

HIGHLIGHTS

2017

In fiscal 2017, many of JICA's long-term activities came to fruition, and also offered a new direction. We strengthened cooperation with our partners both in Japan and overseas, and accelerated our response to diversifying needs.

First Issue of Social Bonds in Japan

May 2017 — JICA awarded "Bond Issuer of the Year"

JICA became Japan's first social bond issuer. In recognition of this achievement, in May 2017, JICA was awarded "Bond Issuer of the Year" in the DEALWATCH AWARDS (Straight Bond division) by Thomson Reuters Markets KK. As interest in resolving social issues through investment grows, JICA bonds, as a vehicle that links investors' desire to make a social contribution and development in developing countries, are receiving increased attention.



DEALWATCH AWARDS presentation ceremony

Fifteen Years Disseminating the History of Japanese Emigration and the Achievements of Emigrants

August 2017 — Japanese Overseas Migration Museum exceeds 500,000 visitors

The Japanese Overseas Migration Museum features reference material, documents, photographs and other resources and exhibits to accurately represent the stories of Japanese emigrants, primarily to the Americas, within the history of Japanese people, as international cooperation pioneers who helped to mold new civilizations in new lands. The Museum was opened in 2002 in Yokohama, the port of departure for the first Japanese emigrants to Hawaii 150 years ago. On August 25, 2017, the total number of visitors to the Museum passed the half-million mark.



"Journey to the Americas." Trunks filled with the personal belongings of emigrants

“As Quickly as Possible, as Many as Possible” — Disaster Relief Work in Mexico

September 2017 — Japan Disaster Relief Team: 30 Years On

September 2017 marked thirty years since the enactment of the Law Concerning the Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR Law) stipulating that when major disasters strike overseas, JICA is to organize and dispatch disaster relief teams to the disaster-stricken areas. In that same month, a Japan Disaster Relief rescue team was sent to Mexico following a major earthquake there. The team operated tirelessly, even through the nights, and the team’s efforts were reported on daily in Mexico. When the team’s work was finished and it was time to withdraw, they received much praise and words of appreciation from local residents.



Rescue team in Mexico

First JOCV to Myanmar is a Swimming Coach

October 2017 — JOCV heads to Myanmar

In November 2016 Myanmar became the 88th country to sign an agreement with Japan for the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), and from October 2017, the dispatch of JOCVs to Myanmar began. First to go was Ryuki Homma as a swimming coach. And swimmers coached by him celebrated their first victory at a competition held in December. The dispatch of JOCVs in the health sector began in February 2018, and with these dispatches, a new page was added to the 52-year history of JOCVs.



52 years since foundation of JOCVs. Ryuki Homma, the first JOCV to Myanmar, coaching his group

Economic Corridor Linking a Great Continent from North to South, and Underpinning Africa’s Economic Growth

October 2017 — Completion of the Tanzania Road Sector Support Project (1 and 2)

The economic corridor Trans-Africa Highway No.4 proposed in 1970 was a massive scheme extending more than 10,000 km linking South Africa and Egypt, and symbolized the vastness of the African continent. Together with the African Development Bank, JICA provided cooperation for building the remaining unsurfaced section of the highway in Tanzania. Combined with preceding projects, surfacing was completed on the section of more than 400 km in October 2017. The new road will create links between people across national borders, and promote more active exchanges.



The highway heading north from Tanzania’s capital Dodoma

Toward the Achievement of Health for All

December 2017 — Co-hosting the UHC Forum 2017

About 600 high-level government officials and representatives of international organizations from 61 countries attended the UHC Forum 2017 in Tokyo. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is defined as ensuring that all people have access to the quality essential health services they need without suffering financial hardship. Co-hosted by JICA, the Forum adopted the Tokyo Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, and reaffirmed the commitment to accelerate progress toward achieving UHC by 2030.



JICA President Kitaoka, with Prime Minister Abe, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres, and other leaders, takes the stage. [Photo: Shinichi Kuno]

Japan's First SDGs Platform by Regional Industrial, Academic, Public and Private Sectors

December 2017 — Establishment of the Kansai SDGs Platform

JICA's domestic offices function as domestic bases for each of the regional areas that they play a role as a hub linking those areas with developing countries. On December 16, 2017, JICA Kansai Center launched the Kansai SDGs Platform in conjunction with private companies, NGO/NPO, universities and research institutions, and local governments and government agencies in the Kansai region. JICA serves as the secretariat together with the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Headquarters Secretariat of the Union of Kansai Governments. This collaboration among such a broad range of actors is expected to generate ideas and technologies to resolve global and regional issues.



JICA President Kitaoka delivering a keynote presentation at the symposium celebrating the platform's establishment to a diverse group of regional participants

Major Topics of Fiscal 2017

April	Opening of the Hokkaido Global Plaza
April	Sri Lanka: Dispatch of a Japan Disaster Relief Team (Expert Team) in response to the garbage mound collapse
May	★ JICA awarded "Bond Issuer of the Year"
May	Georgia: Establishment of the first overseas office in the Caucasus
June	Myanmar: Introduction of textbooks developed with JICA technical cooperation at all primary schools
July	Five proposals adopted as the result of the first notice of the new scheme Feasibility Survey for SDGs Business
July	Establishment of JICA's new vision "Leading the world with trust"
August	First students under the Japanese Initiative for the Future of Syrian Refugees arrive in Japan
August	★ Japanese Overseas Migration Museum exceeds 500,000 visitors
September	★ Japan Disaster Relief Team 30th anniversary
September	Somalia: Decision to start the first new technical cooperation project in 26 years
October	Mongolia: Operations begin at Tsetsii Wind Farm, established by JICA's first Private-Sector Investment Finance project in the renewable energy field
October	★ Myanmar: First JOCV to Myanmar
October	★ Tanzania: Completion of the road sector support project (1 and 2)
November	Jamaica: Signing of JICA's first dollar-denominated loan agreement for the Energy Management and Efficiency Programme
November	Tanzania: JICA co-sponsors Tanzania's first women's track meet "LADIES FIRST" with the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports
December	★ JICA co-hosts the UHC Forum 2017
December	★ Establishment of the Kansai SDGs Platform
2018	
January	Serbia: Became the 89th country to sign an agreement for the dispatch of JOCVs
February	Laos: Opening of the Laos-Japan Friendship Bridge (commonly called Sekong Bridge) built with Grants
March	Cuba: Opening of JICA office
March	Partnership agreement signed with Ama-cho, Shimane Prefecture. Extending experience and knowledge of regional revitalization to developing countries