

JICA senior recalls humble beginnings in South Africa's early democracy

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After South Africa became a democracy in 1994, the Japanese Government pledged its support to improve the living standards of the poor. In 1995, I was asked to formulate cooperation projects, which marked the start of my relationship with South Africa. From 1995 to 1997, I frequented South Africa to conduct field surveys. In 1997, JICA established an office in South Africa, which led to my first assignment of more than three years. Along with the Chief Representative, we worked hard to open an account, procure goods and services, hire local staff, and so forth. When I returned to Japan, I felt that I was unable to sufficiently contribute to the development of South Africa, and I vowed to pursue being reposted someday. In 2010, I was fortunate to be assigned as leader of the office for three years. I feel privileged to have lived and worked in South Africa for seven of the 25 years of its existence. Although I was posted to South Africa to contribute to nation-building, I learnt a lot from the wonderful people I met in South Africa and Southern Africa. I fondly recall conversations with various ranks of people, all of them talking about their dreams for the future. Profoundly memorable to me were the words of encouragement which I received from so many South Africans when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck Japan in March 2011. The support from my friends whilst far away from the happenings, remains deeply etched in my heart. I hope that the JICA South Africa Office will continue to be a place where we can learn from each other and promulgate value addition for the future.



Office Staff Taken in 2000



Profile Photo at Desk