

Enhancing Development Partnerships and Actions toward Achieving the SDGs

Working Together with a Wide Range of International and Local Partners

Emerging economies are accelerating growth, but many countries are still being left behind from globalization. This raises concerns that economic and social inequalities will widen within and among countries. Also, development issues are increasingly complex and diversified.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This agenda calls for strengthening the means of implementation for development, such as finance, technology, and capacity building. It also calls for revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development. While the percentage of ODA in the total financial flow to developing countries declines, it is increasingly difficult to achieve the SDGs with ODA and other public funds alone. This is why various partnerships and approaches are essential, including mobilization of private funds.

JICA engages in collaboration and co-creation with a wide range of partners in Japan and abroad, including emerging donors, to generate the maximum impact of its programs and projects and thus contribute to the attainment of the SDGs.

● Activities of JICA toward Achieving the SDGs

Under its guiding principle for achieving the SDGs,¹ JICA is working on a range of activities in Japan and abroad.²

On the international front, JICA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) in October 2017.³ SDGC/A is a Rwanda-based international organization established in 2015 to overcome the challenges that stand in the way of achieving the SDGs across the continent. JICA is now working with SDGC/A to advance partnership and disseminate expertise in development

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



with special focus on some goals of the SDGs, including zero hunger (Goal 2), good health and well-being (Goal 3), and quality education (Goal 4).

On the domestic front, JICA promoted public understanding of the SDGs and worked to enhance partnerships toward achieving the SDGs in cooperation with various partners, such as the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), the Japan Securities Dealers Association (JSDA), the media, and universities. In November 2017, for example, JICA co-organized a symposium on the SDGs with Nikkei Inc. [→ see below].

● Partnerships with International Development Agencies

Achieving the SDGs requires close partnership with other development agencies. Through such partnerships, these agencies can complement one another with their respective

1. JICA's Position Paper on SDGs was released in September 2016.

2. JICA web page on initiatives on the SDGs: www.jica.go.jp/aboutoda/sdgs/

3. In March 2018, the president of JICA assumed the post of the SDGC/A Board Members.

Nikkei Social Innovation Forum

Communicating JICA-Private Partnerships on the SDGs to a Wider Audience



Participants at the panel discussion

In November 2017, JICA and Nikkei Inc. co-organized a forum on sustainable society in the context of the SDGs.

At the outset of the forum, JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka stated that collaboration with partners in Japan and abroad is essential for achieving the SDGs. He expressed JICA's commitment to serving as a catalyst and agent for the development of developing countries using the SDGs as a platform. At a panel discussion on "Businesses Addressing the SDGs as Pioneers in a New Era," executives at Japanese businesses and JICA identified major challenges for closer

partnership between JICA and businesses and reviewed some case studies. They then called for the co-creation of insight and value through various partnerships.

The forum was attended by more than 600 people, mostly from the private sector. They listened intently to how businesses and JICA work together to strengthen partnerships for the SDGs in the world.



An MOU in the health sector was signed between the ADB and JICA in May 2017 at the ADB Annual Meeting in Yokohama. Photo at the signing ceremony (from left to right): JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka, State Minister of Finance Minoru Kihara, and ADB President Takehiko Nakao

strengths in sectors and technologies. They can also collaborate to provide more effective and efficient support to address difficult challenges that are beyond the capacity of one agency. Dissemination of JICA's experience and knowledge through participation in international discussions on development cooperation will not only improve the quality of international development initiatives, but also will increase the understanding of Japan's experiences and approaches.

JICA regularly holds strategic discussions with some of its development partners. In fiscal 2017, the presidents of the World Bank Group and of JICA held the Fourth High-Level Dialogue. They agreed to enhance their partnership to strengthen mobilization of private finance and private sector development and to jointly promote the initiatives to achieve the Universal Health Coverage (UHC)⁴. JICA also had annual or regular discussions with other international organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

During fiscal 2017, JICA attended many other international

conferences and seminars, including the Annual Meeting of the ADB in May in Yokohama, as well as the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) in November and the UHC Forum in December [→ see page 10], both held in Tokyo. At these events, the president and other executives of JICA gave keynote addresses and spoke as panelists on JICA's position, activities, and initiatives.

● Partnerships with Emerging Countries and South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In addition to the traditional development agencies mentioned above, emerging countries such as the Republic of Korea, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, and Turkey have become development cooperation providers. JICA has attached much value in sharing a variety of development approaches and issues with these emerging countries based on Japan's long experience in development cooperation. JICA continues to hold discussions with these emerging development partners, such as the Export-Import Bank of China, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and Economic Development Cooperation Fund of the Export-Import Bank of Korea (EDCF).

The international community regards JICA's years of experience highly in South-South and Triangular Cooperation, both of which are designed to share the development experiences of emerging and developing countries. JICA takes the opportunities offered by international forums to share its experiences with the international community. In fiscal 2017, JICA attended the UN Global South-South Development Expo held in Turkey and presented its experience of the Triangular Cooperation project with the Turkish government, namely Support for Afghan Female Police Officers. JICA emphasized the importance of ownership by the people involved as well as of facilitators between the countries involved.

4. UHC is defined as "ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship."

African Clean Cities Platform

Integrating Domestic and Foreign Expertise for Clean Cities



Participants gather at a preparatory meeting for the Platform in Maputo, Mozambique.

Amid economic growth and growing populations, Africa's cities are facing increasingly serious waste problems, adversely affecting people's health.

These circumstances have prompted JICA to play a key role in establishing the African Clean Cities Platform. It involves 29 countries and 58 cities in Africa (as of the end of March 2018), the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and the Japanese city of Yokohama, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), other international organizations, and NGOs. The

Platform was established in April 2017 in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique.

The Platform primarily aims to achieve the targets of improving urban sanitation and ensuring proper management of solid waste as called for in Goals 11 and 12 of the SDGs. Activities to these ends include holding annual meetings, providing training in Yokohama city in Japan, and exchanging information via SNS. By supporting these activities, JICA works to share expertise and experience of Japan and African countries with regard to urban waste management and to mobilize public and private funds.