

Experience of Regional Collaboration among Latin American Countries and Japan -Regional Project “I like Mathematics!”-

BACKGROUND

In Honduras, Mathematics is one of the major reasons of repetition and drop-out in primary school. Reflecting on the request of Honduran Government, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Co-governmental organization of Japan, JICA) has launched “The Project for the Improvement of Teaching Method in Mathematics” (PROMETAM) from April, 2003. Among the members of the Ministry of Education and academic instructors of National University of Pedagogy in Honduras, “Workbook for students” and “Guidebook for teachers” from 1st to 6th grades were invented for amelioration of teaching process of Mathematics. These inventories have been distributed nationwide, and adopted as teaching material for in-service teacher training of the University. Driven by the success of the inventories in Honduras, the new regional JICA project “Me gusta Matemática!” (I like Mathematics!) has been established with the alliance among five countries, i.e., Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras from April, 2006.

ACHIEVEMENTS

With the strong initiative of the government officials, textbooks and guidebooks have been invented in each country so far. The text has extensively brought the concept of “Problem-Based Learning”, in which students try to solve problems reflecting on their experiences of learning in Mathematics. Many of the countries have been achieving spread out the materials across the country.

For the further assistance of capacity-development of five alliance countries, JICA has been providing wide variety of training courses (both in-country and out-country trainings), and technical assistance by the Japanese expertise, in deference to their ownership and initiative.





Honduras



El Salvador



Guatemala



República Dominicana



Nicaragua



Members of the countries projects analyzing mathematics sequence (workshop in the 3rd. Regional Mathematics Conference), Tegucigalpa - Honduras, 2008.



Lesson study "Geometry 5th. grade" in the 2nd. Regional Mathematics Conference, Tegucigalpa - Honduras, May, 2007.

CHALLENGES

The five alliance countries keep on attacking proactively, for the response of our paramount question, "How could we develop and utilize our materials for the sake of improving the scholastic ability of students?" For example, Honduras and Nicaragua have been aspiring to uplift teaching capacity of teacher training institution through the direction of materials. Other case is also prevalent in El Salvador, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras, promoting material usage for the in-service teacher training course so as to enforce their teaching skills. Our demanding but worthwhile dissemination challenge has only begun.



Agencia de Cooperación Internacional del Japón



El Salvador



Nicaragua



Guatemala



Honduras



República Dominicana

