

Support for Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants and Enhancement of Collaboration and Relations with *Nikkei* Communities

More than 2.13 million descendants of Japanese emigrants (*Nikkei*) live in Latin America and the Caribbean, making important contributions in many fields. Their presence plays a key role as an intermediary between Japan and the countries where they reside.

● Changes in the Situation in Countries Where Japanese Emigrants Have Settled and Future Challenges

For Japanese emigrants who have settled in Latin America and the Caribbean, in line with postwar Japanese emigration policy, JICA had been providing assistance to settle in new lands and to stabilize livelihoods. Today, as *Nikkei* communities have matured and generational transition has taken place with the passage of time, JICA is committed to strengthening collaboration with *Nikkei* communities as well as supporting them, with a focus on human resources development and elderly welfare.

In 2017, the Panel of Experts on Collaborating with Communities of Japanese Immigrants and Descendants ("*Nikkei*") in Latin America and the Caribbean was established under the auspices of then Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida. JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka participated as a panelist. Based on the discussions at the Panel, the efforts of the entire nation have been made to deepen collaboration with *Nikkei* communities.

● Main Programs and Activities for Japanese Emigrants and *Nikkei*

1. Dissemination of Knowledge on Overseas Migration

The Japanese Overseas Migration Museum aims to encourage the public—especially young people who will lead the next generation—to learn about the history of Japanese migration and become acquainted with emigrants and the *Nikkei*. The museum consists of permanent exhibits featuring the immigration records of Japanese emigrants and historical materials donated by them, as well as special exhibitions covering a variety of subjects. In addition to the library, containing emigration-related books and films, it also provides information on its website and conducts studies and research activities. In fiscal 2017, the museum had 48,239 visitors and the total number of visitors since its opening has exceeded 500,000 [→ see page 8].

In fiscal 2017, the museum held four special exhibitions: (1) Hawaii *Nikkei* Legacy Exhibit; (2) Immigrants Who Lived in the Mind of Méjico [Mexico]; (3) From Hiroshima to Overseas: A History of Emigration and the Lives of *Nikkei*; and (4) Leaving Behind the Southern Province of Tosa: *Iggoso* Who Crossed the Ocean.

2. Support for Emigrants Abroad

JICA provided subsidies for the management of *Nikkei* clinics at settlements in Bolivia and the Amazonia Hospital in Brazil while also supporting traveling clinics and programs involving elderly welfare and medical services for settlements in Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, and the Dominican



Training participants making a presentation at a workshop under the Education Program for Next-Generation *Nikkei* for middle schoolers

Republic. In addition, among other programs, JICA also provided subsidies for programs aimed at the training and recruitment of local *Nikkei* Japanese-language teachers.

3. Educational Initiatives for the Next Generations

JICA organizes a program for children of emigrants that provides a firsthand opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and society, and enhance their identity as *Nikkei*. In fiscal 2017, JICA implemented such programs aimed for junior high school, high school, and college students, and a total of 101 students participated in them.

In order to develop human resources who will lead the next generations, JICA also offers a scholarship covering living expenses and tuition to support *Nikkei* students attending graduate schools in Japan. In fiscal 2017, five new students participated in this program.

4. Support for *Nikkei* Communities and Local Communities

JICA dispatches volunteers to *Nikkei* communities. They are called *Nikkei* Volunteers, and they mainly assist with Japanese-language education, health care, and welfare services while living with Japanese emigrants and *Nikkei* there. This initiative is intended to provide technical cooperation and support revitalization of *Nikkei* communities as well as to develop partner countries through these communities. In fiscal 2017, the number of volunteers newly dispatched to Latin America and the Caribbean was 81 people.

Under the Special Participation Program for School Teachers for *Nikkei* communities, JICA dispatched nine school teachers to Brazil and Paraguay in fiscal 2017 for a term of 21 months. Upon returning to Japan, these volunteer teachers, sent to local government-recognized

schools, are expected to take full advantage of their experiences to assist with the education of *Nikkei* children in Japan.

At the proposal of universities, local governments, public interest corporations, and private enterprises in Japan, JICA also invites *Nikkei* for training aimed at supporting nation building in their respective countries and promoting cross-border, people-to-people exchanges. In fiscal 2017, JICA accepted 163 participants for such training.

5. Strengthening Partnerships with *Nikkei* Communities and Japan's Private Sector

JICA dispatches Partnership Promotion Survey Teams to Latin America and the Caribbean with an aim to contribute to economic and social development in the region through strengthening partnerships between Japanese private companies and private companies owned or managed by *Nikkei* in those countries. In fiscal 2017, JICA sent such a team to Brazil. Some of the Japanese companies that joined the team now utilize JICA's private-sector partnership programs. Others are even expanding their business to Latin America and the Caribbean or are engaged in international cooperation with the region.



A training participant and a Japanese student conducting an experiment at the Tokyo University of Agriculture under the Education Program for Next-Generation *Nikkei* for university students