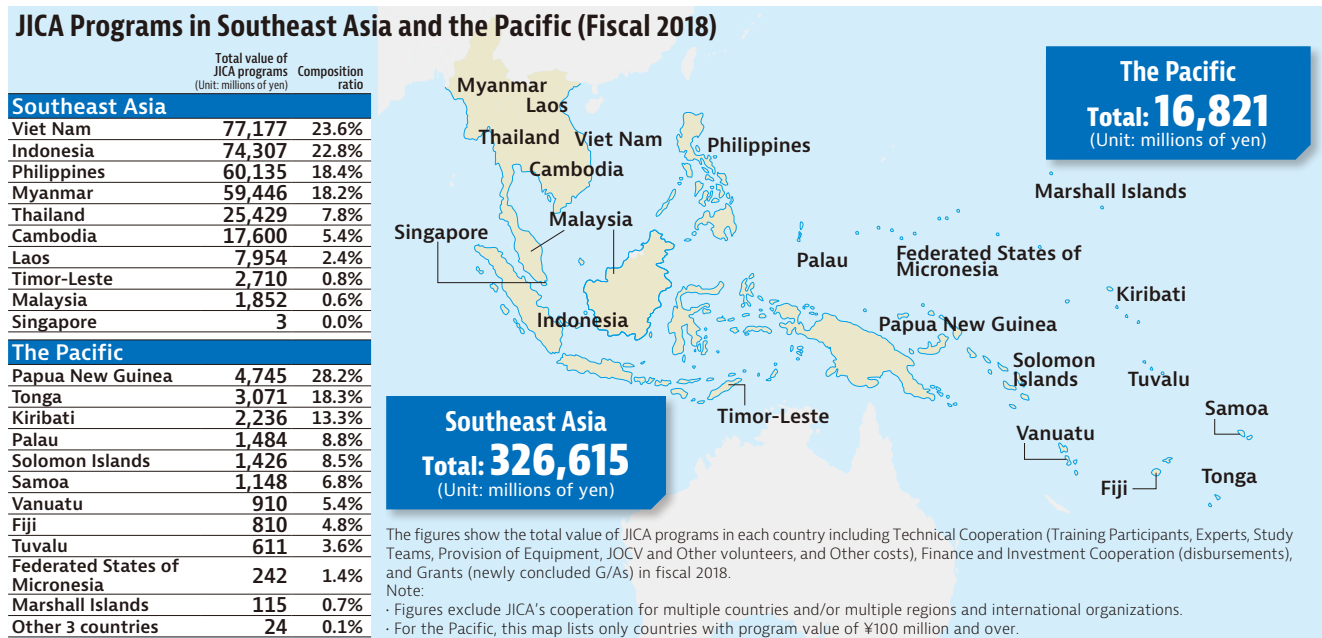


Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Seeking to Achieve Quality Growth under the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”



Southeast Asia

Regional Issues

Bordering the Indian and Pacific Oceans, the ASEAN countries will become a dynamic presence to maintain and develop free and open international order based on the rule of law, and take the lead in promoting the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region—this ideal constitutes the core of the Japanese government’s vision of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” It is critical that ASEAN develop as a free and open region, and this is directly linked to Japan’s national interest. To this end, Japan must expand its strategic assistance to enhance the autonomy, independence, and integrity of ASEAN.

Promoting economic integration and strengthening connectivity, by, for example, the development of the East-West and Southern Economic Corridors, and Maritime Economic Corridor, in particular is the key to ASEAN integrity and sustainable growth. It is also critical for Japan to provide cooperation for marine infrastructure development and strengthening maritime law enforcement capabilities to maintain and strengthen free and open maritime order, and “quality growth” that overcomes economic disparity and establishes solid regional stability and prosperity. In addition, cooperation is necessary in many aspects, including climate change measures toward the global trend of decarbonization, and fostering future national leaders and administrative officials who play key roles in national management. Cooperation is also necessary on measures to counter regional vulnerability, including Rakhine State in Myanmar and Mindanao in the Philippines, as well as the development of peaceful, stable, and safe communities that share universal

values such as the rule of law and good governance.

Support is also required for Timor-Leste’s membership of ASEAN and to underpin its transition from the reconstruction period to the development stage.

JICA Initiatives

1. Encouraging “Quality Growth”

JICA provides assistance for “quality growth” that embraces inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience. JICA considers physical connectivity and key land and maritime transport infrastructure to be vital for meeting expanding infrastructure needs.

Urban problems such as traffic congestion and air pollution caused by sudden population increase hinder sustainable growth and are becoming a social issue. As the Southeast Asian countries continue their economic growth, JICA is placing priority on the development of the urban infrastructure and urban environment including traffic systems, waste disposal, and water supply and sewerage, which are crucial for improving urban functions and fostering the urban middle class. Indonesia’s first subway commenced services [➔ see the case study on page 23]. JICA encourages quality infrastructure development which serves as the foundation for environmentally friendly quality growth that improves the lives of local communities through job creation and access to social services.

JICA is also continuing to promote infrastructure development in the East-West Economic Corridor and the Southern Economic Corridor in Indochina to enhance east-west connectivity in Southeast Asia, and is working to strengthen “vibrant and effective connectivity,” such as improving customs systems

and personnel training for this with the aim of strengthening institutional connectivity.

2. Initiatives for Regional Stability

JICA is providing cooperation for strengthening maritime law enforcement and maritime security capabilities, and assistance to remote islands in Indonesia to contribute to the realization of free and open maritime order based on the rule of law. Focusing on strengthening governance and promoting democratization, JICA is providing assistance to ethnic minorities in Myanmar and to the Mindanao peace process in the Philippines, and providing support for the reconstruction and recovery of the Philippines city of Marawi [→ see the case study on page 24].

Immediately following the earthquake that struck Indonesia's Sulawesi Island in September 2018 and at the request of the Indonesian government, JICA implemented an emergency response, and after confirming the level of assistance required, formulated a reconstruction master plan proposing reconstruction projects that made full use of Japan's expertise in this area [→ see page 9].

3. Climate Change

The impact of climate change is quite severe in the ASEAN region with its large population concentrated in coastal cities, and support for disaster risk reduction and other climate change measures must be strengthened. At the same time, energy demand in ASEAN is soaring, so energy policies that strike a balance between growth and the environment are crucial. JICA is therefore promoting the active use of Japan's low-carbon technologies, and is also tackling the construction of new energy supply chains including liquid natural gas (LNG) terminals, an



Ports and harbor officials from Southeast Asia and the Pacific region were invited to Japan to foster networking under the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

area where Japanese companies are at the forefront in technical expertise.

In fiscal 2018, JICA implemented the Construction of Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit Project in Indonesia with a view to promoting resilient urban development and infrastructure investment that meets low-carbon and climate change needs, and the Project for Improvement of Equipment and Facilities on Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Laos to strengthen comprehensive climate risk management. JICA is currently implementing the Project of Capacity Development for the Implementation of Climate Change Strategies in Indonesia to improve climate change policies and systems in the country.

4. Human Resources Development

ASEAN countries are undergoing a generational change among people who are deeply interested in and have a strong affinity for Japan. Through the JICA Development Studies Program [→ see page 65], JICA is strategically strengthening long-term training programs (Knowledge Co-Creation Programs) for future leaders and promising administrative officials who play a key role in national management, and is also fostering

Indonesia: Construction of Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit Project

"All-Japan" support for the construction and its operation and maintenance



President Joko Widodo addressing the large crowd of local residents at the MRT opening ceremony

At the end of March 2019, the Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit (Jakarta MRT South-North Line), the first subway in Indonesia, began operating in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

The population of the Jakarta Metropolitan Area is rising at a rapid pace, and the number of commuters to the central part of Jakarta, where economic activities are concentrated, is increasing each year. The Jakarta Metropolitan Area depends on the road network for most passenger and cargo transportation, so traffic congestion is serious, worsening the investment environment and increasing air pollution with exhaust gas.

The Jakarta MRT South-North Line Project

has been implemented with All-Japan cooperation, in which JICA provided ODA Loans and Japanese companies carried out all aspects, from civil work, rolling stock delivery, and electrical and mechanical systems, to construction supervision and consulting services, including support for organizational development and operational management.

The ongoing modal shift from automobile to public transportation is expected to address the rising demand for transportation, alleviate traffic congestion, improve the investment environment, and reduce the burden on the environment in Indonesia.

personnel in advanced industries at the forefront of industrial development and technological innovation. Under the Global Public Leadership Program (SDGs Global Leadership Program from fiscal 2019), JICA hosted 28 participants at eight universities in fiscal 2018. In November, JICA held a networking conference where participants, JICA and university representatives gathered to build relationships of trust with future national leaders.

JICA will provide support to Timor-Leste for training the personnel responsible for improving administrative capabilities and institution building through the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship under Grant Aid.

Under the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," an issue facing ASEAN in the new era is a need to foster a sound and healthy middle class that fully respects freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and good governance, and can play a central role in national development. With a view to the middle class, JICA is promoting cooperation for urban environmental development, agriculture, food safety and nutrition, health, sport and medical care, and education.

In implementing cooperation, JICA will continue to make maximum use of the broad-ranging expertise and know-how of private-sector companies, universities and research institutions, and local governments.

The Pacific

Regional Issues

JICA provides assistance to 14 Pacific island countries. These

countries have diverse languages and their own cultures and customs. While their development status differs, they face the common challenges unique to island countries: they are small, isolated, and remote.

Japan and the Pacific island countries have been holding the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) every three years since 1997 where various regional and national issues are discussed at the summit level.

The Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) was held in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, in May 2018, and the cooperation and assistance initiatives were announced after discussions among the leaders of Pacific island countries and Japan as follows.

- (1) Assistance for maritime safety, including maritime law enforcement and management of marine resources based on the concept of a "free and open sustainable ocean."
- (2) Strengthening the basis for resilient and sustainable development through developing ports, harbors, and other infrastructure, further promoting the introduction of renewable energy, and assisting in the field of climate change, the environment and disaster risk reduction, trade and investment, and tourism.
- (3) Active people-to-people exchanges.

JICA Initiatives

JICA is providing comprehensive assistance under the cooperation and assistance initiatives adopted at PALM8.

1. Marine Cooperation

Stable maritime order, maritime security, and sustainable development and management of marine resources are crucial

Philippines: Cooperation for Peace in Mindanao

Underpinning lasting peace with the relationship of trust



Assistance for rice cultivation in Bangsamoro (southwestern region of Mindanao)

Conflict between Muslim groups seeking autonomy and the Philippine government had been continuing for about 50 years in the southwestern region of Mindanao, but under the Bangsamoro Organic Law established in 2018, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) was inaugurated in February 2019.

Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JICA has been cooperating for human resources development and improving livelihoods in the region for about 20 years in an effort to promote peace. Before the inauguration of BTA, based on the mutual trust developed with both the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Philippine

government, JICA participated in the monitoring team for the plebiscite to determine the autonomous region, and assisted in the organizational formation of the BTA.

Toward the establishment and full-scale functioning of the Bangsamoro Government scheduled in 2022, JICA will provide technical cooperation aimed at strengthening governance and improving livelihoods, Grants for building vocational training centers, and ODA Loans for building and rehabilitating access roads to intercity highways.

JICA will continue to advance durable peace and sustainable development in the region.



for Pacific island countries. With the aim of eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, JICA provided training in Japan for participants from 12 Pacific island countries in cooperation with the United States [→ see the case study below].

JICA has provided technical cooperation for improving coastal resource management capabilities in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. It has also supported port development, and provided technical cooperation on operation and maintenance of vessel and port facilities in Pacific island countries by dispatching regional advisers to Fiji.

2. Environmental Management

JICA has been supporting institution building for sustainable waste management at the regional and national levels in Pacific island countries in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), based in Samoa, and contributed to a reduction of plastic waste in the oceans and measures to counter global warming. In the metropolitan coastal area in Papua New Guinea, untreated sewage was released into the ocean. JICA contributed to improving sanitation for residents and protecting the marine environment with the completion of a sewage treatment plant in the area.

3. Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change

JICA has been supporting reinforcing meteorological training functions for the Fiji Meteorological Service for personnel in Pacific island countries [→ see the case study on page 39] and has supported establishing the Pacific Climate Change Center in cooperation with SPREP.



Reception for the third intake of Pacific-LEADS participants

4. Stable Supply of Energy

JICA has been extending bilateral financial assistance and regional technical cooperation to promote the optimal introduction of renewable energy while stabilizing electric power systems and making efficient use of diesel power generation.

5. Human Resources Development

JICA provides government officials who will play key roles in respective governments in the future with the opportunity to study in Japan under the Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of States (Pacific-LEADS). Following the 41 participants in both fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2017, JICA accepted 20 new participants in fiscal 2018 and provided internship programs for the participants at central or local governments.

Twelve Pacific Countries: Policies and Countermeasures against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (Country Focus Knowledge Co-Creation Program)



Sharing Japanese expertise for the sustainable use of marine resources



Participants receiving a Japan Coast Guard briefing on IUU fishing countermeasures

Marine resources are economically, socially and culturally crucial to Pacific island countries with their vast exclusive economic zone. In recent years, however, excessive exploitation of those resources due to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has become a serious problem that requires strong countermeasures.

In November and December 2018, training aimed at eliminating IUU fishing in the Pacific was held in Japan for 12 Pacific island countries (Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Nauru).

With cooperation from the Fisheries Agency, Japan Coast Guard, and private-sector

companies, participants attended lectures, visited sites, and gained an understanding about Japan's expertise in combatting IUU fishing, including collaboration among the relevant ministries and agencies, and dealing with violations of fishing-related laws and regulations. Lectures were also held by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a part of collaboration with the U.S. in maintaining and promoting a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Participants stated that they intended to utilize the knowledge they gained in Japan in their own countries. JICA will continue to provide support for enhancing IUU fishing countermeasures in the Pacific.