

Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Promoting a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”

Southeast Asia

Respecting the Centrality and Unity of ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a leader in promoting the stability and prosperity of this region, which borders on the Indian and Pacific oceans. It plays a pivotal role in advancing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” a vision advocated by the Japanese government. While experiencing rapid economic growth, ASEAN is faced with disparities both in the region and within individual countries, and enormous development needs in terms of both socioeconomic infrastructure and human resources development.

Solving these issues and enhancing ASEAN’s centrality and unity are important to Japan as well. The Japanese government supports the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP),” a vision announced



Indonesia: Some facilities at Patimban Port, the construction of which is progressing under an ODA Loan project, were completed in December 2020. The newly constructed car terminal was put into provisional operation. At the completion ceremony, finished cars for export were loaded onto an automobile carrier vessel.

by ASEAN in 2019. It intends to promote cooperation in the priority areas outlined in the AOIP: maritime cooperation, connectivity, the SDGs, and economy.

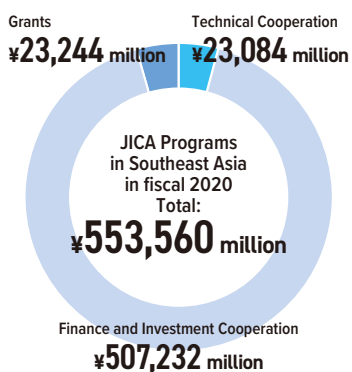
Co-financing with the ADB in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Based on this background, JICA’s cooperation covers the following focus areas:

1. Strengthening ASEAN connectivity
Cooperation in both physical and nonphysical aspects with land, maritime, and air corridor connectivity projects at its center
2. Promoting *quality growth*
Cooperation to overcome growth distortions
3. Realizing *human security*
Cooperation in health, the environment, disaster risk reduction, etc.
4. Promoting climate change measures, including decarbonization
5. Developing human resources
Development mainly targeted leaders and administrative officers who will steer ASEAN countries in the future
6. Addressing regional vulnerabilities
Cooperation for such regions as Mindanao in the Philippines and Rakhine State in Myanmar

Situated in geographical proximity, Japan and ASEAN enjoy a strong relationship. In extending development cooperation, JICA makes maximum use of the broad-ranging expertise and know-how of private-sector companies, universities and research institutions, and local governments. JICA’s cooperation for Timor-Leste is designed to support the country’s accession to ASEAN and its transition from reconstruction to development.

In fiscal 2020, COVID-19 spread gradually among many Southeast Asian countries amid the global pandemic, dealing a heavy blow to their economies. While strengthening its cooperation in health care



	Total value of JICA programs
Philippines	¥259,818 million
Indonesia	¥111,536 million
Myanmar	¥90,804 million
Viet Nam	¥55,768 million
Cambodia	¥29,810 million
Laos	¥2,930 million
Thailand	¥1,674 million
Timor-Leste	¥650 million
Malaysia	¥570 million
Singapore*	—

*Only the numbers of training participants are available; the actual expenses are not.



366 km

Total length of the segments where road improvement—including road-widening and bypass construction—will be made under the Cambodia National Road No. 5 Improvement Project (ODA Loan) from fiscal 2013 through 2023 (planned)



17,900

The number of people trained for industrial development in Southeast Asia in fiscal 2020

Note: For the total value of JICA programs, see the note on “Program by Region” on page 27.

in general, JICA collaborated with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to extend co-financing to the governments of the Philippines, Indonesia, and Cambodia for budget support in addressing the pandemic.

The Pacific

Challenges and Vulnerabilities Peculiar to Island Countries

Japan and Pacific Island Countries (PICs) share the Pacific Ocean, a valuable global public good, and have historically maintained close relations. Achieving the sustainable development of the Pacific region will not only help strengthen the relationship between Japan and PICs but also lead to maintaining and developing a regional environment conducive to realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Meanwhile, PICs are faced with common challenges and vulnerabilities unique to island countries: they are small, isolated, remote, and oceanic. They have recently attracted global attention as one of the regions most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic made PICs recognize anew the vulnerabilities of their own health systems, raising development needs in this sector.

Focusing on Strengthening Health Systems, a Sustainable Ocean, and Climate Action

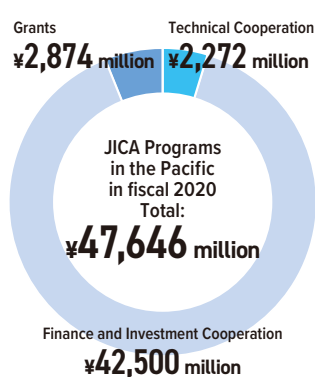
These circumstances have prompted JICA to focus on the following areas in delivering development cooperation:

1. Assistance in strengthening health systems and economic recovery in light of the effects of the pandemic
E.g., developing health care and medical facilities, training health care and medical personnel, providing budget support



Fiji: Training at the University of the South Pacific under the Project for Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System in the Pacific Island Countries. Training participants are taught how the angle of solar panels and shadows on them affect power generation.

2. A sustainable ocean based on the rule of law
E.g., building the capacity for maritime law enforcement and fisheries resources management [→ see the Project on page 39]; extending cooperation for managing disposal of waste, including marine plastics
3. Climate action and disaster risk reduction
E.g., promoting renewables deployment, building the capacity of disaster management agencies
4. Strengthening the foundations of robust and sustainable growth
E.g., improving connectivity that involves the development of maritime infrastructure, airports, etc.; promoting trade and investment; increasing the resilience of public finance
5. Human exchange and human resources development
E.g., inviting potential future leaders, including those from the private sector, to Japan for study and training



	Total value of JICA programs
Papua New Guinea	¥30,574 million
Fiji	¥10,461 million
Solomon Islands	¥5,149 million
Vanuatu	¥626 million
Marshall Islands	¥230 million
Samoa	¥194 million
Federated States of Micronesia	¥179 million
Palau	¥103 million
Tonga	¥89 million
Kiribati	¥36 million
Tuvalu	¥2 million
Nauru	¥2 million
Cook Islands	¥1 million

4,056

The number of people who participated in training programs or human exchanges conducted over three years (fiscal 2018–2020) under the commitment made at the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting

Note: For the total value of JICA programs, see the note on “Program by Region” on page 27.