

From December 9-10, 2019, JICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) held their annual bilateral consultation dialogue at the IDB Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Dialogue served as an opportunity for both institutions to take stock of the progress made toward achieving the goals of the ongoing JICA-IDB collaboration for the promotion of quality infrastructure in the LAC region under the [Co-Financing for Renewable Energy and Efficiency \(CORE\) program \(external link\)](#). JICA and IDB delegates also explored areas of potential collaboration in sectors beyond infrastructure development, particularly those associated with human security, health, education, and migration.

Led by Gen Yoneda, Deputy Director General of JICA's Latin American and Caribbean Department, a combined delegation from JICA headquarters, JICA Nicaragua and JICA USA attended this productive summit.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, JICA and IDB representatives discussed the future of CORE. Delegates from both organizations acknowledged the approval of several energy sector projects under CORE to date; they also recognized ample potential for additional collaboration in water and sanitation programming. In this spirit, in order to generate concrete ideas for enhanced JICA-IDB collaboration, JICA judiciously proposed organizing discussions among JICA and IDB staff at the country-office level in the project identification stage.

Notably, both organizations also cited the work of JICA secondees dispatched to the IDB as being instrumental for the future of the JICA-IDB partnership.



*JICA and IDB representatives engaging in fruitful discussions at the annual consultation dialogue*



*JICA and IDB delegates pose for a picture at the conclusion of a work session*

Since 2010, JICA secondees dispatched to the IDB Infrastructure and Environment Sector (currently Infrastructure and Energy Sector), Energy Division have been advancing the JICA-IDB bilateral partnership. JICA secondees facilitate key decision-making processes for project approvals under the umbrella of the JICA-IDB partnership. They are engaged in numerous tasks, including project formulation, analysis and coordination of joint JICA-IDB activities. Their ultimate goal is to maximize the development results of joint interventions by promoting projects that mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

This secondment program has already delivered outstanding results. Their contributions have been vital in helping JICA and IDB expand the CORE initiative, which now includes not only energy sector projects but also key water and sanitation projects, as well as collaboration in the transportation sector.

Armed with the contributions of JICA secondees and the ideas generated at the latest annual bilateral consultation dialogue, JICA stands ready to take its partnership with the IDB to new heights. To this end, Deputy Director General Yoneda expressed JICA's willingness to leverage existing cooperation to tackle crucial issues faced by LAC countries, including migration crises and climate change related challenges, among others, alongside the IDB. Accordingly, both organizations agreed to convene a follow-up dialogue in Tokyo in the near future to fine tune future potential interventions. Finally, JICA took note of the IDB's assessment of the need for enhanced quality in the supply of infrastructure services in LAC.

As JICA and the IDB continue to work together toward accelerating regional progress, the Dialogue between the two partners serves as a foundation for establishing stronger partnerships to accelerate the organizations' common interests and shared efforts.

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