

Enhancing Development Partnerships and Actions toward Achieving the SDGs

Working Together with a Wide Range of International and Local Partners

The system of international cooperation is now increasingly undermined. While emerging countries are further extending their presence in the international community, an increasing number of states are putting themselves first. Conflicts between different ethnic groups, religions, and beliefs are intensifying. And yet, collaboration and co-creation among a wide range of domestic and international partners are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of common goals for the international community that were adopted at the United Nations in 2015. Now that several years have passed since the adoption, there is a growing public awareness of the SDGs in Japan, and more efforts are being made to address them in the country.

Partnerships with International Development Agencies

To help achieve the SDGs, JICA has been deepening mutual understanding with various development cooperation agencies and building close partnerships in order to address difficult challenges that are beyond the capacity of one agency by complimenting one another. Additionally, JICA has been sharing Japan's experience and expertise at international forums for discussing development cooperation, thus contributing to international rulemaking efforts.

The Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group, held in Indonesia in October 2018, discussed, among other issues, the importance of investment in the health, education, and nutrition sectors. At the meetings, JICA



At an SDGs side event of the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, held in Indonesia. From left to right: UNDP administrator Achim Steiner, JICA president Shinichi Kitaoka, Columbia University professor Jeffrey Sachs, and Indonesian National Development Planning Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro

president Shinichi Kitaoka was appointed as a Human Capital Champion, who is tasked with promoting the importance of these issues to the world. Welcoming this opportunity, JICA has been deepening cooperation with the World Bank for more effective development cooperation in these three sectors.

In February 2019, JICA and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-organized an international conference in Tokyo to help achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC)¹ in the Asia-Pacific

1. 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."

The Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40)

Toward establishing common principles with emerging partners



BAPA+40 Side Event on the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation

Amid a growing number of emerging countries that provide development cooperation, the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in March 2019 in Argentina. The conference, also known as BAPA+40, provided an important opportunity to discuss the roles of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) delivered by these emerging donors.

While traditional donors comply with the common rules set by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), there are no such common rules for SSTC. For effective and efficient development cooperation, it is

important for the donor community to form common values.

Toward BAPA+40, JICA leveraged its expertise and networks, building on its long track record of SSTC, to have a series of discussions with emerging donor countries and many other actors at the UN and G20 summits. As a result, BAPA+40 largely agreed with JICA's assertion that SSTC provides an important avenue for achieving the SDGs and that the shaping of effective aid schemes and rules should be incorporated into an outcome document.

Based on this agreement, JICA will proceed with establishing common principles with emerging partners.



region. President Kitaoka, ADB president Takehiko Nakao, and other participants discussed priority issues toward achieving UHC and confirmed the importance of increasing cooperation to this end.

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

In addition to traditional development cooperation agencies, emerging countries such as the Republic of Korea, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, and Turkey have become development cooperation providers, thus increasing their influence in the international development community. For greater transparency and more effectiveness of development cooperation, JICA is engaged in dialogue with these emerging countries to establish international rules on development cooperation and effective modalities for such cooperation.

JICA perceives South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC)—which promotes the sharing of the development experiences of emerging and developing countries—as a useful approach to build foundations for common understanding for international rules on development cooperation. As such, JICA led discussions in the process toward the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, which was aimed at establishing a new SSTC framework, thus contributing significantly to the discussion towards the adoption of the UN conference’s outcome documents, which set out important international rules [→ see the case study on page 62].

Moreover, JICA held regular consultations with the Export-Import Bank of China, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Export-Import Bank of Korea. By sharing its expertise with these three organizations, JICA supported the effective and efficient delivery of international development cooperation by these emerging countries.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Actions of JICA toward Achieving the SDGs

Under its guiding principle for achieving the SDGs, JICA worked on a range of actions in Japan and abroad.² On the international front, JICA signed an ODA Loan agreement with the Indian government and started technical cooperation in Indonesia. These activities were part of JICA’s efforts to assist partner countries in developing SDG-related policies and strengthening the framework for implementing these policies [→ see the case study below].

On the domestic front, JICA encouraged various stakeholders to better understand the SDGs and work more closely with them. For example, JICA has assumed a role in the secretariat of the Kansai SDGs Platform,³ a forum for better understanding of and collaboration for the SDGs in the Kansai region. In this capacity, JICA conducted a wide range of activities, including holding a panel exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters. As part of its efforts to reach a wider audience for better understanding of the SDGs, JICA supported and participated in the Tohoku University SDGs Symposium in Sendai, among other events. It also put effort into organizing lectures and workshops for university students and other young people who will be assuming a pivotal role in society in 2030, the target year of the SDGs.

2. JICA web page on initiatives on the SDGs: <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/ir/bonds/index.html>

3. The website of the Kansai SDGs Platform: <https://kansai-sdgs-platform.jp/en/>

Indonesia: Project for Strengthening Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Helping the developing country government to strengthen its SDG implementation framework



A JICA expert announcing a plan of operation in front of Indonesian government officials, university faculty members, and reporters

Indonesia has been making national efforts to attain the SDGs, as highlighted by a recent presidential decree that called for national plans for the SDGs.

In 2017, JICA started a survey aimed at assessing the availability of SDG indicators and related data in Indonesia. The survey found that less than 40% of necessary indicators and data were available. As such, JICA launched this technical cooperation project in March 2019 to support the Indonesian government to strengthen its SDG implementation framework.

The project is designed to (1) define SDG indicators and establish numerical targets, (2) formulate action plans to achieve these

targets, (3) develop monitoring and evaluation systems, and (4) share expertise with relevant government offices, businesses, and educational institutions.

The preparation of necessary data on SDG global indicators—including the “proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labor, by sex and age”—made possible by this project will facilitate a more accurate assessment of the challenges facing the people of Indonesia as well as the development of more appropriate strategies. It is hoped that the project will also involve a wide range of actors in both countries and support co-creation efforts by them.