

The JICA USA Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication which provides information on JICA's activities in Washington, DC and around the world. If you are interested in receiving this electronic newsletter, please contact jicaus-newsletter@jica.go.jp to be added to our mailing list.

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Highlighting JICA's response to the Ebola outbreak



Mrs. Ruhle, Charge d' Affairs of Liberia High Commission in Ghana receives relief item from H.E. Mr. Nikai, Japanese Ambassador to Ghana.

The Government of Japan, through JICA, has donated emergency relief supplies to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea in response to the Ebola outbreak that is continuing to spread throughout these three countries. JICA has also dispatched two experts in response to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa.

On the morning of September 4, 2014 H.E. Mr. Naoto Nikai, Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs. Musu J. Ruhle, Charge d'Affairs of Liberia High Commission in Ghana, Ms. Pippa Bradford, Country Director of WFP Ghana, Mr. Hiroshi Sumiyoshi, Senior Representative JICA Ghana and other officials participated in a handover ceremony to commemorate the delivery of Japanese relief items to Liberia. The ceremony took place at a WFP/UNHRD Ghana warehouse in Accra. The items will be airlifted from Accra and will be received by

National Ebola Task Force in Liberia, which will distribute the supplies to several ETUs (Ebola Treatment Units).

On September 5, 2014 JICA delivered Emergency Relief Goods to the Government of Sierra Leone at a central storage of the Ghanaian’s Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

As detailed in the below table, the supplies include tents, generators, water purifiers and water tanks that total an estimated \$865,000 in value (including transportation costs). The donations will be used in hospitals and clinics, which continue to experience growing numbers of patients and are at full capacity. Lack of water and electricity are also important concerns these supplies will address in part.



Mr. Milhaud of UNHRD briefs Mrs. Ruhle H.E. and Amb. Nikai about items to be sent to Liberia by WFP/UNHRD.

JICA’s In-Kind Donations to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

	Tents	Blankets	Sleeping Pads	Jerry Cans	Generators	Cord Reels	Water Purifiers	Water Tanks	Non-Contact Thermometers	Tarp rolls	Estimated Value
Guinea	-	-	500	200	38	50	50	13	290	-	\$289,000
Liberia	100	500	500	500	25	-	30	30	-	30	\$293,000
Sierra Leone	70	400	400	400	31	-	-	40	-	40	\$283,000
Total	170	900	1,400	1,100	94	50	80	83	290	70	\$865,000

Breakdown of JICA’s in-kind donations to the three West African countries most affected by the Ebola epidemic

In addition to the emergency supplies, JICA is also providing Sierra Leone and Liberia 20,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as part of a first round of PPE distribution. The PPEs have been donated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and up to 100,000 sets may eventually be distributed as needed.

JICA has also been supporting the fight against Ebola through technical cooperation efforts, including support for centers of containment, enhancement of border control along national borders as well as at airports and seaports, enhancement of control measures at medical

institutions and support for educational campaigns (notably in Nigeria and Zambia, where Ebola's spread was contained).



Emergency Relief Goods from Japan offloaded from a truck.

Additionally, on October 20th, two experts from the National Institute of Infectious Diseases left for Sierra Leone, where they plan to participate in the World Health Organization (WHO)'s mission in response to the Ebola outbreak. The Government of Japan is in talks with the WHO about sending additional Japanese expert to Ebola-affected countries.

As of October 21st, the World Health Organization confirmed that over 4,500 people had died of the Ebola virus.

Related links

- [Japan donates emergency relief items to Liberia](#)
- [Hand-Over Ceremony for Emergency Relief Goods in Sierra Leone](#)
- [JICA to Send Emergency Supplies to Guinea in Response to Ebola Outbreak](#)
- [JICA to Send Emergency Supplies to Liberia in Response to Ebola Outbreak](#)
- [JICA to Send Emergency Supplies to Sierra Leone in Response to Ebola Outbreak](#)
- [JICA Provides Sierra Leone and Liberia with Personal Protective Equipment Donated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to Prevent the Spread of the Ebola Virus](#)
- [JICA Sends Experts in Response to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa](#)

JICA signs innovative financing agreement with Gates Foundation for Polio eradication in Nigeria

On September 17, 2014 Mr. Hiroshi Kato, Vice-President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Dr. Christopher Elias, President of the Global Development Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation) signed an innovative financing agreement to support the polio eradication campaign in Nigeria.



The signing ceremony was held via a video conference system connecting Tokyo and Seattle.

As part of the partnership, the Government of Japan agrees to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan of up to 8.285 billion yen (approximately 77 million USD) to the Federal Government of Nigeria to support polio eradication efforts and the procurement of 476 million oral polio vaccine doses to inoculate children under the age of five throughout Nigeria. The loan applies an innovative financing approach referred to as a “Loan Conversion” mechanism. Under the agreement, the Gates Foundation will repay the loan to JICA on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria if the project is successfully



Dr. Christopher Elias, President of the Global Development Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Photo: BMGF/Rachel Lonsdale)

implemented by the Nigerian government. The aim of this innovative mechanism is to support the recipient government’s commitment to its polio eradication efforts without imposing a financial burden. This is the second time JICA applies this loan conversion mechanism with the Gates Foundation, having used it in 2011 with a loan to Pakistan.

Having the largest population and economies of scale in Africa, Nigeria has one of the highest rates of economic growth in the world. Despite rapid growth, it has higher maternal mortality and child mortality rates than other African nations. Nigeria is one of only three countries in the world where polio has not been eliminated, and the only one in Africa where the disease is endemic. Earlier this year, due to the threat of

the virus spreading across borders and as a measure to protect the progress to date, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared polio a public health emergency of international concern.

The Federal Government of Nigeria established the Presidential Task Force on Polio Eradication and launched the Nigeria Polio Eradication Emergency Plan in 2012. The number of polio cases in Nigeria has steadily fallen in the past few years from 122 in 2012 to 53 in 2013 to only 6 as of September 3rd for 2014. This steady decline in cases represents major progress in stopping the transmission of polio. Even so, the funding requirement for 2014-2015 remains a challenge.



JICA Vice President Hiroshi Kato

Japan's long-standing support for polio eradication around the world is in line with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)'s framework. The partnership brings together different stakeholders such as the World Bank for co-financing, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for vaccine procurement and the WHO for service delivery of the polio campaign. This collaborative partnership, coupled with the Japanese ODA loan, will help the Federal Government of Nigeria step up its activities to eradicate polio from the entire country.

About

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assists developing countries as the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). In accordance with its vision of "Inclusive and Dynamic Development," JICA supports the resolution of developing countries' issues by using the most suitable assistance mechanisms, such as technical cooperation, ODA loans and grant aid in an integrated manner.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary

International, UNICEF, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Since 1988, more than 20 million volunteers have supported GPEI in its goal to end polio worldwide.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people - especially those with the fewest resources - have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the Foundation is led by CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

Related Links

- [Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Federal Republic of Nigeria](#)
- [The Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Announce Partnership on Polio Eradication](#)

JICA President Tanaka attends high-level meetings at the United Nations General Assembly

Of focus during his week-long visit were JICA's role and contribution on climate change, African development and health indicators

Promoting sustainable cities



JICA President Akihiko Tanaka speaks about the importance of sustainable urban development.

At Climate Summit 2014, held on September 23, 2014 Dr. Tanaka participated in a discussion on low-carbon urban development that is resilient to climate change. Heads of major local governments from around the world, including the governor of California, the mayor of Seoul and the mayor of Paris, declared their resolve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to defeat climate change. Alongside local governments' announced measures, JICA President Akihiko Tanaka talked from the standpoint of a development assistance institution that supports initiatives of developing countries and cities. He spoke about JICA's funding policy assistance and capacity building activities, as well as JICA's cooperation with other agencies through the International Development Finance Club¹, to which JICA belongs. He also announced JICA's participation in the Cities Climate Finance Leadership

Alliance², a new initiative launched at this summit aimed at helping cities become more resilient and sustainable.

The importance of infrastructure development in Africa

On September 24, 2014 Dr. Tanaka attended a meeting on infrastructure development in Africa hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The president of Ghana, the prime minister of Ethiopia and other participating representatives from the chair countries of the Regional Economic Communities voiced their perspectives on the challenges of infrastructure in Africa. As the last speaker, Dr. Tanaka touched on the following JICA initiatives: 1) assisting long-term African-led development strategies such as Program for Infrastructure Development for Africa (PIDA), 2) promoting corridor development and formulation of strategic master plans announced at the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), 3) building soft infrastructure such as One Stop

Border Posts, 4) human resource development through the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative⁽³⁾ to enhance infrastructure project management, and 5) the importance of using Japanese technology and promoting investment through public-private partnerships.

In his concluding remarks, he gave his assurance that JICA will continue to support the efforts of

African countries to develop infrastructure, which is the driving force behind African economic development. In particular, he talked about investments in Ghana's combined cycle thermal power station (total project cost of 90 billion yen) through a public-private partnership with a major Japanese company that was announced just before the meeting. He called it a good example of Japan-Africa business partnership with concerted Japanese support, which JICA also contributed to by facilitating contact between Japanese investors and African development finance institutions. Participants expressed appreciation for these initiatives.



JICA promises to continue supporting efforts for infrastructure development in Africa.

Initiatives to improve health indicators

On September 24, 2014 Dr. Tanaka also participated in a high-level meeting, co-chaired by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan, with representatives from institutions involved in global health. Since last year's General Assembly, a multi-agency working group has had a series of discussions on making health indicators more effective to reduce the reporting burden on developing countries. As a result of these discussions, stakeholders agreed on a standard set of core health indicators. Dr. Tanaka spoke about how Japan plans to participate in the International Health Partnership Plus, which is becoming more important as an assistance platform in the field of global health, including with regard to core health indicators.

Notes:

1. The International Development Finance Club is an international network made up of 22 national, international and regional development finance institutions from both developed countries and emerging nations. With their activities centered on the field of green finance, members work together to research and carry out joint projects and advocate in international society.

2. Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance is an international alliance to expand the mobilization of funds for urban infrastructure development that is low-carbon and resilient to climate change. Local governments, public and private development finance institutions, NGOs and think tanks participate.

3. The African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for the Youth was proposed at TICAD V. It is an initiative based on public-private partnerships in which young, talented Africans are selected to study at Japanese universities and intern at Japanese companies. Graduates are also given the chance to build valuable networks that will be beneficial to their future careers. Participants in the program will play a critical role in developing lasting connections between African and Japanese businesses.

Related Links

- [JICA President Tanaka Emphasizes Health and Hunger at U.N. General Assembly in New York](#)

JICA President Tanaka has productive consultations 2014 World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings

By Yumiko Locussol, Program Officer



Panelists at the Resilience Dialogue held on October 10th. Left to right: World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change Rachel Kyte; European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva; Moderator Kathleen Koch, Prime Minister of Grenada Keith Mitchell; USAID Assistant Administrator Nancy Lindborg and JICA President Akihiko Tanaka. [Photo courtesy of World Bank]

Resilience Dialogue

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka visited Washington, D.C., on October 10 and 11 for the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings.

On October 10, Dr. Tanaka participated in the 7th Resilience Dialogue, which took place along the sidelines of the Annual Meetings. In addition to Dr. Tanaka, the distinguished panel was comprised of World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change Rachel Kyte, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva, USAID Assistant Administrator Nancy Lindborg, and Prime Minister of Grenada Keith Mitchell. The discussion was moderated by former CNN Correspondent Kathleen Koch.

The development agencies represented noted that resilience is increasingly integrated into development assistance so as to better prepare communities against the shocks induced by natural disasters. Dr. Tanaka, drawing on Japan's vast experience dealing with disasters, stressed the importance of looking at countries' different levels of vulnerability when providing aid. He highlighted that it is important to assess the risks specific to each country, both as they related to frequent and infrequent disasters of varying magnitudes.

Dr. Tanaka also touched upon the need for financing mechanisms that are adapted to the diverse types of risks countries face, as well as the unique stages of reconstruction. It is with this belief in mind that JICA signed a \$500 million ODA loan agreement with the Philippines to rapidly provide funds in a post-disaster context and credit for urgent recovery. Furthermore, Dr. Tanaka underscored the need to be exceptionally mindful of countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate shocks, such as small island states. When deciding which countries should be graduated from the International Development Association (IDA), he warned against mechanically applying criteria such as the economic growth rates because these do not capture a country's vulnerability to climate shocks, which can erase all progress made.



JICA President Tanaka speaks about understanding countries' different levels of vulnerability. [Photo courtesy of World Bank]

With regards to the role of the private sector, Dr. Tanaka agreed with fellow panelists that it has an important part to play in building resilience, but he stressed that it is the government's strong will that will ensure resilient infrastructure. When building schools or investing in large-scale infrastructure projects, governments need to ensure that they are building them to sustain shocks, be they earthquakes, landslides or other disasters. The construction of multi-use facilities can be key in reducing damage, as was the case in Sendai,

whose strategically placed expressway helped stop the tsunami from advancing further inland, whose parking lots served as a centers from which to dispatch relief and whose schools acted as shelters.

The Resilience Dialogue served as an important venue at which to further the discussion on building resilience and the need to invest in prevention. JICA is eager to continue this conversation at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

Other key meetings

In addition to his participation in the Resilience Dialogue, while in Washington, Dr. Tanaka held talks with Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Bank, on the post-2015 Development Agenda and the response to Ebola. He also spoke with Chief Executive Officer of the French Development Agency Anne Paugam

about the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the upcoming 2014 and 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP20 and 21) and strengthening cooperation on the ground.

With Arsenio Balisacan, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Director-General of the Philippines' National Economic and Development Authority, and Amando M. Tetangco Jr., Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines, he discussed assistance to the Bangsamoro, reconstruction assistance after Typhoon Yolanda and further strengthening cooperation to improve infrastructure, mainly in the Manila metropolitan area.

Furthermore, prior to arriving to Washington, DC, Dr. Tanaka visited Stanford University and UC-Berkeley, where he gave a lecture focused on the 60th anniversary of Japan's international cooperation. As part of his trip to Silicon Valley, he visited business incubators run by technology entrepreneurs. He also held talks with David Arnold, president of the Asia Foundation, to discuss the status of cooperation in Myanmar, Afghanistan and other countries.

Related Links

- [Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of the Philippines](#)
- [JICA President Tanaka Attends the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, D.C.](#)

JICA Senior Gender Adviser Tanaka speaks at CSIS about women's empowerment

By Stace Nicholson, Senior Program Officer



Left to right: Eileen Pennington, Associate Director of The Asia Foundation's Women's Empowerment Program; Amanda Van Den Dool, Program Analyst at USAID; Yumiko Tanaka, Senior Advisor on Gender and Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Amy Studdart (moderator), Deputy Director & Fellow, William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy, CSIS. [Photo courtesy of Asia Foundation]

On September 23, at an event hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C., JICA Senior Advisor for Gender and Development Dr. Yumiko Tanaka outlined JICA's efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries.

As the organizers of the CSIS event noted, Dr. Tanaka's presentation came within the context of a series of international conferences held this year to draw attention to the importance of women to Japan and across the world.

In March, as part of the Japan-Africa Business Women Exchange Program that was launched during the Fifth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD V) in 2013, JICA brought together hundreds of businesswomen from several African countries and the Tokyo metropolitan region for the "Empowerment of Women through Entrepreneurship" Conference. This conference, co-organized with the U.S. State Department, provided networking opportunities for those women entrepreneurs in attendance, as well as a platform for them to share the challenges they have confronted in building successful businesses.

Subsequently, the landmark World Assembly for Women was held in Tokyo. Dubbed “WAW Tokyo 2014,” the conference featured a keynote address by Japanese Prime Minister Abe, in which he unveiled a number of initiatives his government has taken to advance the role of women in Japanese society.

Against this backdrop, Dr. Tanaka noted that JICA’s gender-mainstreaming interventions fall within five priority categories: women’s economic empowerment, women’s rights and security, women’s education and health, gender-responsive governance, and gender-responsive infrastructure. She then highlighted JICA projects that are helping to make a difference in these areas.

Dr. Tanaka explained that JICA has been particularly active in addressing women’s economic empowerment through agriculture and rural development. This, she clarified, is because most women in developing countries live in rural areas and derive their livelihood from agricultural production.

In Tanzania, for example, JICA implemented the Kilimanjaro Agriculture Technology Training Project II, which offered co-ed training programs for rice farmers so that women farmers could not only adequately voice their needs, but also become more involved in decision-making at home. As a result, the project achieved an average increase in paddy yields of one ton per hectare. According to Dr. Tanaka, such a positive impact underscores the importance of promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment as a stand-alone goal so as to improve the effectiveness of development projects in all sectors.

Furthermore, Dr. Tanaka pointed out that JICA is supporting women’s development centers in six regions in Nigeria, along with many other kinds of skill development and vocational training projects involving women in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Philippines, as well as in some Latin American countries.

Dr. Tanaka then detailed some of the many ways in which JICA has worked to advance women’s security. In the Philippines, JICA’s Project on Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda integrates quick impact surveys to ensure women’s needs are taken into account during the reconstruction of economic and social infrastructure, such as fish processing factories, healthcare facilities and schools. In Africa, JICA recently collaborated with the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) to train 20,000 police officers and raise their awareness against gender-based violence. Likewise, JICA has undertaken anti-human trafficking projects in Thailand since 2009, and in Myanmar and Vietnam since 2012. These activities include establishing a hotline system to support trafficked persons,

strengthening the skills of counselors, enhancing networks among peer-support groups and improving coordination among concerned national agencies.

Finally, with respect to gender-friendly infrastructure, Dr. Tanaka mentioned that JICA has set a good example by providing sari guards, women-only coaches, security cameras, and emergency alarms for women who travel on the mass transit system in India's capital of New Delhi.

To conclude her remarks, Dr. Tanaka observed that JICA is currently exploring further collaboration with the U.S. on women's economic empowerment projects in the Lower Mekong region. In order to further strengthen U.S.-Japan cooperation in this field, she opined that both sides need to analyze their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges together.

JICA recognizes that eliminating gender inequality is essential to realizing its goal of inclusive development. Therefore, JICA will continue to mold an environment where women--half of the world's population--can reach their full potential.

Program Officer Yumiko Locussol joins JICA USA

I am honored to be joining JICA USA as the Program Officer focusing on Health, Gender and Education and liaising with the US aid community. As an international development practitioner of Japanese descent, I am ecstatic to be supporting JICA's work from its Washington, DC office.

My previous work experience include administering grants at the US State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and working as part of the Finance team at the United Nations Foundation (UNF). Most recently, I worked on a Saudi-funded university scholarship program that provides students from the Kingdom the opportunity to study in the US at the undergraduate level. I also have field experience, having worked in Argentina, Peru and the Dominican Republic on non-formal education programs. I hold a Master's degree in International Educational Development from Teacher's College, Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from McGill University.



Yumiko Locussol will focus on Health, Gender and Education.

I look forward to continuing to grow as a professional in my new role at JICA USA.