Citizen Participatory Cooperation
Making International Cooperation Part of Japanese Culture

JICA promotes and supports international cooperation activities by Japanese citizens as bridges between developing countries and Japan. JICA refers to such cooperative activities as Citizen Participatory and undertakes a variety of initiatives. Through Citizen Participatory activities, JICA aims to contribute to development with various approaches, to promote understanding of and participation in international cooperation by Japanese citizens, and further to return benefits to Japanese local communities. It is also expected that international cooperation will become part of Japanese culture through promotion of regional partnerships as the basis for Citizen Participatory activities as two-way initiatives that invigorate both developing countries and Japan.

Out of these initiatives, partnerships with NGOs, local governments, universities, and research institutions as well as support for development education are introduced below.

Partnerships with NGOs and Other Organizations

- **Dialogue**
  **NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting**
  JICA hosts four dialogue and other meetings annually with respect to matters of mutual concern and interest as well as for the promotion of cooperation activities. The priority issues of information-sharing and exchange made in fiscal 2016 included initiatives for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promotion of NGOs’ participation in technical cooperation (based on a request from the partner country’s government), cooperation for development education, and initiatives with contributions to local-area vitalization.

- **Cooperation**
  **JICA Partnership Program (JPP)**
  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 2016, 51 projects for 32 countries were adopted [see the Case Study on page 89].

  **JICA Donation Fund for the People of the World**
  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. In fiscal 2016, 16 projects were carried out utilizing the fund in 13 countries in Asia, Africa, and other areas, and a meeting to report project achievements was held for the first time.

- **Activity Support**
  **Support Program for NGOs and Other Organizations**
  JICA provides training programs that support the organizational management and enhance project execution capabilities of NGOs and other organizations engaged in international cooperation activities. In fiscal 2016, two types of training programs—JICA-planned programs, in which JICA provides training opportunities, and NGO-proposed programs, for which ideas and support for implementation are requested from NGOs and other organizations—were organized and carried out under the principal concept of partnership with NGOs and focus on areas and project sites.

  **NGO-JICA Japan Desk**
  Established in 20 countries, the NGO-JICA Japan Desk supports Japanese NGOs carrying out international cooperation activities at project sites in developing countries as well as enhances cooperation between NGOs or other organizations in subject countries and JICA. The desk is engaged in identification and monitoring of needs for JPP, provision of local information required for project implementation and response to related consultations, and training for improvement of project results, as well as promotion of communication between NGOs.

Partnerships with Local Governments

- **Cooperation Activities That Eventually Vitalize Regional Areas in Japan**
  Not limited to contributions to developing countries, JICA is also involved in partnership efforts for vitalization of regional areas in Japan. For example, JICA partners with local governments, which are positioned as particularly important partners, in the efforts of internationalization of the regions, overseas development of local governments and industries, and other related ventures.

  **Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement/Memorandums of Understanding for Cooperation**
  JICA and local governments have been promoting mutual cooperation by signing comprehensive cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOU) for enhancement of cooperation. In fiscal 2016, an MOU was newly concluded with Toyama City, marking JICA’s eighth MOU entered into with a local government. On the other hand, five years had passed since the comprehensive agreement was signed with Yokohama City. On reviewing the achievements in terms of support for developing countries and internationalization of the city, positive outcomes
were confirmed as a result of various project plans and personnel exchange as well as enhancement of diverse partnerships, resulting in an extension of the agreement in 2016.

Seminars for Local Governments
Local governments in Japan possess a wealth of knowledge and know-how on international cooperation and are making diverse efforts based on local viewpoints. JICA organizes seminars for the sharing of such information with other local governments. In fiscal 2016, a total of 15 seminars were held throughout Japan, with an approximate total of 700 participants.

JICA Partnership Program (JPP)
In fiscal 2016, JICA adopted 49 JICA Partnership Programs (Local Government Type) that assist local governments in conducting international cooperation activities in the fields of water supply and sewage treatment, waste management, and agriculture in 18 countries.

Partnerships with Universities and Research Institutions
As challenges faced by developing countries have become even more difficult and complicated, partnerships with universities and research institutions are indispensable for proceeding with international cooperation initiatives because of their extensive and advanced knowledge. JICA identified human resources development, enhanced partnerships between development actors, and contribution to regional revitalization as priority targets in its fourth five-year Medium-term Plan starting in fiscal 2017. JICA will further enhance partnerships with universities to expand cooperative initiatives for various fields and subjects.

Receiving Long-Term Participants
JICA invites competent personnel in developing countries, who are responsible for social and economic development, to Japan as participants. Among these participants, those who engage in a master’s or doctoral course at a Japanese university for one year or longer are called long-term participants.

The number of accepted long-term participants has been increasing over the years. In its efforts to establish and maintain a favorable medium-term relationship with developing countries, JICA strategically expanded the acceptance scale of long-term participants in order to help overcome development challenges in developing countries, foster internationally capable human resources, and encourage local vitalization in Japan. Principal programs are outlined below:

Master's Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for Youth
The expected outcome of this initiative is, by creating a personal network between each African country concerned and Japan, to develop excellent businesspeople as “navigators” for Japanese businesses engaged in economic activities in Africa. In fiscal 2016, there were 348 participants from 46 African countries invited under this program, which initially started in fiscal 2013.

Pacific Leaders’ Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS)
The Pacific-LEADS program is to help foster leaders with expertise for overcoming development challenges in Pacific island countries who can also enhance the relationship between these countries and Japan as pro-Japan specialists or individuals well-versed in things Japanese. This program started in fiscal 2016, in which 41 participants from 10 Pacific countries were invited.
Project for the Promotion and Enhancement of the Afghan Capacity for Effective Development (PEACE)

By accepting Afghan civil servants and academics in the areas of infrastructure development, rural agricultural development, education, and health as JICA training participants, JICA supports their acquisition of relevant knowledge and skills at Japanese universities. This program began in fiscal 2011, and 71 participants have enrolled at Japanese universities during fiscal 2016.

The Kizuna Program

For the two-sided aims of providing development support in the mining sector of developing countries and securing a stable supply of mineral resources for Japan, this program is to establish mutually beneficial relations through fostering mining specialists in developing countries. In fiscal 2016, JICA accepted 18 participants from 12 countries for this program, which started in fiscal 2014.

Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)

This project accepts promising young government officials and other personnel who are going to take on leadership in their respective countries. JDS fellows are expected to contribute to designing and implementing socioeconomic development plans in their countries, and at the same time to aim for expansion and enhancement of a harmonious relationship between partner countries and Japan owing to their good understanding of Japan. In fiscal 2016, there were 266 participants from 13 countries accepted to the program.

Enhancing Partnerships and Expanding Cooperation with Universities

Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement/MOU for Cooperation

For enhancement of partnerships, comprehensive cooperation agreements and/or MOU for partnership have been concluded between 35 universities in Japan and JICA. During fiscal 2016, JICA entered into new agreements with three universities.

Technical Cooperation Project, SATREPS, etc.

JICA is engaged in the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), which is a project-type technical cooperation initiative, and an effort to improve human development projects in partnership with universities [see page 86].

JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

During fiscal 2016, JICA adopted 16 projects for 15 countries from among proposals made by Japanese universities.

International Cooperation Field Study Program

As part of global human resources development, JICA dispatched 39 college students to Cambodia and Laos in fiscal 2016 to allow them to experience and learn about the situation of developing countries.

To Promote Understanding of International Cooperation among Schoolchildren and General Citizens

Programs for Supporting Development Education

- JICA Global Plaza
  At the JICA Global Plaza, located in Ichigaya, Tokyo, and the Nagoya Global Plaza in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, people with abundant experiences in international cooperation serve as Global Concierges, and they lead visitors to exhibitions that encourage seeing, listening, touching, and thinking. Through these exhibitions, with intelligible explanation, visitors can virtually learn and experience various conditions in developing countries and become aware of global issues. Global Plazas feature on-site cafes that allow visitors to enjoy international cuisines and sell fair-trade commodities. In addition, Plazas have spaces for holding seminars about citizen-led international cooperation activities as well as presentations on the outcomes of such activities [see the Case Study on page 91].

  The cumulative total number of visitors to the JICA Global Plaza exceeded 1.5 million in January 2017, while that of the Nagoya counterpart surpassed 0.6 million in February 2017. A third facility, Hokkaido Global Plaza, was opened in the JICA Hokkaido International Center in Sapporo in April 2017. Public relations and communication activities on international cooperation are undertaken also at the 14 JICA international centers, branch offices, and training centers in Japan.

- For Practice and Promotion of Development Education at Schools
  In various scenes, including school education, JICA supports development education programs in partnership with NGOs, local governments, and schools in order to foster abilities to understand various developmental issues that the world faces and their relationships to Japan, to treat them as their own problems and proactively study them, and to participate in efforts to overcome them.

  JICA develops various partnerships with the education centers and education boards of local governments as well as the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.
In fiscal 2016, the Director-General of the JICA Global Plaza attended the working group for social study, geography, history, and civics in the elementary and secondary education committee of the Central Council for Education held for revising the government course guidelines. As an expert member, he emphasized the importance of learning and thinking about contributions being made by Japan to developing countries and contemporary global issues such as refugees and conflicts.

In January 2017, a network council was held with teachers joining the networks dedicated to development education and education for international understanding, including those who once participated in the Study Tour Program for Teachers, as well as related NGO personnel. Active sharing of information and exchange of views among participants made the network council very useful for vitalization and expansion of education networks.

A symposium titled “The Future of Education Pursued from International Trends” was held in February 2017. The symposium, which included lectures by experts and a panel discussion, was open to the public. An approximate total of 140 people attended the event, and the symposium provided the audience with inspiration and motivation for even greater energy and mutual cooperation.

For Providing Well-Rounded Education for Children

JICA provides various educational opportunities for students, teachers, and other personnel directly involved in education.

In order for people in educational administration to expand their understanding of developing countries and international cooperation, each year the Overseas Study Tour Program is organized, in which prefectural officials in charge of educational administration are sent to developing countries. In fiscal 2016, there were 20 such officials who took part in the overseas study program.

For teachers, the Study Tour Program for Teachers allows them to observe the current conditions in developing countries and then put their experiences into practice in their classes once they have returned to Japan.

The Training Program for Development Education Leaders is held at JICA offices in Japan, in which over 9,000 people each year study development education methods and actual cases. A dedicated website is also in place to introduce teaching materials and cases of development education and education for international understanding, and is welcomed by a great number of website visitors, including those engaged in school education.

For children and students, the International Cooperation Lectures, which mainly deploys former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers as lecturers, are delivered about 2,000 times per year in schools. There is also an Essay Contest on International Cooperation for Junior and Senior High School Students that received about 80,000 total applicants in 2016.

The “Transforming Our World—Sustainable Development Goals: SDGs” Exhibition, March–September 2017

The year 2016 was the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the JICA Global Plaza. JICA will endeavor to make the Plaza even more familiar to the general public as a place for collecting information and communicating.

The establishment of the first Plaza dates back to April 2006, which is intended to be a base for promoting international cooperation by citizens. During the past 10 years, the Plaza has accepted the registration of approximately 800 organizations undertaking international cooperation and partnership. The cumulative total of Plaza visitors is more than 1.5 million. In commemoration of the tenth anniversary, a Day of Appreciation festival was held on May 28, 2016, at the Plaza. At the festival, exhibition booths were set up by 70 registered groups, presentations of their activities were made, and talks were held by notable public figures who have keen interest in international cooperation. On the festival day, the Plaza had 1,150 visitors, the highest one-day visitor record, making it an optimal opportunity for so many citizens to get familiar with the Global Plaza.

The Plaza plans exhibitions based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other programs concerning SDGs on a regular basis in its efforts to provide opportunities to think about the relationship between SDGs and our daily life as well as what everyone can do for the achievement of the SDGs.