing countries have become increasingly diverse. In addition to fields of agriculture, transportation and infrastructure, industrial development, health care services and education, in recent years these needs have extended to those of legal systems, peace-building and reconstruction assistance, and environmental and climate change measures.

JICA provides multitiered assistance for human resources development, organizational strengthening, policy formulation, and institutional development in developing countries with the knowledge, experience, and technologies of both Japan and developing countries.

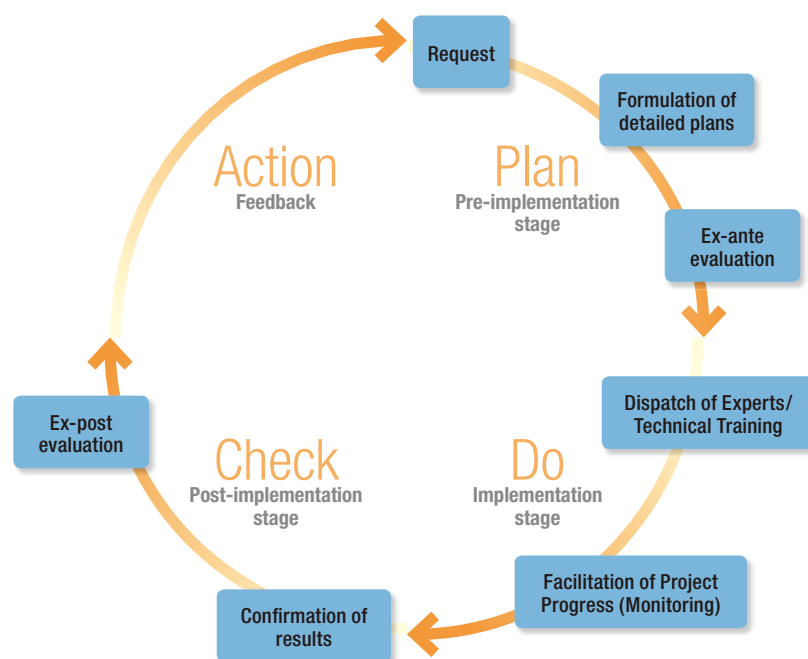## ● Effectively Combining a Variety of Components

1. Dispatch of Experts

Japanese experts are dispatched to developing countries to provide necessary technologies and knowledge to government officials and specialists (the counterparts) of a developing country (the partner country). At the same time, they cooperate with these counterparts to develop/disseminate technologies and systems that are suitable to the partner country. Depending on the historical background, language, and regional characteristics of the partner country, JICA can also dispatch experts from third countries (countries other than Japan or the partner country) in order to meet the needs of the partner country more efficiently.

2. Technical Training

JICA invites competent personnel in developing countries, who are responsible for social and economic development, to Japan as training participants. They participate in training programs in Japan to acquire the knowledge and technologies needed in their countries (e.g. Knowledge Co-Creation Program's Group and Region Focus courses, Country Focus courses or Young Leaders courses) [➡ **see page 128 for details**]. JICA also organizes overseas technical training programs in third countries, other than the partner countries and Japan.

3. Provision of Equipment

Technical cooperation projects, which use the optimal combination of the "Dispatch of Experts" and "technical training" as well as a variety of components that include the provision of equipment, are the core operation of JICA's technical cooperation. Project outcomes can be obtained by working together with the counterparts and associated organizations in the partner country through planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the project in a systematic and comprehensive manner [➡ **see the figure**].

Implementation Process

1) Project Identification and Formulation

JICA identifies and formulates projects through interactive activities, such as discussions with developing countries and information-gathering by JICA overseas offices.

2) Request and Approval

Based on the request from the partner country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, related ministries and agencies and JICA decide on the approval of the project. Approved projects are reported by the Japanese government to the partner country and note verbales concerning the cooperation are exchanged through the diplomatic channel.

3) Planning / Ex-Ante Evaluation

In order to clarify details and expected outcomes of the project and examine whether the implementation would be appropriate, a detailed planning survey is conducted and ex-ante evaluation is determined.

4) Project Implementation / Monitoring Project Progress

JICA and the government organization (partner organization) of the partner country sign Record of Discussions (R/D) regarding project implementation, details of the activities and necessary measures.

During the project, based on the plan formulated in the planning phase, JICA and the partner organization implement the project with regular monitoring. Then, the outcomes are reviewed at the end of the project.

5) Follow-up / Ex-Post Evaluation

After the project finishes, if difficult circumstances arise afterward, despite improvement efforts and endeavors by a partner country to support the measures taken by the partner

Strengthening Teacher Performance and Skills through School-Based Continuing Professional Development Project in Zambia: A JICA expert attending a review meeting that teachers hold in a primary and junior-high school after classes (photo by Atsushi Shibuya)

country, complementary assistance (follow-up) can be provided by JICA. Ex-post evaluation is conducted two or three years after the project completion and the evaluation results are then shared as lessons learned and used as a reference when formulating and implementing similar projects.

4. Technical Cooperation for Development Planning

While supporting developing countries' policy formulation and master plans, JICA provides technologies, such as survey/analysis methods and planning methods to the counterparts in the partner country.

Following the completion of this cooperation, developing countries are expected to conduct the followings.

1) Formulate plans for sector/regional development or rehabilitation/reconstruction by utilizing the recommendations;

2) Implement policies and plans by raising funds from international organizations and others; and/or

3) Carry out the recommended organizational/institutional improvements.

5. Science and Technology Cooperation on Global Issues

As a modality of JICA's technical cooperation, "Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)" incorporates elements of joint research between Japan and the partner country for developing and applying new technologies and acquiring new scientific knowledge. SATREPS will help address global challenges [environment, energy, natural disasters (disaster prevention), infectious diseases, food supplies and other problems] by using partnerships that encompass universities and research institutions, etc. in Japan and those in developing countries [➡ see page 110 for details].

JICA-Net:
Toward International Cooperation That Transcends the Restriction of Time and Distance

JICA-Net is a distance technical cooperation modality provided by JICA. It expands the possibility of international cooperation through activities such as joint work and learning of technologies across distant sites, and studies using digital archives on development experiences in Japan and in developing countries.

JICA-Net Library

JICA-Net library is operated to assist JICA activities by storing and publishing multimedia-based learning materials, seminar materials, and other digital contents that were developed in JICA's technical cooperation projects. JICA-Net digital content is distributed through the JICA-Net Library.

JICA-Net Library URL:
➡ JICA website http://jica-net-library.jica.go.jp/en2/index.html