

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. Development issues, most notably infectious diseases such as COVID-19, increasingly go beyond national borders and are becoming more complex and serious. Global cooperation is therefore essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human security.

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 complementing one another. Additionally, JICA has been sharing Japan's experience and expertise at international forums for development cooperation, thus contributing to international rulemaking efforts.

As part of these efforts, JICA regularly discusses various development issues with international organizations [→ see the case study below].

The G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019 agreed on the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment. Accordingly, JICA aims to promote and share with developing country governments the G20 Principles that include environmental



The Governor of the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan and other participants at the IMF-JICA Joint International Conference. The conference, held in February 2020 at JICA Ichigaya Building, discussed debt sustainability, among other topics, for Asian countries under the overriding theme of the SDGs.

and social considerations, gender equality, and considerations for debt sustainability. To this end, JICA stepped up its cooperation with international organizations such as the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as agencies of the G20 countries. It also worked with bilateral aid agencies in countries that share the Japanese government's vision for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

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,

Sixth High-Level Dialogue between the World Bank Group and JICA

Discussing ways to strengthen partnerships in such areas as quality infrastructure investment



World Bank Group President David R. Malpass (right) and JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka (left) (Photo: The World Bank)

Starting in 2014, JICA and the World Bank Group have held high-level dialogue every year as an opportunity for exchange of opinions between the heads of the two organizations.

The sixth high-level dialogue was held at the headquarters of the World Bank Group in the United States in September 2019 as the first dialogue after World Bank Group President David R. Malpass assumed office. More than 100 people attended the dialogue from both organizations, including high-level officers of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), both of the World Bank Group. Participants exchanged views on crucial topics in international development such as human capital, quality infrastructure investment, and

private finance mobilization. They also discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two organizations.

In light of the adoption of the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019, the 2019 dialogue added a session on quality infrastructure investment. Participants agreed on the need to work together to promote quality infrastructure investment in the international community while taking debt sustainability into consideration.

The high-level dialogue has already established itself as a forum where the two organizations discuss trends in international development cooperation.

China, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, and Turkey have become development cooperation providers, thus increasing their influence in the international development community. To promote more transparent and more effective development cooperation, JICA is engaged in dialogues 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, as part of its efforts to deepen common understanding for more effective implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation, JICA worked with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) to organize the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation in Turkey in December 2019.

To promote common understanding with development finance institutions in emerging countries that face similar challenges, JICA hosted a four-party meeting in Japan that involved the Export-Import Bank of China, the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Export-Import Bank of Korea, and the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) of Thailand as an opportunity to share the challenges and experiences of these financial cooperation agencies. In addition, JICA takes part in the International Development Finance Club (IDFC) as a steering group member, contributing to the discussions on the roles of

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



development banks in addressing climate change and achieving the SDGs. IDFC's membership includes development finance institutions of many emerging countries.

Actions of JICA toward Achieving the SDGs

Under its policy of contribution to the SDGs,¹ JICA reinforced its partnerships with various agencies concerned to promote innovative programs and projects. On the international front, JICA assisted Indonesia in developing its national SDGs indicators. In three African countries, namely Ghana, Malawi, and South Africa, JICA worked with the University of Tokyo among other institutions to conduct policy recommendation studies based on SDGs interlinkage analysis, with focus on Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

On the domestic front, the Kansai SDGs Platform² has established itself as an SDGs promotion hub in the Kansai region with its membership exceeding 950 organizations as of the end of March 2020. In addition, JICA bonds, which are social bonds—and also spelled out in the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition, the SDGs strategy of the Japanese government—now serve as a magnet for local governments, regional banks, and other institutional investors that wish to contribute to the SDGs.

1. <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/ir/bonds/index.html>

2. Established in December 2016. JICA Kansai Center, the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Union of Kansai Governments serve as the secretariat of the platform. <https://kansai-sdgs-platform.jp/en/>.

Open Innovation Project "JICA Innovation Quest (JIQ)"

Co-creating ideas to achieve the SDGs beyond organizational borders



JIQ's idea presentation event was broadcast live on YouTube.

JICA Innovation Quest (JIQ) is an open innovation project launched at the initiative of young JICA staff members. It brings together people with various backgrounds from numerous organizations to come up with innovative ideas of achieving the SDGs in developing countries through the co-creation process.

In a competitive setting, a total of 30 participants from JICA as well as various organizations such as major manufacturers and IT ventures, among others, were divided into five groups to design project ideas that will help achieve Goal 2 of the SDGs in Bhutan,

Madagascar, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Tajikistan.

The first-place award in fiscal 2019 was given to the Tajikistan team for its "human-centered" idea. The team came up with *Baezara*, a dish design that makes the food look sumptuous even in a small quantity. The idea was to avoid excessive fat intake to prevent obesity without changing the local diet that revolves around fatty and meat meals as well as the local custom of entertaining guests by serving food on large dishes.

JIQ will continue its quest to offer opportunities for new co-creation and innovation.