

## Special Feature 1

# 60th Anniversary of International Cooperation

This year (2014) marks the 60th anniversary of the Japanese Government's assistance toward developing countries. Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) began on October 6, 1954 when it participated in the Colombo Plan.

The Colombo Plan, which was proposed in 1950, is a cooperation mechanism for supporting economic and social development of countries in Asia and the Pacific Ocean region. It is an international organization for developing countries that was the first to be organized

after the end of World War II.

As one of the official members of the organization, Japan began providing technical cooperation from 1955 in the form of acceptance of training participants and dispatch of experts.

For 60 years since then, the Japanese Government has been conducting ODA projects from two viewpoints: "Humanitarian aid" and "mutual reliance between Japan and developing countries."

1950s

1954

Japan joins the Colombo Plan; begins paying war reparations to Asian countries.

1958

Japan launches its yen loans, with India as the first recipient.

1960s

1964

Japan formally joins the OECD (the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development).

1970s

1978

Japan's first medium-term ODA target issued, aiming to double the total amount of ODA within three years.

1980s

1989

Japan becomes the world's top donor of ODA.



1991-2000

Japan retains its position as the world's top provider of ODA.

1992

Formal approval of Japan's ODA Charter.

1993

TICAD (the Tokyo International Conference on African Development) launched.

2003

Japan announces up to \$5 billion in loans and grant aid for the reconstruction of Iraq.

2012

Japan co-hosts the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, pledging up to \$3 billion in new assistance.

1990s

2000s

2010s



## 1 Cross-Cultural Exchange Program in Komagane [Aug.30-Aug.31]

In a one-night/two-day stay from August 30 to August 31, 2014, 18 participants of three training courses at JICA Tokyo participated in a cross-cultural exchange program in Komagane City, Nagano Prefecture with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) trainees and the citizens of Komagane City.

### ●1st day: Language exchanges with JOCV trainees

JOCV trainees dressed in ethnic costumes greeted the JICA Tokyo training participants at the JICA Komagane Training Center. The participants were moved with surprise and delight when the JOCV candidates guided the participants to each language class, introduced themselves, and gave an introductory briefing on Japanese culture to the participants. Each participant also became a very popular person in the classes.

### ●2nd day: Exchanges with Komagane citizens]

First, the participants experienced harvesting at "Satoyama no Megumi" farm. They became very interested in the briefing given by the young couple who owned the farm about the characteristics of traditional satoyama farming and the issues they faced. In particular, participants from Pacific Island Nations also seemed very impressed by the satoyama farm landscape. Many participants were delighted by the sweetness of freshly picked tomatoes and corn, and repeatedly asked for seconds. After the vegetable harvest, the participants moved to "Zotakuji Temple" at the foot of the hill and enjoyed a "people-to-people exchange lunch party" planned by Komagane citizens. The event became filled with excitement as the participants struck African drums and experienced mochi-tsuki (rice cake pounding) and other activities in the temple grounds.



Representing the JICA participants, Mr. Muhammad Sarmad Akhtar from Pakistan spoke to the citizens, saying, "This program made the best memories for us during our stay in Japan. We are impressed so much that we would even like to keep staying here in Komagane!" The exchange program thus ended with the participants promising to keep the warm friendship they nurtured with the Komagane citizens.



## 2 J.League official match "F.C.TOKYO Vs VISSEL KOBE" [Sep.13]



On September 13, (Sat.), the J league official match, "F.C.TOKYO Vs VISSEL KOBE" was held at Tokyo's Ajinomoto Stadium. Thanks to Mr. Ogane, Vice-President, and Mr. Kobayashi, Managing Director of F.C.TOKYO football club, they have coordinated for the JICA training participants to go down to a soccer field. Those participants were excited by the precious opportunity and felt the tense atmosphere before the match. F.C.TOKYO (<http://www.fctokyo.co.jp/english/index.html>), one of the top national football clubs of Japan, invited eighteen (18) JICA training participants from Bhutan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan,

Vietnam, South Africa, Timor-Leste and Uganda. They went to the stadium with F.C.TOKYO's mufflers! The game was breathtaking seesaw match, and finally it was 1-1 draw.

### Comments from participants

Firstly, I really appreciate the opportunity given to witness my first ever F.C.TOKYO Match during JICA training course in Tokyo.

I was also privileged to be introduced to the grand facilities at the Ajinomoto stadium and the football pitch itself. It was a great opportunity to see the President and the Vice President of F.C.TOKYO in person.

The Match has indeed increased the team's popularity and I am proud to continue to be F.C.TOKYO fan in my country when I go back home. The players did excellently well with a strong mid-field play except some chances that we could have been converted into goals. I recommend a strong forward team work that can break the defense of the opposing team. It is good we scored the first goal.

The fans massive support and the song, and cheers were marvelous and very inspiring.

I once again thank JICA and F.C.TOKYO once again and with strong determination we shall never walk alone.

**Mr. YEBOAH Abel Kofi, GHANA**



## 3 Autumn Festival [Sep.23 (Tue.Holiday)]



On September 23, about 70 participants enjoyed Autumn Festival. They carried "Mikoshi" (portable shrine) and beat Japanese drum with neighbors around JICA Tokyo.

Carrying a Mikoshi together plays an important role to encourage a sense of community and to bond ties with neighbors.



# Toward the 30th Anniversary of JICA Tokyo

In addition, JICA Tokyo will be celebrating its 30th anniversary next year since its establishment here in Shibuya-ku, Tokyo in 1985.

In the last 30 years, more than 50,000 participants received training based in JICA Tokyo. Moreover, we have played the role as a venue for enabling people of the local community to become aware of Japan's international cooperation and JICA projects. In addition, amid rising awareness of disaster prevention in recent years, the local Shibuya municipal government has designated JICA Tokyo as a facility for accommodating people unable to return home (after disasters), and we have also carried out maintenance for that purpose.

Earlier this year, we renovated some facilities in the JICA Tokyo building through construction work to address deterioration and enhance resistance to disasters and earthquakes. Nothing has changed with regard to our attitude to serve as a "home away from home" where the training participants can reside safely and with a peace of mind.

When we post photos of the inside of the facilities and scenes of training programs on our Facebook site, we receive many comments from former participants who came to Japan and returned home many years ago – comments like, "It brings back memories," and "I Love JICA Tokyo."

Moving forward, we will continue to play a role as a national institution in the city center, while cherishing cooperation with the local community.



## JICA News July 1985 Issue

Article reporting on the Opening Ceremony of the (then) Tokyo International Training Center on June 26, 1985.

The second person from the right in the front row is then Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe (father of current Prime Minister Shinzo Abe)

# WORLD TOUR in JICA TOKYO

During this milestone year, which marks the 60th anniversary of Japan's ODA program and the 30th anniversary of JICA Tokyo, we at JICA Tokyo will hold a commemorative exhibition titled "World Tour" inside the JICA Tokyo.

This exhibition features mainly the introductions on home countries by the participants themselves who stayed at JICA Tokyo as well as a variety of souvenirs brought by them. In addition, we are also displaying the products manufactured by the Japanese NGOs who are active in developing countries in collaboration with the Japanese ODA program. Furthermore, we hope Japanese people centering on residents of the neighborhood to become more familiar with the roles of the ODA and JICA

projects, as well as the countries of the world, and gain an interest in such matters.

On the occasion of this exhibition, training participants currently staying at JICA Tokyo and former participants who studied here and have returned home have sent us many messages about "what they take pride in with regard to their home countries."

All our staff members have done extensive preparation and studies to make sure that Japanese people visiting JICA Tokyo and training participants currently staying here will be able to enjoy this tour.

Please enjoy!



WELCOME MESSAGE Corner and this event leader, Mr. TAKEO

## WORLD TOUR GUIDE MAP

@JICA TOKYO

### Oceania

"Australia" and "New Zealand" are the first countries that many Japanese people cite when they are asked about countries that form Oceania. At JICA Tokyo, however, Pacific Ocean island nations known as "Oceania" are the main subjects.

As the countries of Oceania are surrounded by the ocean like Japan, coexistence with the ocean is essential to the livelihood and development of these countries. We will introduce the attractiveness of these Pacific Ocean island nations, which are blessed with the beautiful natural environment and unique cultures, through panels that have been kindly provided by an international organization known as the Pacific Islands Center (PIC), along with the folk art pieces we have received from training participants.



### Central and South America

Hola! In the Central and South America section, we will tell you about the attractiveness of the Latin American countries, which are on the opposite side of the earth from Japan.

The countries we introduce extend over a vast area from Mexico, Central America, the islands in the Caribbean Sea, and the South American continent. They offer many interesting things for you to view such their ancient history, culture, and beautiful nature.

In order to convey to children the attractiveness of the countries of Latin America, such as these, we plan to display exhibits using magnets that can be manually moved for an enjoyable learning experience.



### Africa

Mother Earth Africa – Nevertheless, you cannot sum up Africa in a single word, as there are 54 countries in Africa, and they all have different climates, cultures, and people's lifestyles.

We want you to know about the attractiveness of Africa, not just the animals that live there. We tried to collect what Africa is famous for, what is not known about Africa, how Japan is viewed in Africa, and how Africa is viewed in Japan.

All is different, but all is one. Please enjoy the Africa zone.



### Eurasia

Eurasia is a vast region that includes Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. There are completely different cultures in the area extending from the west to east, and a variety of people, culture, and climate, have created the beautiful natural landscape, lifestyles, and traditions of each area. Due to the limited space, we cannot tell you about everything, but we would be glad if you can feel the diversity of each area and the attractiveness of each country, and gain an interest in them through the comments and photos of the training participants from Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

