

JICA Starts Working on Achieving the SDGs

In February 2016, JICA launched a SDGs Mainstreaming team within the organization to promote the SDGs and started organizational practices to achieve the goals.

First of all, JICA held study meetings for staff working at the head office and sites in Japan and overseas. A total of more than 1,300 people attended the 24 meetings, where they acquired basic knowledge about the SDGs and learned about domestic and international trends. Next, JICA held discussions with all departments on its approach to the SDGs, summarizing them in a position paper, as a whole and as each goal separately, issued in September 2016. Based on this,

JICA is now increasing projects to contribute to the SDGs.

In addition, JICA is endeavoring to further strengthen partnerships toward achievement of the challenging SDGs. Specifically, as well as holding symposiums and other events to encourage the participation of Japanese private companies, NGOs, and universities in SDG efforts with JICA, in March 2017 JICA opened a special exhibition titled “Transforming Our World: The SDGs” at the JICA Global Plaza to increase interest in the SDGs and deepen understanding among the partners and citizens.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Examples of Efforts

Assisting the Planning and Implementation of the SDGs in Developing Countries



Since the SDGs consist of 17 wide-ranging goals, priority issues differ depending on region and country. For developing countries in particular, it is necessary to strategically align the SDG objectives and targets to its National Development Plan (NDP) and to promote efforts in an effective manner.

Working together with the Indonesian government

Centered on BAPPENAS (National Development Planning Agency), the Indonesian government is promoting the SDGs while establishing consistency with its own development plan and strategy. In January 2016 the Indonesian government set up the SDG Secretariat within BAPPENAS, and in July 2017 a presidential decree was issued to further facilitate efforts.

Responding to a request from BAPPENAS, JICA cooperated with the SDG Secretariat and other BAPPENAS departments and assisted the formulation of (1) targets and indicators,

(2) an action plan, and (3) a monitoring and assessment setup for the promotion of the SDGs by the Indonesian government.

Regionwide initiative in Africa

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) was established in the Rwandan capital of Kigali in January 2017 as a regionwide body with the aim of achieving the SDGs throughout Africa as a whole.

The composition of the SDGC/A's board of directors, which consists of presidents of African countries, university professors, and representatives of private companies, shows that the idea behind its launch was born in Africa. At the opening ceremony, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said that Africans must themselves contribute to improving their lives and that he had great expectations for the role of the SDGC/A as a “Knowledge Wisdom Center.”

In Africa, where countries face similar issues, the practice of model projects in multiple countries and the creation of forums for learning together are effective. Utilizing the means and perspectives of capacity development, knowledge sharing, and the ownership of developing countries, which JICA has emphasized so far, JICA will collaborate with the SDGC/A and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in Africa.



The opening ceremony of the SDGC/A. On the far right is JICA Vice President Takao Toda. (Photo courtesy of the Government of Rwanda)