

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

● Globally Unique Knowledge Co-Creation Program

Implementation methods of JICA's technical cooperation can be divided into two approaches. One is overseas cooperation by dispatching experts and volunteers in various development sectors to developing countries; the other is domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. The latter is the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, formerly called a Training Program, and is one of the core programs carried out in Japan. By inviting officials from developing countries and with cooperation from domestic partners, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program provides technical knowledge and practical solutions for development issues in participating countries.

JICA hosts approximately 11,000 participants every year in cooperation with its 14 domestic offices across Japan. The majority of the participants are affiliated with the partner governments and are decision makers, technical advisors and practitioners, concerned strategic personnel, and so forth. Moreover, there has been an increase in NGO-affiliated participants and private-sector participants, reflecting the diversified needs of developing countries and capacity expansion of Japan's cooperation programs. The Knowledge Co-Creation Program is undertaken in cooperation with universities, research institutes, private-sector enterprises, public-interest organizations, NGOs, and other organizations as well as central and local governments.

Implementation of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program has significance with regard to the utilization of Japan's development experience and know-how by adapting them to each partner country, rather than only sharing Japan's advanced technologies



Training participants learning a method to observe forest resources using a drone, with the cooperation of Rakuno Gakuen University in Ebetsu City, Hokkaido Prefecture:
Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus) — Remote Sensing of Forest Resources

and skills. To learn and understand Japan's knowledge, skills, and experience, it is often required that on-site experience concerning Japan's institutional know-how is put into practice, as well as the background and the transitions underlying Japan's social system.

One of the specific characteristics of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program is to provide an opportunity for participants to become aware of and reexamine the issues and challenges of their own countries from outside by experiencing Japan. Hence, participants get to be able to tackle various development issues in their home countries with a different perspective. Among the courses of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, the Group and Region Focus courses, in which participants are from several

Triple-Win Contribution to Developing Countries, JICA and Japan's Regional Revitalization



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Toward an Innovative and Quality Program

Since 2015, "regional revitalization" continues to be an important task for the Japanese society. In different regions in Japan, there are many corporations, local governments, universities, and other entities that possess world-class technologies and knowledge. Identifying these valuable local resources and encouraging them to participate in JICA's activities are significant for JICA's mission and its partner developing countries. JICA's 14 domestic offices are at the forefront to achieve this important goal. The domestic offices aim for a triple-win contribution to developing countries, JICA, and Japan's regional revitalization by making use of various tools and networks that JICA owns, and connecting Japanese regions to developing countries under the cooperation with domestic partners and resources.

JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program is one of the programs that utilizes Japanese astonishing technologies and knowledge accumulated in each region. Every year,

JICA conducts approximately 500 training courses in a variety of fields.* In fiscal 2016, JICA will put further effort into new trials to carry out an "innovative and quality program" that can accommodate both developing countries' needs and Japan's policy challenges by fully utilizing regional characteristics and their special qualities.

Most importantly, training participants in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program are expected not only making use of Japanese technologies and knowledge for the development of their own countries when they return home, but also promoting correct and better understanding of Japan overseas. Former training participants are becoming valuable bridges between Japan and developing countries, and JICA consolidates its network with those who understand, support, cooperate with Japan through reinforcing JICA's overseas' alumni associations for former training participants.

*Course numbers for Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus / Young Leaders)

different countries, give opportunities to participants to examine a variety of issues not only from the perspectives of Japan and their own countries, but also from multifaceted viewpoints among all participating countries by exchanging opinions and information. Group and Region Focus courses thus offer valuable insights and discoveries to each participant.

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program, a globally unique program in terms of its scale and diversity, is an essential tool of JICA's technical cooperation by utilizing Japan's own knowledge, skills, and development experiences to promote human resource development and to solve development issues in partner countries [→ see the Case Study on page 38].

● Multifaceted Benefits of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program

The goal of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program is to contribute to solving development issues in partner countries; meanwhile, the program also has achieved many other benefits.

To date, over 330,000 people have participated in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, and the participants have met numerous Japanese people during their stays in Japan and returned home with a deeper understanding and familiarity of Japan by learning about it. Meanwhile, on-site activities designed in the program also benefit Japanese society. For instance, private sector and public organizations can obtain direct information about developing countries and build relationships that may lead to expansion of their overseas operations and capacity. In addition, university students and researchers can acquire a greater global perspective by interacting with the participants. As a result, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program creates additional benefits of invigorating various regions of Japan and fostering



Training participants learning a repair technique for water leakage at a training facility in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture: Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus) — Non-revenue Water Management (Leakage Control)

its people with global attitude and knowledge.

Again, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program contributes to solving issues in developing countries. In addition, promotion of understanding of Japan, revitalization of Japan's regional communities, and fostering global human resources are other important benefits of the program. Consequently, JICA implements the Knowledge Co-Creation Program by identifying these significant benefits.

● Implementation of the Strategic Knowledge Co-Creation Program

For the implementation of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, JICA has strived to establish the program to emphasize the multifaceted aspects of its outcomes. Meanwhile, to strengthen the quality of the program with better effectiveness and efficiency, JICA ascertains the trend in other cooperation modalities and also examines all development issues, such as education, agriculture, etc.

In 2015, JICA had reviewed the significance of its Knowledge Co-Creation Program and redefined it as three main functions: (1) a fundamental role in realizing effective international cooperation; (2) an opportunity to encourage participants, who will forge the future in developing countries, to understand Japan; and (3) a contributor to globalizing Japanese regional communities. Along with the current remarkable growth of developing countries, JICA understands them as important partners and will improve and enhance the Knowledge Co-Creation Program based on the concept of "co-creation," which produces new values through interactive learning among the participating countries and Japan. JICA will further strengthen the Knowledge Co-Creation Program that can tackle newly emerging issues, crosscutting issues and Japan's policy challenges.



Training participants discussing productivity improvement: Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Nikkei-Japanese Descendants) — KAIZEN and 5Ss