

April  
2015



The bridge was named "Tsubasa Bridge" as it has the appearance of two birds spreading their wings (*tsubasa* in Japanese). The name symbolizes Cambodia's aspirations for further friendly relations with Japan. (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)

The Southern Economic Corridor now connects Viet Nam with Bangkok via Cambodia. With Japanese Grants, Tsubasa Bridge has been constructed across the Mekong River, the remaining major bottleneck along the corridor. The large-scale construction, covering a total length of over 5 km, was completed within schedule owing much to Japan's advanced technology, despite the detonation of unexploded ordnance and heavy floods. To help enhance ASEAN connectivity, JICA also provided ODA Loans to support National Road No. 5, which connects Phnom Penh and the Cambodia-Thailand border.

→ See Case Study on page 32

## Support for Connectivity for ASEAN Integration with "Quality Infrastructure"

Assistance for the Mekong Southern Economic Corridor in the Mekong Region: Tsubasa Bridge and National Road No. 5 in Cambodia

# HIGHLIGHTS 2015

April  
2015

## Assistance for Reconstruction from the Nepal Earthquake

Delivering Prompt Assistance for "Build Back Better"

Local stonemasons receive training in building quake-resilient houses.



The massive earthquake that occurred in Nepal on April 25, 2015, caused serious damage to the country, leaving more than 9,000 people dead, over 22,300 injured, and in excess of 880,000 homes destroyed or damaged. A day after the earthquake, JICA dispatched its Japan Disaster Relief Team to Nepal, and supported urgent recovery and rehabilitation of roads and schools. Furthermore, under the concept of Build Back Better, JICA assisted in reconstructing housing and schools, strengthening the resilience of the capital city, Kathmandu, and developing infrastructure in two districts that suffered the greatest damage from the earthquake.

→ See Case Studies on pages 91 and 119

September  
2015



From left: The chiefs of the J.League, JICA, and JFA, as well as Mr. Tsuyoshi Kitazawa (© JFA)

## Contributing to "Sport for Tomorrow" International Cooperation through Sports

### JFA, the J.League, and JICA Sign a Partnership Agreement

JICA is engaged in international cooperation through sports with sports associations. In 2015, JICA concluded a partnership agreement with the Japan Football Association (JFA) and the Japan Professional Football League (J.League) to support regional development, promote peace, and improve the quality of people's lives through soccer and other sports widely loved by children who forge the future in developing countries.

This initiative also contributes to Sport for Tomorrow, a Japanese government program promoting international cooperation through sports.

2015



African students learn as interns at a Japanese firm.

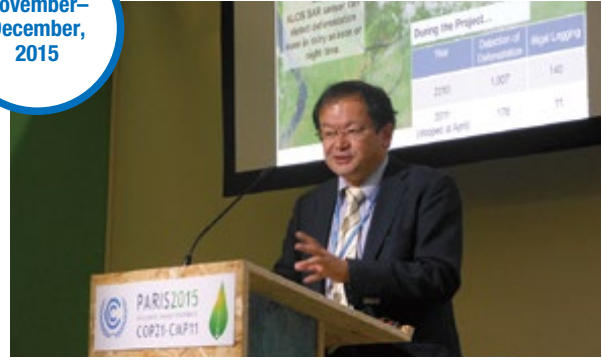
## Internship at Japanese Firms for Students from Africa

African Business Education Initiative for Youth

Japan has launched the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), a program that combines master's courses and internships to develop Japan-savvy human resources. To date, a total of 473 participants came to Japan from 33 African countries since 2014. In the summer of 2015, participants who came in 2014 engaged in internships at 65 Japanese companies. Participants who have learned Japanese technology, corporate culture, and business mind are expected to serve as "navigators" who assist Japanese companies in doing business in Africa.

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November–  
December,  
2015



A JICA official presents the system at a COP21 side event.

## JICA-JAXA Partnership Addresses Climate Change

Tropical Forest Monitoring System Using ALOS-2 Satellite Showcased at COP21

Recently JICA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) jointly initiated a monitoring system designed to track deforestation by utilizing JAXA's Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2 (ALOS-2). Earlier in December 2015, JICA announced the Initiative for Improvement of Forest Governance, which aims to curb deforestation, at a side event of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris. COP21 adopted the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 international framework for climate change.

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# Major Topics of Fiscal 2015

2015



The ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the JOCV Program was attended by some 4,500 people.

## 50 Years On: Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program

Tangible and Intangible Outcomes Highly Appreciated

The year 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) Program. In November, the ceremony to celebrate the occasion was held, attended by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan and about 4,500 people. Since it was established in 1965, the JOCV Program and two other JICA volunteers programs—Senior Volunteers and Youth and Senior Volunteers for *Nikkei* Communities—have sent some 49,000 volunteers\* to 96 countries around the world. Many of the former JOCVs are taking advantage of their experience in developing countries in addressing a number of challenges facing Japanese society. The outcomes of JOCV activities are highly evaluated in Japan as well as around the world because of their tangible and intangible contribution and development.

\*As of March 2016

→ See Volunteer Programs on pages 114–115