

management of forests by repealing the Forests Act, Cap 385 and replacing it with the Forests Act, 2005; and secondly, by establishing the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) in early 2007 as a semi autonomous body under the Forests Act, 2005 to replace the Forests Department (FD) and to operationalize the Act. This is expected to promote environmental sustainability in future.

5. Project for Rural Water Supply

This is a Grant Aid Project that was formulated for the purpose of increasing the population served in the target districts with safe and reliable supply of drinking water through the provision of water supply facilities and operation and maintenance equipment. Phase I of this project runs from September 2006 to March 2008. The project covers Mwingi, Kitui, Machakos and Makueni districts. (See story highlighted on page 15)



Japan's former Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Satoru Miyamura, during the ground-breaking ceremony of Rural Water Supply Project which was attended by the then Minister for Water and Irrigation, Mr. John Mutua Katuku, and the area MP, Mr. Kalonzo Musyoka.

6. Augmentation of Water Supply in Kapsabet Town

This is a Grant Aid Project whose objective is to increase reliable and efficient water supply and better sanitation by rehabilitation of existing water supply facilities. Although some rehabilitation has been carried out, over the years, the water supply facilities in Kapsabet town were initially constructed in 1948. Presently, only 15% of the approximately 74,000 population is served with the rationed supply of 624m³/day as opposed to the demand of 2,573m³/day that is projected to rise to 5,624m³ and 8,489m³ against populations of 87,857 and 123,930 by the years 2010 and 2020 respectively.

In response to a request made to the Government of Japan (GoJ) by the Government of Kenya (GoK) for the rehabilitation and extension of the Water Supply System for Kapsabet town, a Basic Design Study Team led by Mr. Yoshiki Omura, Senior Advisor, Institute for International Cooperation, JICA visited the country from 26th August to 3rd October 2007. The team held discussions with the Permanent Secretary and senior officials from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Lake Victoria North Water Services Board. A field survey was also carried out by the team.

7. Development Study on Integrated Flood Management for the Nyando River Basin

The main objective of this study, which started in 2006 and ends in 2008, is to strengthen capacity of communities in flood management. Phase 1 of the study came to an end as scheduled with the issue of the Interim Report by the Study Team in July this year. This phase involved the formulation of a master-plan for flood management which is the content of the Interim Report. The on-going Phase II of the study deals with the formulation and implementation of pilot projects. The lessons learnt from this phase will be assessed and incorporated into the Final Report for Phase I.

The pilot projects are being implemented with the following objectives:

- (i) Examination of the effectiveness of community - driven flood management;
- (ii) Development of flood management capacity; and
- (iii) Learn lesson for finalizing proposals of priority projects in the Master Plan.

Five pilot projects were selected for implementation and formulated in line with



Residents of Nyando participate in an evacuation drill.

Community Action Plans prepared by community members in which the major problems, necessary actions to be taken, roles and resources of actors, and various indicators were considered. Structural measures include riverbank protection in Odesso village, construction of an evacuation centre and raising of an evacuation road in Kokwaro village, drilling of a well and construction of a raised evacuation road and toilets in Kasiru village, rehabilitation of a dyke in Kochiewo village, and finally riverbank protection in Chil Chila location of Kericho District. Non-structural measures include training on disaster management and preparation of proposals.



Community members constructing gabions for riverbank protection at Chil Chila.

Main works on the projects started in August/September 2007 and are expected to be completed in November/December 2007. Successful evacuation drills have also been carried in all the pilot project areas except Chil Chila which is on the upper catchment. The study is scheduled to continue up to October 2008.

Highlights of Important Events

- (i) February: Mid-Term Evaluation Project for Implementation of Environmental Management Capacity in Nakuru Municipality and Surrounding Areas (NEMP);
- (ii) March: Ground-breaking Ceremony – Project for Rural Water Supply;
- (iii) August: Basic Design Team for the Project for Augmentation of Water Supply in Kapsabet Town;
- (iv) September: Terminal Evaluation for the Project for Strengthening of Wildlife Conservation Education (SOWCE); and
- (v) November: Annual Water Sector Conference 2007.

Highlight

Sinking in the Right Direction



Ground-breaking ceremony for water supply in Kitui.

As Kenya's then Minister for Water and Irrigation, Hon. Katiku Mutua, switched on a borehole rig on 7th March 2007 in Mwingi district, reverberations of the motors and swirling clouds of dust filled the air signaling the beginning of the eagerly awaited Project for Rural Water Supply. It was a well attended ground-breaking ceremony graced by the then Ambassador of Japan to Kenya, H.E Ambassador Satoru Miyamura. A host of other distinguished guests including heads of the new water sector institutions and members of the community also braved the scorching sun to witness this historic occasion at Kimu Primary School.

With less than 1,000m³ renewable supplies of freshwater per capita, Kenya is classified as a water scarce country though only 15% of the safe yield has been exploited. The requirements for Target 10 of MDG No. 7 are to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. This will be determined by the proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source and access to improved sanitation. In this regard, the goals of Kenya's National Water Services Strategy (NWSS) (2007 – 2015) in the rural setting include the increase of sustainable access to safe water from 40% to 70%, reduction of the distance to the nearest public/communal outlet to 2 km and increased access to basic sanitation from 45% to 72.5% by 2015. In line with that, this project which is sited in semi-arid areas of the country and difficult terrain will increase the service ratio by 19.7% and reduce the distance to water points by an average of 3.1 km in Phase I.

Phase I of the water project is set to benefit a total of 59 communities in Kitui, Mwingi and the newly created Kyuso districts through the sinking of 58 successful boreholes and rehabilitation of one spring water facility. By the end of October, all the drilling works had been completed. The construction works for the boreholes water supply facilities and the spring water facility are expected to be finalized by early 2008. Commencement of Phase II will follow to benefit a total of 65 communities in Machakos, Makueni and the newly created Kibwezi districts.

The soft component of this project focuses on establishment of a basis for a community-based operation and maintenance system by enhancing community ownership and participation with support from the local administration, capacity development, and sensitization on personal health and sanitation and its correlation with the use of safe water.

Overall, an additional estimated population of 150,700 within a total of 124 communities in the target districts, will benefit from both phases of this project.

Improving Maternal Health Care, Reducing Mortality and Combating HIV/AIDS

“A total of 11 Japanese Experts were involved in technical cooperation to Kenya through projects in the fields of medical engineering, safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS control and blood safety”

The technical cooperation implemented by JICA in the health sector in Kenya continues to be closely aligned with the second National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP II), 2005~2010 and the associated Joint Program of Work and Funding (JPWF). This strategic plan is now in its third year of implementation through the third Annual Operation Plan (AOP III) of the Health Sector. The NHSSP II has just undergone the mid-term review which almost coincides with the mid - point of the MDGs accomplishment target year of 2015.

While recognizing that the current JICA technical cooperation projects are scheduled to end by mid 2009, it was therefore opportune for JICA to take stock of its contribution to the NHSSP II and the MDGs. In doing that, JICA in consultation with the Ministry of Health (MOH), found it necessary to review its health program support in Kenya and placed emphasis on two priority program- HIV/AIDS prevention and health system improvement program respectively, as the pillars of cooperation towards the remaining period of the strategic plan.

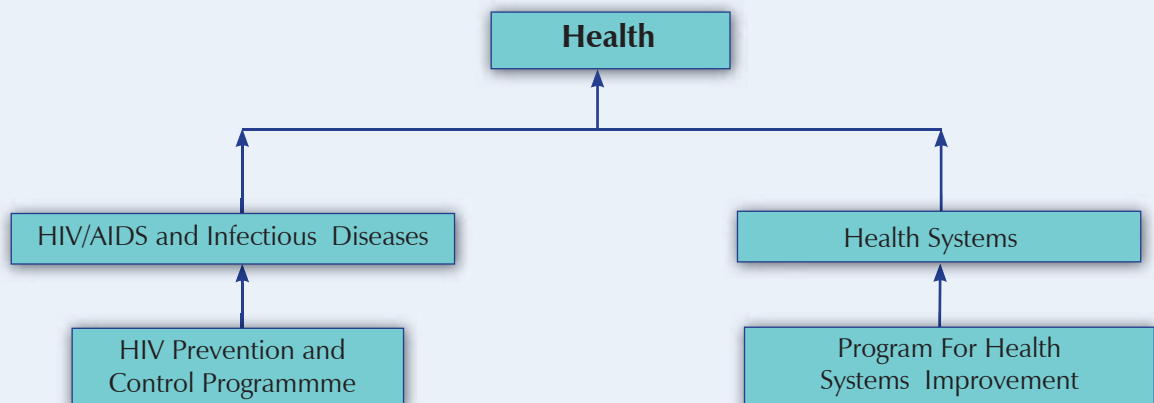
In overall, during the year 2007, JICA accepted about 21 Kenyan trainees in Japan for technical training in various fields. A total of 11 Japanese



Ms. Takenaka, a JICA expert, addresses a gathering at a Bar

Experts were involved in technical cooperation to Kenya through projects in the fields of medical engineering, safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS control and blood safety. Through these projects, JICA and the MOH organized a wide range of training courses that benefited a large number of counterpart staff. In addition, in order to support technical transfer and project implementation, JICA provided a wide range of technical equipment, materials and tools through the on-going projects.

As regards aid coordination, JICA maintained active



Reducing Child MORTALITIES



Participation in Nyamira on health matters.

participation in the health sector joint coordination structures and processes.

Progress of On-Going Projects

1. The Project on Improvement of Health Service with a focus on Safe Motherhood in Kisii and Kericho Districts

This project which is being implemented by Health and Development Services (HANDS), a Japanese non – profit organization, started in March 2005, and is set to end in March 2008. The purpose is to improve maternal care through activities centred on the rural Health Centres (HCs) and the target communities. It therefore directly addresses progress towards achievement of MDG No. 4 (Reduction of child mortality) and MDG No. 5 (Improvement of maternal health).

In November 2007, the MOH and JICA jointly carried out the terminal evaluation of the Project to assess its performance and achievements. The evaluation was conducted based on the 5 criteria i.e relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and

sustainability which were adopted by JICA from the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. Results from the evaluation indicated the following:

- (i) Maternal care in the 14 targeted rural setting communities in Western Kenya was improved by the dual approaches to both communities and service provision system through HCs. Interaction between community organizations and HCs was successfully enhanced to have tangible improvement of work environment and service contents particularly related to maternal care including normal deliveries; and
- (ii) Overall, skilled birth attendants and eventless normal deliveries that were not conducted actively at the HCs due to lack of capacities and facilities increased and became a part of routine work during the project period at all the target HCs. In the seminars and training conducted by the Project during the 3 years, learning opportunities were intentionally shared even on technical topics on maternity care among HC-based service providers and community members. Health Centre Management Committees (HCMCs), which were community leaders' groups supporting HCs, played an important role in uplifting the work environment of HCs and in income generating activities (IGAs).

2. The HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program

Through this program, JICA strategically combines several schemes to design and apply effective HIV/AIDS infection prevention interventions. These schemes cover technical advises by experts, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), equipment supply, and Japan's Grant Aid.

(i) Strengthening of People Empowerment Against HIV/AIDS in Kenya (SPEAK)

The SPEAK Project aims at annually increasing the number of Kenyans tested for HIV, especially the youth aged between 15-24 years in South Rift Valley and Nyanza provinces. The National AIDS and STI Control Program (NASCO) of Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Japanese Experts dispatched to the project is working on (reinforcing the system for monitoring and evaluation) enhancing the capacity of assessment and planning on HIV counselling and testing, disseminating appropriate information on HIV/AIDS to enable people avoid HIV infection, providing quality HIV counselling and testing services

at voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centres, among many other initiatives aimed at reaching the project purpose.

SPEAK Project supports capacity development of the government for more effective responses based on the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation. The project facilitates standardization of counselling and testing services through development of a national guideline for counselling and testing, and operational manuals for mobile VCT services, young people and VCT, and various other topics. Once completed, the counselling and testing guideline will be the first comprehensive national policy guideline for counselling and testing covering various types of counselling and testing services. The project has also started a pilot for scale-up approach with mobile VCT in the workplaces in collaboration with the commercial sectors and other stakeholders.

In reinforcing the system of monitoring and evaluation on counselling and testing, training on integrated reporting tools has also been conducted. The development of capacity of health staff for data analysis and usage is being planned for implementation.

The project also targets the area of behaviour change communication through a radio program in order to raise the awareness of HIV issues specifically among youth. A weekly radio program called *Kimasomaso* ('speak out boldly' in swahili) is on air every Saturday and Sunday on BBC Kiswahili Service and other local radio channels. The program addresses various issues related to HIV/AIDS from the point of sexual reproductive health.

The other area targeted is to attain quality VCT services through strengthening of National VCT accreditation and development of human resources especially counsellor and laboratory supervisors.

(ii) Working With Grass-root Institutions in HIV Prevention

JICA dispatches young Volunteers (JOCV) to work in priority areas and sectors. In the health sector, JOCV are involved in HIV/AIDS prevention activities. Currently volunteers are deployed to various districts in Nyanza, Rift Valley, and Western provinces. They assist local people to address their challenges of HIV/AIDS through health education and quality improvement of VCT services. They also support local authorities and NGOs in planning and monitoring of HIV prevention activities.

(iii) Enhancing Effective Response to the HIV/AIDS Challenge in Kenya

The scheme of Japan's Grant Aid further reinforces the HIV prevention program activities. On 19th of September 2007, the Governments of Kenya and Japan agreed that 2.8 million test kits, which cover more than half the amount of annual consumption in the country, would be procured using the grant from the Japanese Government. The grant serves to provide HIV rapid test kits with accessories that will assist the Government of Kenya to meet the demand for clients wishing to know their HIV status.

In addition, JICA dispatches a number of focal Japanese personnel to different levels in line with the Kenyan government structure of starting from NASCOP to district and community levels. They assist the self-help efforts of their Kenyan counterparts at each level by sharing common goals and tackling challenges together.

3. The Blood Safety (MOTTAINAI) Project

The project aims to develop, demonstrate and apply national standards approaches for safe, appropriate and efficient use of blood products. These standards would be applied to other blood transfusion service institutions to promote blood safety in Kenya.

In the year under review, JICA dispatched two project consultation missions to provide overall technical guidance to the project strategy and implementation. The mission members visited the project model sites and held consultations with the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) on issues relating to implementation, scale up and sustainability.

The Project organized and implemented various trainings to sensitize relevant staff on appropriate use of blood and blood products. This training targeted clinicians, nurses, laboratory technologists and other members of the target hospital transfusion committees. There was also procurement of various types of equipment, materials and tools required for stock management of blood, preparation of blood products and data management.

It was observed that approaches for appropriate blood requisition from the hospital and blood supply from RBTC based on the requisition have made remarkable progress through activities introduced by Ms. Noguchi, JICA short term expert, on logistics and inventory management. The NBTS has begun to replicate those activities to other regions and this is going in the right direction to achieve the Project Purpose.



Former JICA Resident Representative, Mr. Yoshiaki Kano, and officials from the Ministry of health inspect one of the blood bank refrigerators donated to NBTS by JICA through the Blood Safety Project.

A pilot project was initiated on the preparation of small volumes of packed red blood cell (PRCs) for paediatric transfusion. It is expected that the success from the pilot will be gradually scaled up nationally as an entry point to increased utilization of blood products to promote safety.

4. In-Country Training on Medical Engineering

This program was initiated in February 2006 to benefit staff from the MOH in strengthening their skills for maintenance of medical equipment.

Three training sessions were separately conducted in Nairobi between 8th August and 26th October 2007. A total of 59 out of 60 invited staff from various public health institutions across the country attended the training each lasting a period of three weeks. The training focused on basic and advanced technology on laboratory equipment especially the haematology and biochemistry analyzers. It involved the interpretation of analyzer principles, setting and operating skills, technical maintenance skills and trouble - shooting, among others. The training also introduced the participants to computer skills and its application to daily work, a field that was rated to be a big challenge.

5. KMTCC/JICA Third Country Training Program (TCTP) for Sudan

Through this program, the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTCC) places emphasis on refresher training for practising nurses and training of VCT counsellors. The training also goes further to the updating of these health workers with new and emerging knowledge and skills in their respective fields. This is aimed at enabling them to offer improved quality of health care services and increase the uptake of VCT services in Sudan.

The second TCTP for Sudan was implemented by KMTCC in Nairobi between 5th November and 30th November 2007. A total of 52 participants (30 for nursing and 22 for the VCT course) successfully completed this year's training. This represented an 8% increase over the participation in the first training course where 40 participants were trained. This increased level of participation affirms the relevance of the program to the current situation of Sudan and to the needs of the targeted group of participants.

The nursing refresher course was designed to be implemented at 3 levels. These were basic level, intermediate level, and advanced level. The participants to the second nursing course undertook training at intermediate level that would enable them to improve their skills in areas such as patient hygiene and patient care, drug administration, essential obstetric care and primary health care services in Sudan.

On the other hand, the VCT course was based on the approved training curriculum for Kenya which was also deemed as relevant to Sudan. Although the approaches to counselling and testing in Kenya have recently been very dynamic, NASCOP has made tremendous progress in the establishment of a Quality Assurance system for voluntary counselling and Testing services (VCT). The training program would therefore provide an opportunity for the participants to learn from Kenya's experience in establishing such quality assurance system for VCT services.

At the closing ceremony, JICA Resident Representative in Kenya, noted that JICA has been at the forefront in providing technical assistance to countries emerging from conflict. He said JICA continued to seek ways to improve its assistance strategies in the areas of post-conflict reconstruction and consolidation of peace. In the meantime, this technical cooperation provided a good entry point for the governments of Sudan, Kenya and Japan to strengthen their diplomatic ties and economic cooperation. He expressed hope that this cooperation would be a window of opportunity for the government of Sudan to further promote peace, integration and development.

He encouraged the participants to strive to apply the knowledge and skills gained from this training program and urged them to be resource persons for other health workers in Sudan so that there can be wider dissemination of skills for higher impact.

Highlight



Ms. Sachiyo Nagi discusses with some of the local people she interacts with during her work.

Assisting People Living with HIV and AIDS

Ms. Sachiyo Nagi, a JICA Short Term Volunteer, had worked in Malaba for USAID funded ROADS project which is implemented by Family Health International (FHI) to reduce the impact of the AIDS pandemic in the community along the major highways in East African countries. Malaba, as a border town in Uganda, has been vulnerable to HIV infection and one of the reasons is the rampant risky contacts between the local community and visitors such as long distance truck drivers.

As one of her activities, Ms. Nagi encouraged People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) to express their experience as PLWHA in essay forms and compiled the different essays into a booklet. PLWHA who contributed to the booklet and Nagi believe actual experiences of living with HIV/AIDS can strongly deliver the message to the community about the importance of protecting themselves from HIV infection and loving people living with the HIV infection. This further helps in raising awareness on HIV/AIDS including the importance of knowing one's own HIV status.

At the same time, the booklet brought an opportunity for PLWHA to participate in the activity of HIV prevention. This participation will help reduce the stigma on HIV/AIDS in the community. This booklet is expected to be printed and used as an Information, Education and Communication material for HIV prevention activities in Malaba and other parts of Kenya.

Newly Initiated Projects

1. KEMRI/JICA TCTP on School Based Parasite Control

The TCTP on school based parasite control was formally launched through the signing of the Record of Discussions between the Kenyan Ministry of Health, KEMRI and JICA respectively on 15th February 2007. The purpose of the Course is to provide the participants from African countries with an opportunity of upgrading relevant techniques and knowledge in integrated school-based parasite control programs and related applied field research activities.

The first course was held between 12th and 23rd March 2007 at the Eastern and Southern Africa Centre for International Parasite Control (ESACIPAC) located at KEMRI. A total of 17 participants from the ministries of health and education drawn from 8 countries attended the course. The course lectures were given by ESACIPAC and KEMRI scientists and scientists from Nagasaki University who are currently engaged in a collaborative research program with KEMRI.

Highlights of Important Events

There were several major events in the Health Sector during the year in review that attracted the leadership, participation and/or involvement of JICA, among them were the following:

- (i) Ex-post evaluation of the Kenya Medical Training College Technical Cooperation Project (March 2007);
- (ii) Health Planning Summit, 21st June 2007 (Launch of AOP 3);
- (iii) Health SWAp Code of Conduct Design Meetings, (March~August 2007);
- (iv) Official opening of the SPEAK Project Office (31st July 2007);
- (v) HIV/AIDS Joint Annual Program Review, (14th~15th August 2007);
- (vi) Handing over of Blood Bank refrigerators to NBTS at Nakuru RBTC (23rd August 2007);
- (vii) Health Sector Joint Review Stakeholders' Meeting, (23rd~24th October 2007);
- (viii) The National HIV Counselling and Testing Week (26th November~December 2007); and
- (ix) World AIDS Day celebrations (1st December 2007).

Improving Quality of Education and Empowerment of Women

“JICA’s contribution to Kenya’s effort towards attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in regard to Universal Primary Education (UPE), gender equality and poverty reduction, has been through improving quality of education especially in the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education (SMASSE) and women empowerment through training at JKUAT”

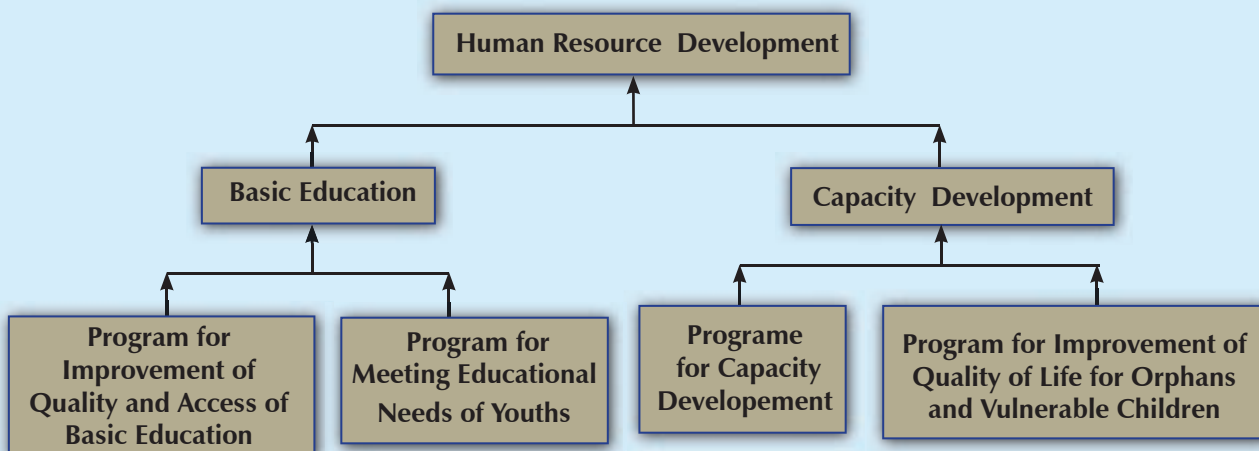
Lack of education and training reduces people’s ability to exploit the opportunities around them, making them more vulnerable and is a major cause of poverty. Educational development is central to human resource development. It is the foundation for any socio-economic development of a country. JICA has since 1974, been supporting development of education and training in Kenya by providing JOCV teachers, development of institutions, such as Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) 1980-2001, National Youth Service Engineering Institute (NYSEI) 1988-1997, and through other institutions such as KEMRI, KISM, and KEFRI. In addition, JICA conducts other human resource development training programs for Kenyans both locally (as in the In-Country Training Program) and overseas

under different training schemes aimed at creating the necessary human capital for the country’s development.

In Education, the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASSE) as a Technical Cooperation Project was jointly formulated by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and JICA launched in 1998 with the view of upgrading young Kenyans’ capability in these subjects due to their critical role and contribution towards human capital required for industrial and technological development of the country. With more young Kenyans getting secondary education due to improved quality of education since the launch of SMASSE in 1998, more primary pupils are encouraged to complete the primary education cycle. It is apparent therefore that JICA continues to make a significant contribution to the achievement of the MDGs in Kenya.

Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Gender Parity in Education.

Assisted by the education development partners, Kenya is making good progress towards achieving MDGs for education since the introduction of Free Primary Education. Since the introduction of Free Primary Education, there has been rapid increase in enrolment at primary schools. If the quality of education at secondary level is not improved and maintained, there will be a backlash in primary enrollment since the quality of education offered



in formal system influences positively or negatively enrolment, participation and completion rate. Effects of good quality of education in:

- Primary schools will enhance and encourage enrolment, participation and completion of primary education for both girls and boys for success UPE and attainment of MDGs; and
- Secondary schools will act as an incentive to primary school pupils to complete the primary cycle and enroll for secondary education. As in primary education, the quality of secondary education enhances and encourages more participation by both genders.

1. SMASSE

JICA's contribution to Kenya's effort towards MDGs in education has been in improving the quality of education especially through the SMASSE Project. The improved secondary education quality encourages enrollment, participation and completion at both the primary level and the secondary level and this leads to achieving UPE for nearly all children and to achieving gender parity at secondary level besides narrowing gender parity at post-secondary institutions and subsequently in the work place.

Girls have been grossly under-represented in science-based training programs in post-secondary institutions. Since the launch of the SMASSE Project, an increase in the number of girls studying mathematics and science in secondary schools has been recorded. This encourages more girls to enroll and complete secondary education since mathematics and science offer more opportunities for post-secondary education/ training, and consequently enhances gender parity at secondary level as targeted in the MDGs.



Demonstration of science at Noonkopir Secondary School, Kajiado district.

The achievement of MDGs to a large extent depends on a country's capacity for effective and efficient utilization of available resources. The Project has recorded great success in developing human and institutional capacity needed in education for the achievement of the MDGs.

The table below indicates the number of personnel trained with JICA's assistance:

Principal	885
Maths and Science Teachers	14,567
PTTC Tutors	218
District Trainers	72
TIVET Instructor/ Stakeholders	261
Quality and Standards Assurance Officers	72
From WECSA Countries *	918
Total	17,023

* WECSA- Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (countries)

Some individuals are trained in more than one course e.g. Cycle I, II, III and IV for all district trainers and classroom teachers.

Under the SMASSE Project, JICA has helped Kenya establish a comprehensive and sustainable in-service education and training (INSET) system for professional capacity development of mathematics and science teachers and other personnel for effective delivery of curriculum.

2. Empowerment for Poverty Reduction

Human resource development is probably the most effective way towards poverty reduction. JICA Technical Cooperation has had numerous capacity development program activities in different sectors of the Kenyan economy. Since 1994, for instance, JICA has:

- (i) Held In-country Training Programs (ICTP) on strengthening women leaders for community development at JKUAT; and
- (ii) Supported a project on Improving Living Condition for the Poor in Nairobi under JICA's Community Empowerment Program, in cooperation with Save Children Centre (a Japanese NGO that worked in Kibera Slum, Mitumba Slum, Carton City Slum and Mathare Slums).

JICA through these programs and others e.g. in Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises, Health and Water Sector, has empowered many women for improving their families living standards and

socio-economic development of their communities. At the ICTP course in JKUAT, about 600 women leaders from different ecological zones in Kenya have been trained in various courses including community development, socio-economic, gender, nutrition and health, and environmental issues. Their capacity has been enhanced for increased agricultural productivity and general socio-economic development. The application of knowledge and skills acquired during these courses, especially by those living in the rural areas, will enhance Kenya's progress towards reduction of poverty by 50% by the year 2015 as targeted under MDGs.

A field study by JKUAT personnel shows that most of the trained women are doing well. A number of them have been elected/co-opted councilors, members of Constituency Development Fund (CDF), school management committee members and/or involved in local decision-making.

3. Africa Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD)

Recent Developments - Change of AICAD governance structure:

- (i) On August 13th and 14th 2007, Special Joint Coordinating Council (JCC) Meeting and Special General Meeting (SGM) were held at Kuduchi Beach Hotel in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. During the meeting, the JCC and AGM were dissolved and a Governing Board (GB) was unanimously agreed and formed to take over as the highest governing body in AICAD responsible for its decision making;
- (ii) There shall be an Annual Members Forum (AMF) as a periodical event that takes place once a year for receiving the Annual Report from GB and providing a feedback to GB;
- (iii) The detailed functions of the two bodies shall be clearly spelt out in the revised AICAD Charter as guided by the adopted proposal for new AICAD Governance Structure;
- (iv) The operations of AICAD are open to other developmental agents such as NGOs;
- (v) The Charter should be streamlined appropriately to meet the requirements of the regional governments, in view of the fact that AICAD is a regional international organization;
- (vi) The Charter, as the Legal document, is to be amended urgently to ensure that AICAD's operations are not affected. This exercise should be completed well ahead of the next GB meeting;
- (vii) The KPMG consultants submitted their final reports on AICAD Transformation as per agreed TOR's. The reports are Governance,

Organisation Structure, Finance, Human Resource and Job Description. In addition, KPMG has submitted an Executive Summary of all the 5 reports highlighting the key conclusions and recommendations of each report and the Action Plan;

- (viii) On September 20th 2007, Records of Discussions (RD) were signed between JICA and Government of the Republics of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda for AICAD Phase III; and
- (ix) A two-week Regional Training Workshop of Trainers in Export Trade dealing with commercial crafts kicked off in AICAD on 5th November 2007.

4. Crime Prevention, Rehabilitation and Protection of Vulnerable Children in Kenya Implemented Through the Children's Department, Ministry of Home Affairs

On the basis of good final evaluation findings of the previous Juvenile Justice related project, followed by further request by Government of Kenya to Government of Japan, the project on Crime Prevention, Rehabilitation and Protection of Vulnerable Children was initiated in August 2006. This was a GOJ assistance towards making a reality the commitments GOK had made in view of the ratification, in 2001, of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and subsequently, the enactment of the Children Act (2001) as the enabling legislation.



Students attending a pastry class at the Kirigiti rehabilitation school in Kiambu.

Highlights of Important Events

Seven Training workshops held in various provinces in Kenya between end of July and end of August 2007, with JICA short-term experts from United Nations Far East Institute for Prevention of Crime (UNAFEI) as key resource persons:-

- (i) 48 Children's Officers from all over Kenya were

- trained in Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP) workshop held in Machakos.
- (ii) 35 Children’s Officers and Children’s Magistrates were trained in National Standards at the Cooperative College;
 - (iii) 30 participants underwent second round of Training for VCO Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop held in Baobab Hotel, Mombasa;
 - (iv) 40 newly-recruited VCO’s and AAC’s were trained in the use of National Standards in a workshop held in Nakuru Rift Valley;
 - (v) 40 newly recruited VCO’s and AAC’s trained in the use of National Standards in a workshop held in Kisumu in Nyanza Province;
 - (vi) Review of National Standards was done by a smaller group of 7 participants; and
 - (vii) 50 participants from Children’s department, Police, Judiciary, Prisons, Probation, attended the National Technical Stakeholders meeting for Effective Juvenile Justice service delivery.

In October 2007, 11 participants of the 8th UNAFEI training group left Kenya for a 4-week training in Japan. The group was comprised of participants selected from Children’s Department, Police, Judiciary, Probation and Prison. The group is expected to report back to JICA and to PS Ministry of Home Affairs on the progress and implementation of the action plans developed.

5. JICA Long Term Expert in Children’s Department

- (i) For sustainability of the skill training in soap making and bakery products for children in rehabilitation schools, JICA’s Long-Term Expert is seeking collaboration from locally established institutions which can offer services in basic skills training in soap-making and bakery products for children in rehabilitation schools. Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) has already been identified to offer training; and
- (ii) For sustainability, instructors working in the appropriate statutory institutions will be trained so that they can administer these courses to children at no extra cost i.e. as part and parcel of their duties in future.

Highlight Our Experience

I arrived at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) with a lot of anxiety. I wondered whether I would fit in given my age and my education background of no tertiary training. My roles as a mother, a wife, a leader in my own capacity and numerous other responsibilities that were bestowed upon me added to the uncertainty. I never thought I would survive the training.



The first few days were obviously uncomfortable as I struggled to cope with the new environment, strangers for my roommates, distress calls from my husband, who was already showing signs of defeat unable to cope with the responsibilities back at home, and the children unsatisfied with the sudden change of the way things being done. There were just too many unfinished businesses back home that I was worried would go wrong in my absence.

The first lesson, however, magically settled me down as it concentrated on the role of women in contemporary Kenyan society and assessment of their economic activities. This lesson made me appreciate myself as a woman and evaluate myself and other women on a higher scale. What I learned during the 35-day training which ranged from proper agricultural practices, proposal writing, to social life is invaluable to myself, my family and my entire community. I thank JICA and the Government of Kenya for striving to empower women.

- Irene Randu, Mombasa

Me.. in a university as a student... I could not believe it. The question of whether I would grasp the lessons kept ringing in my mind. I was together with other women from 25 different districts in Kenya who had been selected to take up the course on leadership. We studied various topics such as understanding the role of women in contemporary Kenyan society and assessment of their economic activities, gender, sheep and goat rearing, bee-keeping, fish farming, and many others. Sitting down to listen to lecturers was sometimes a bit tiring but all in all, I enjoyed the course since every topic covered gave me a deeper understanding of the needs of my community and how I could help. The course unleashed a lot of potential in me and when I go back home to my people, I will actively disseminate the knowledge I received from the training. Meeting and interacting with women from different parts of the country was also very educative as we shared experiences and learned a lot from each other.



- Lillian Magundu, Laikipia

JICA Volunteers' Contribution

“Volunteers in Kenya are dispatched to priority sectors such as Health, Agriculture, Environment, Education & Human Resource Development, and Infrastructure ”

JICA dispatches Volunteers who are eager to make use of their skills and experience acquired in Japan to developing countries to work with the local people there. The volunteers who are dispatched to Kenya are the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) aged between 20 and 39 years, and the Senior Volunteers aged between 40 and 69 years. Both the JOCV and Senior Volunteers programs assist in the promotion of economic and social development of developing countries.

JICA Volunteers spend two years in developing countries, living and working with the local people, while taking part in development activities. This experience benefits the Volunteers themselves as they strive to overcome the various difficulties they face in their personal relations and work.

The Volunteers in Kenya are dispatched in the priority sectors which are Health, Agriculture, Environment, Education and Human Resource Development, and Infrastructure.

In discharging their duties, the Volunteers also contribute to the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) as indicated below:-

1. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

In Tsavo East, like in many areas bordering National Parks, human wildlife conflict exists and here it is between human beings and elephants /baboons. Human/wildlife conflict can have disastrous effects in the absence of proper intervention.

Mitigation measures are therefore necessary to promote co-existence of humans and wildlife. KWS in Tsavo East does this through the Education Department that conducts environmental education. A JICA Volunteer, Ms. Ayako Tanaka, is attached to this department. She handles wildlife and environmental conservation and is involved in outreach programs such as conducting lectures in schools, both primary and secondary, and community outreach programs. Her work involves creating

awareness among the community on afforestation and deforestation, use of agro-chemicals and how to live harmoniously with wildlife.

The education programs are conducted through community meetings that are held with the assistance of the local chief.

2. Support to Education

When she first entered Form 2A Class in Nyamanga'ra Secondary School in Thika, Ms. Yumeka Anoyama felt lost, yet overjoyed and excited. That was the class she was assigned to teach and it had about 53 students. She was also going to handle the biggest class for the first time in her life. Back home in Japan, she handled a class of 35 pupils.

The school Principal, Mr. Muchori, says Ms. Anoyama is very comfortable at the school and adjusted very well and fast enough.

To most students, mathematics is a complex subject meant only for the gifted. Ms. Anoyama disagrees and says that attitude towards the subject makes all the difference. Making the subject interesting is key to overcoming the attitude. For instance, she discovered that since her students have interest in learning about Japan, she can use Japanese names of places and people in her examples and the students are then able to easily remember what is taught.

Mr. Muchori commends her masterly of the mathematics subject.



Ms. Yumeka Anoyama teaching mathematics at a secondary school in Thika.

3. Combating HIV/AIDS

JOCVs have contributed to the fight against HIV/AIDS in various parts of Kenya. Ms. Keiko Tanaka is attached to Kericho District Hospital at the VCT Center. Her activities include conducting mobile

VCT outreach programs and preparing materials for the same. She is also involved in advising patients on behavior change, HIV/AIDS prevention, nutritional needs, use of ARV drugs, living with HIV/AIDS and handling stigma.

To reach the community, meetings are organized with the help of the chiefs, in churches, on market days and through occasional visits to schools.

Ms. Tanaka who was a nurse in Japan says that “having AIDS does not mean the end of life. There is tomorrow and there is hope”.

4. Developing Global Partnership For Development

To achieve this goal, JICA volunteers are involved in a number of activities such as empowering the disadvantaged in the society, extending support to rehabilitation institutes, and information & communication.

(i) Information and Communication

With the responsibilities bestowed on them such as provision of water and sewerage, land rates management, business registrations etc, efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of services to the communities is key to sustainability and survival of the local authorities.

The Treasury Department of the Municipal Council of Thika has a computer department that is charged with the responsibility of managing records, monitoring rates, registration of businesses, and managing staff payroll for the Council. It is in this department where a JICA Volunteer, Mr. Maenohara, is attached. He has contributed in the department by networking the computer system, managing computer viruses, staff training and sensitizing staff in management issues such as crisis management.

Since the key to survival of the Council is increased revenue collection, Mr. Maenohara, together with a group of 5 young colleagues have formed a group called the ‘Daily Project’. The group believes that the future is in ICT and therefore is using its knowledge to make sure that the Council is ICT compliant. To this end, the group has designed a website for the council which has already been presented to the Board and is optimistic that once it is approved and uploaded, the Council will see increased revenues through advertisements on the website. The website is also targeted at reducing queues in the offices as people will be able to get the information required without having to travel to the Municipal office. The group also hopes to market Thika town to potential investors which will in the long run increase revenue



Mr. Maenohara with a staff of Thika Municipal Council at work in the computer room.

collected from new investors. Businessmen will access information easily and make investment options and decisions without having to physically visit the Council’s offices. Reminders for rates will also be posted in the website and will save rate payers money that would have been spent on phone calls. The website is also expected to save the Council postage costs.

Mr. Maenohara who was working at Kanoya City Hall in Japan, says that local councils need to enhance revenue collection and this can only be done through improved services and better management. This has driven him to make presentations on project cycle management which can be applied in the office environment. For instance, in establishing why computers crash, many problems were identified such as lack of knowledge of computer viruses or poor training in computer management.

In managing computer viruses, he has started an awareness program to prevent computer viruses that have been responsible for computer problems and data loss.

Mr. Maenohara is also involved in training staff on computer packages which saves staff and the Council money that would have been used in training.

(ii) Support to the Vulnerable and Disadvantaged in Society

The blind are most of the time discriminated against and as a result lack confidence and pride. They have needs to fulfill, particularly financial. In developing countries, starting up businesses and acquiring financing is a challenge to them.

This encouraged Mr. Gomi, a JOCV volunteer to join Machakos Technical School for the Blind to train in Shiatsu massage. This is the newest of the 8 courses taught at the school with Mr. Gomi as the pioneer instructor.

Shiatsu is an oriental style of massage that uses fingers, thumbs and palms to apply pressure to a particular section of the surface of the body for the purpose of correcting imbalances in the body. This maintains and promotes good health.

Shiatsu is used both for therapeutic and relaxation purposes. It is used as an alternative medicine to treat ailments such as diseases of the nervous system, orthopedics, respiratory diseases, diseases of the circulatory system, metabolic diseases, among others. Though modern medicine is good, Mr. Gomi points out that the human body has natural powers for treating itself and Shiatsu helps it to readjust to normal. This is because the body has special meridian points and pressure is applied on them to unblock energy and reintroduce the optimal body balance.

Starting the course at the institute was not only for therapeutic and relaxation purposes but also as a source of livelihood for the visually impaired. Shiatsu is not capital intensive as it does not require special tools and the blind can benefit a lot from it. The course does not take long as one requires 9 months only to complete.

Shiatsu, unlike the westernized bodily massage, is very friendly. For those who are shy, Shiatsu is the type of massage to go for. One does not have to undress. All that one needs is light clothing. "There is no use of oils too," adds Everlyne, who is a Shiatsu student and hopes to start a Shiatsu parlor as soon as she completes her training.



Mr. Gomi, a JOCV, demonstrates Shiatsu massage during one of the training sessions.

Mr. Gomi says that there is untapped market for Shiatsu in Kenya. With modernization of offices today, and extensive use of computers, people are

bound to get backaches and shiatsu is the cure for this problem. After a hard day's work, it is also important for the office worker to have Shiatsu massage for relaxation.

Shiatsu is being practised in Asia, Europe and parts of America. Mr. Gomi hopes to see it succeed in Africa, particularly in Kenya. He also hopes that it can earn the visually impaired a living.

(iii) Support to Rehabilitation Schools

Mr. Murakami is a Physical Education teacher at Machakos Rehabilitation School. He always has a busy week with 40 lessons lasting 35 minutes each. This involves taking the whole school for physical education lessons.

Physical education is very crucial in rehabilitation schools. Though not examinable, it is one of the tools for rehabilitating young people. It is also very important even in mainstream schools but unfortunately it has remained ignored for a long time.

In rehabilitation schools, physical education makes pupils stay alert in class as it sheds off excess energy and stress. Stress if not well managed can lead to other problems including truancy. It is beneficial in problem solving as it provides an opportunity for pupils, some of whom have never known how to relate with others, to come together and solve problems as a group. This makes them responsible and learn to respect one another. Physical education also helps in preparing for physical challenges, improves flexibility and general body fitness.

Mr. Murakami feels that physical education should be made compulsory in all primary schools. He says that through physical education, students learn from an early stage the importance of teamwork, team building and respect for one another.

5. Eradicating Extreme Poverty

(a) Dressmaking

With the increased number of school leavers and the shrinking job market, the Kenya Industrial Training Institute (KITI) has embarked on training for self-reliance, with the aim of reducing poverty through self-employment. The students who graduate from KITI are prepared for the market through training that is aimed at empowering them not only on practical aspects but also in entrepreneurial skills.

Ms. Tamura is a Senior Volunteer attached to the clothing and textile department of KITI and has been assisting in the department with practical training.



Ms. Tamura, a Senior Volunteer attached to the clothing and textile department of KITI, shows her students on how to cut a Kimono pattern.

She has been very enthusiastic and has even taught the students how to make the Japanese Kimono.

After a two-year training at KITI, the students are expected to contribute to the job market by starting their businesses and employing people. In the long run, this will reduce poverty.

(iii) Spring Rehabilitation and Poultry Project

Ms. Kageyama is a household name in Moyoyo village, Lwandeti Location of Lugari District. The people of Mayoyo village prefer calling her Nafula signifying the closeness she maintains with the community. This is due to her contribution towards the community's livelihood. It all started in the year 2004 when her JOCV predecessor, Ms. Inoue, started spring rehabilitation projects in Lwandeti Location of Lugari District. This was driven by the high cases of typhoid outbreak in the area that killed a number of children.

Ms. Ruth Kiselemi, who is a beneficiary of the project, explained that typhoid was a big problem in the area and she is now grateful that it is not there any more. She further explained that before the



One of the springs at Lugari which Ms.Kageyama helped to rehabilitate.

springs were rehabilitated, one had to wake up very early in the morning to get clean water but now she gets water at her convenience.

A total of 19 springs were rehabilitated in the location, each serving an average population of 300 people.

Though there are community volunteers who tend to them checking for damages and clearing around, there is some form of maintenance with financial implications.

This led to initiation of income-generating projects to support repairs and maintenance of the springs. Ms. Kageyama, together with the District Development Officer, implemented 6 poultry model projects in the area. These are at Moyoyo, Roman, Musemwa, Sango, Chimoï and Mahanga. The poultry reared include broilers and traditional chicken.

It is envisaged that the project will be self-sustaining and will expand and provide employment for the local people as well as provide money for maintaining the springs. So far, the project at Moyoyo has created one job. Mr. Jacob Wamukoya Muyira, who is the caretaker, appreciates the money he is paid from the project. Though it is not a lot, he is grateful that he can now meet some of his basic needs.

The poultry project has been so successful that neighboring villages have started similar ones.

6. Collaboration With Other Actors in Development

The JOCV Program collaborates with other development partners to strengthen development activities. Such partners include Family Health International (FHI), Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK), Sustainable Agriculture Center for Research, Extension and Development (SACRED) in Africa, (CREADIS) and Action Times Family Care (ATFAMICA), among others.

Statistical Information

In the year under review, JICA dispatched 37 Volunteers. The total number that worked in the country during the year was 88 which included 7 Senior Volunteers and 5 Short Term. The cumulative total since 1966 is 1,291.

Grassroot Power in Action

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is a program supported by JICA which aims to implement development projects in developing countries planned by Japanese development partners, mainly NGOs, local governments and universities, based on their accumulated experiences and technologies in development at grassroots level. The objective of

the program is to promote social welfare activities in Kenya based on Japan's experiences. JICA takes the initiative to plan and operate the program's activities by involving experts from Japan and local NGO's working in communities covered by the program. Below are the on-going projects under this program.

Project	Duration	Project Area	Participating NGO	Goal
Organic Agricultural Technology Transfer and Reservoir Construction based on Capacity Building for the Grassroot Level Communities.	Apr 2006- Mar 2009	Isinya Division, Kajiado District, Rift Valley Province	Institute of Cultural Affairs of Japan (ICA Japan)	Holding a workshop style capacity building training with Agriculture technical training and water ponds construction to develop the grassroots level community
School Community-based Children's Education and Health Security Improvement Project in Nguni Division of Mwingi District	Nov 2006- Sep 2009	N g u n i Division, M w i n g i District, Eastern Province	Community Action Development Organisation (CanDo)	Enhancement of social environment for children's education and health security in school communities in Nguni Division of Mwingi District through the improvement of the social capability of community members and their cooperation with teachers
Training of Kazusabori trainers and ensuring safe water in Njukini	Sep 2007 - Oct 2008	Loitokitok Division, Kajiado District, Rift Valley Province	International Water Project (IWP)	Ten in the community who were trained in Kazusabori in the previous project advance in Kazusabori skills and become trainer of Kazusabori. They train community people in Kazusabori and improve their water situation ensuring safe water for the community.

Contribution Towards Achievement of

“JICA country offices must strengthen their capacity to formulate more effective country assistance programs and projects in line with partner countries’ development strategies”

The Regional Support Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ReSOESA) was established in October 2004. This was in line with JICA's new policy to give more authority to overseas offices as part of its organizational and operational reform program. As a result, overseas offices now handle more responsibility and require greater support in the following areas:

- Aid strategy formulation;
- Program and project formulation;
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E);
- Cross-country networking; and
- Training program.

Support is also provided to enhance and reinforce efforts in common regional issues, project formulation, accounting and procurement. ReSOESA provides the above support to countries mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Objectives

The priority of development issues and the government capacity to effectively manage and absorb development resources varies from country to country and from institution to institution.

Thus aid strategies and approaches must be tailored to each particular set of circumstances. In this context, JICA country offices must strengthen their capacity to formulate more effective country assistance programs and projects in line with partner countries’ development strategies. Furthermore, such programs and projects must be carefully monitored and evaluated, in close collaboration with other concerned actors.

In order to meet the capacity required for professional program formulation and effective program implementation, JICA country offices need technical support.

Thus, the objective of ReSOESA is to improve JICA's region-specific program/project implementation capabilities, as well as its aid effectiveness and impact on development. ReSOESA Office has



New Abay Bridge under construction in the Blue Nile Project. This is a Grant Aid project expedited by JICA

been providing technical and program support to JICA country offices in Sub-Saharan Africa since its inception. It has human resource expertise in eight priority areas to help towards achievement of MDGs. Identified areas for this support are as follows:

- (i) Asia-Africa Cooperation;
- (ii) Health;
- (iii) Infrastructure Development;
- (iv) Peace Building and Post Conflict Reconstruction;
- (v) Rural Water Supply;
- (vi) Technical and Vocational Education;
- (vii) ODA Program (Yen Loans); and
- (viii) Staff Information and Training

1. Asia-Africa Cooperation

The Asia-Africa Cooperation desk provides the African Region with information on training programs and technical expertise available in Asian countries. African countries, through JICA, can engage Technical Experts from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Sri Lanka in development projects in many sectors depending on the needs to be addressed. African participants also attend Third Country Training Programs in these Asian countries.

Asia-Africa Cooperation seeks to continuously assist JICA country offices in identifying appropriate resource institutions in Asian countries to meet the pressing needs of African countries.

f MGDs in Africa



Nile for the Goha Tsiyon-Dejen Road Rehabilitation for the Government of Ethiopia.



A nurse at Peradeniya Teaching Hospital in Sri Lanka gives a tour of a ward to hospital staff from African countries under the Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program on Total Quality Management in the health sector.

2. Health Program

Health promotion and actualization are important functions of the society, and its protection is a responsibility that should be shouldered by the government and the communities.

In developing countries, health problems particularly of the poor and socially marginalized people are seen with higher magnification than in developed countries. This is mainly due to chronic shortage

of resources and inappropriate development of management systems. It is also easy to see that this situation often hinders the sound and steady development of the country. In the Sub-Saharan African countries, there are various constraints in health systems. Health system management/financing, infectious disease control (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), reproductive health/Maternal-Child-Health, quality management of health services, equity issues in service delivery are some of the topics that are prioritized in relation to human security and poverty reduction.

To fight against the ill-health of the people, the Health Sector of JICA ReSOESA has been scrutinizing the above-mentioned situations in each country in Africa and contributing to various project formulation processes in close collaboration with respective JICA country offices.

3. Infrastructure Development Program

The level of Infrastructure in developing countries is not enough. This hinders the performance of the economies and service delivery. Infrastructure is pivotal to the success of any economy. It is with this consideration that JICA supports infrastructural projects in developing countries. The projects being undertaken range from construction of roads, water supply systems, irrigation systems, social infrastructure facilities and environmental protection.

The role of the JICA Regional Support Office Infrastructure Section is to participate in project formulation for projects that are proposed to receive technical assistance from JICA. This is done by visiting the proposed project sites to ascertain all the aspects relating to the project through data collection, analysis and dialogue with key stakeholders. Diverse program alternatives are evaluated with regard to local conditions, constraints and opportunities. The findings assist in the development of proposals regarding project needs, institutional arrangement and implementation strategy. The stakeholders that the JICA experts meet include government ministry officials, technical experts, administrative officials and representatives of local community members within the region where the project is being formulated.

With the motive of service to the people, the Infrastructure Program works diligently to ensure that the society gets the best projects proposed for project formulation.

4. Peace Building and Post Conflict Reconstruction Program

In the Eastern and Southern African countries, there are some countries that are emerging from violent armed conflicts. The Peace Building team, in collaboration with JICA Headquarters or an appropriate JICA office supports those countries immediately after the peace process by establishing JICA program implementation facilities. The group at the same time formulates the projects after analysis of needs and priority areas.

There are some other countries that are in the middle of conflict and some that seem peaceful, but where there is some element of risk for future instability. Therefore, the team constantly monitors those countries and collects information for future support. This enables JICA to prepare for quick intervention actions for conflict prevention or for post-conflict reconstruction activities.

5. Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Program

In many countries, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) is considered as a strong vehicle for social and economic development.

However, it is often seen as a “last choice education” because of its often poor quality. High-quality TVET leads to a higher status and attractiveness of TVET in the society. Well prepared high-quality TVET programs guarantee a close link between what is learnt and the needs of the labour market, with the result that graduates are more likely to find suitable employment. Quality assurance is, therefore, essential at all levels throughout the TVET system.

The task of this program, therefore, is to find and to formulate JICA programs in the field of TVET in Africa.



Some Kenyan delegates chat with participants of a Robot Contest held in Hanoi, Vietnam, under the TVET Program.

For them to effectively take up this challenging task this program equips them with the relevant skills knowledge and information.

One of the TVET program projects is to introduce robot technology in Africa. In Kenya students and lecturers of Technology in polytechnics had an opportunity of attending a robot contest in Hanoi, Vietnam in August 2007. The aim of the trip was to gain knowledge that would enable them to organize contests locally in an endeavour to promote robot technology in Kenya and in Africa as a whole.



Robot contest in Hanoi: Contestants pick their robots after the competition. They were used to pick and pile the red and green objects on the poles in the game field. The team with the fastest robots won the contest.

6. ODA Program (Yen Loan)

The ODA Program supports JICA country offices to identify and formulate projects/programs, assisted by Japan's Yen Loans and to coordinate and integrate them with JICA's technical and grant assistance projects/ programs. JICA will merge the Yen loan scheme from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) from 1st October 2008.

Another main task of this program is to train JICA's Japanese and National Staff and others on Japan's Yen Loan policy and programs.

7. Regional Staff Information and Training Program

With JICA's transformation from a Special Public Institution of the Government of Japan to an Independent Administrative Institution, the focus of activities has become more field-oriented. Accordingly, National Staff working in overseas offices will be expected to play a greater role in JICA's activities.