

HIGHLIGHTS 2018

Fiscal 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the new JICA, and the following are the main topics concerning JICA amid the year's activities.

150 Years of Japanese Emigration

June 2018 — JICA President Kitaoka gives a commemorative address at the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad

It has been 150 years since the start of Japanese group emigration, firstly to Hawaii, in 1868. The Meiji Restoration opened Japan to the outside world and brought democratic reform. Emigration to Hawaii was followed by North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean, where Japanese emigrants displayed their dynamism in their new homes and played a key role in forming new cultures. In the past, JICA facilitated emigration to Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions under the Japanese government's postwar emigration policy, and as the *Nikkei* communities undergo generational change, JICA works to make the existing emigrant support programs more attractive, and continues to promote collaborative programs that further deepen the ties between *Nikkei* communities and Japan.



Making a commemorative address at the 59th Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad held in Hawaii

Doubling of Rice Production in Africa in 10 Years!

October 2018 — Outcome summarized at the Seventh General Meeting of CARD

Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) is an international initiative led by Japan. JICA has contributed to increase rice production in 23 CARD member countries through assistance in disseminating rice cultivation techniques, an area in which Japan has an advantage. This has seen the annual rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa jump from 14 million tons in 2008 to 28 million tons in 2018. In Africa, rice demand is increasing at a much faster pace than production, and JICA will continue to contribute to the CARD initiative in the second phase, which started in 2019.



Tanzania: Harvest time in the fields

Sharing Japan's Development Experiences with Future Leaders

October 2018 — Start of the JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

The JICA-DSP, aimed at fostering the personnel who will underpin development in developing countries, commenced in October 2018. In collaboration with universities, JICA provides participants with the opportunity to learn about both Japan's modernization and development experiences and its wisdom as a postwar development partner, in addition to their existing curriculum at each of the universities. Participants from developing countries will deepen their understanding of Japan and use that knowledge effectively as leaders for the development of their home countries. This will strengthen long-lasting relations with Japan.



Participants attending the "Understanding the Japanese Development Experience," which is one of the programs in the JICA-DSP

M7.5 Earthquake in Central Sulawesi Province

Providing Seamless Cooperation Immediately after the Disaster

January 2019 — Implementation of technical cooperation for development planning based on Japan's disaster reconstruction experience

On September 28, 2018, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake and tsunami struck Central Sulawesi Province in Indonesia. In response to the disaster, JICA provided tents, generators, and other emergency relief supplies, and also dispatched a damage-and-needs survey mission. Based on the request by the Government of Indonesia, JICA supported the formulation of a reconstruction master plan that made full use of Japan's disaster reconstruction experiences. From January 2019, technical cooperation based on the master plan is being implemented so that the region will be more resilient to natural disasters.



Earthquake-caused liquefaction in Palu city

Laos Civil Code Formulated with Japanese Cooperation

February 2019 — Ceremony held to celebrate the establishment of the first Civil Code in Laos

The civil code is the fundamental law of a nation that sets out core aspects of civil life including those relating to assets and family matters. At the end of 2018, the first Civil Code was approved by the National Assembly, marking a major success of the legal and judicial assistance that has been provided to Laos over 20 years. Japanese prosecutors and lawyers were sent to Laos for extended periods to provide support for drafting laws and training for the Laotian legal community. The Civil Code is scheduled to come into force in 2020.



Ceremony celebrating the establishment of the Civil Code

Major Topics of Fiscal 2018

April	Chile: Service Agreement on a project to prevent red tides signed with Mitsui & Co., Ltd. This is the first project entrusted to JICA by a private company
May	Laos: First Partnership Agreement signed with Saitama Prefecture, Saitama City, Yokohama, and Kawasaki
June	Africa: The <i>Kaizen Handbook</i> completed. Further expansion of the Kaizen Initiative
June	★ 150 Years of Japanese Emigration. Commemorative address by JICA President Kitaoka at the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad
June	Democratic Republic of the Congo: Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Team dispatched in response to an outbreak of the Ebola virus disease
July	Viet Nam: First 56 students graduate from the Vietnam-Japan University
July	New program of "SDGs Business Supporting Surveys" introduced
August	Laos: Vientiane International Airport Terminal Handover Ceremony held
September	Egypt: 35 Egypt-Japan schools opened
October	Tenth anniversary of New JICA
October	★ Outcome Summarized at the Seventh General Meeting of CARD. Doubling of rice production in Africa over 10 years achieved
October	Palestine: Assistance for the first revision of school textbooks in 20 years
October	★ Start of the JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)
November	JICA chosen by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications as one of the top hundred Telework Pioneers in Japan
December	Nauru: Weather observation begins through JICA training of meteorological personnel
December	The final report by the Advisory Committee on Enhancement of Budget Disbursement Management received

2019

January	Serbia: First Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) dispatched to Serbia
January	★ Indonesia: Implementation of technical cooperation for development planning based on Japan's disaster reconstruction experience
February	★ Laos: Ceremony held to celebrate the establishment of the first Civil Code in Laos
March	Indonesia: First subway in Indonesia begins operations. Assistance provided by ODA Loans

★ indicates a topic described at left.