

## 6. Latin America and the Caribbean

With a population of 600 million and a regional GDP of approximately \$6 trillion (2013), Latin America and the Caribbean is an enormous market. The region has steadily increased its presence in the international community through the consolidation of democracy and relatively stable growth since 2008, and as a provider of iron ore, copper, silver, rare metals, crude oil, natural gas, biofuels, and other minerals and energy resources, as well as food resources. Although the average income level in the

### <Japan's Efforts>

Latin American and Caribbean countries often suffer from natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, and volcano eruptions. Therefore, Japan's assistance to these countries, utilizing Japan's knowledge and experience in the field of disaster risk reduction has special importance. Japan provided reconstruction and development support to Haiti, which suffered catastrophic damage from the huge earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 in January 2010. It has also provided assistance in anti-earthquake and anti-tsunami measures for countries in the Caribbean Sea and countries bordering the Pacific Ocean. Furthermore, the Project on Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management in Central America "BOSAI," which aims to share knowledge of disaster risk reduction and reduce disaster risks at the community level, has achieved significant results in the Central American region.



Community-based disaster risk reduction initiative conducted in San Pedro Masahuat City, El Salvador. Primary school students learning how to save people trapped under rubble. (Photo: Ernest Manzano / JICA)

In recent years, Latin America and the Caribbean have been attracting attention as a manufacturing base and market, and many Japanese companies are expanding their businesses to this region. A training session on cardiac catheterization techniques\* inviting medical doctors from Mexico in 2011 is expected to promote the dissemination of Japanese companies' techniques across the Latin American

region is relatively high among ODA recipient countries, the region is also characterized by significant income disparities between the rich and the poor and a large number of people suffering from poverty. In addition, while the region boasts rich in natural environments such as the Amazon Rainforest, it is also vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes. Therefore, efforts to address environmental issues, climate change and disaster risk reduction are also important.

and the Caribbean region. In addition, from the perspective of laying the foundation for the economic development of Latin American and the Caribbean countries, Japan has been actively implementing infrastructure development in the capital and regional areas.

Japan has been providing cooperation in a wide range of issues such as in addressing environmental issues in the region. These include assistance to scientific and technological research on climatic phenomena, conservation of biodiversity, evaluation of carbon dynamics<sup>5</sup> of Amazonian forests, and construction of waste disposal facilities. In the area of renewable energy, which has been receiving increasing attention in recent years, Japan has provided support for introducing solar power generation in many countries, and also plans to support the construction of geothermal power plants.

Japan also provides various kinds of cooperation for Latin American and the Caribbean countries in the medical and healthcare area. In the Central American region, Japan has provided technical assistance to eradicate Chagas disease, a parasitic disease specific to the region, and has been contributing to the reduction of infection risk. In



The ceremony for the completion of the new sewerage system developed through the "Proyecto de construcción del sistema de alcantarillado en Cunduna Potable de Cunduna" in FY2012 in Riobamba City in Chimborazo Province, the central mountain area in Ecuador. (Photo: Yutaka Sonoda / Embassy of Japan in Ecuador)

Note 5: Changes in the carbon amount in a given period

Paraguay, Japan has provided assistance in the renovation of university hospitals and provision of medical equipment. In the area of sanitation, Japan also implements numerous projects to assist in the construction and improvement of water and sewer systems in various countries, including Peru, in order to ensure the provision of safe drinking water and to promote the recycling of domestic water in these countries.

Assistance in the area of education is extremely important for Latin American and Caribbean countries, as poverty still remains high and the educational budget is not sufficient in these countries. Japan has provided support for building educational facilities such as primary schools, as well as dispatching volunteers to improve the capacity of teachers. Such efforts are highly appreciated in these countries.

In small island states in the Caribbean Sea, the fishery industry is vital in terms of supplying food to the people and creating employment opportunities. In this light, Japan contributes to the sustainable use of fishery resources in these areas through fishery sector assistance.

One of the results of Japan's long years of development cooperation can be seen in Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and



In November 2014, the Fourth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference was held in Tokyo, inviting foreign ministers and other officials from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states, which comprise of 14 countries.

Argentina. These four countries have come to obtain the capacity to assist other countries, and achieved results in South-South Cooperation\*. Japan has signed partnership programs with these countries. For example, Japan has worked together with Brazil to provide agricultural development cooperation in Mozambique. Japan also joined hands with Mexico to provide similar cooperation in Paraguay. In cooperation with Argentina, the Dominican Republic and other countries, Japan is providing assistance for the reconstruction process after the earthquake in Haiti.

Japan has cooperated with the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and other regional organizations to formulate wide-ranging projects in order to achieve more effective and efficient development cooperation related to development issues that are shared throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Under the public-private partnership (PPP), Japan has endeavored to introduce Japanese ISDB-T<sup>6</sup> standards for terrestrial digital TV. By the end of September 2013, this system has been adopted by 12 Latin American countries. Japan has supported these countries by transferring technology and training experts to enable the smooth implementation of the system.

Moreover, Japan has provided approximately \$190 million in assistance to date for reconstruction efforts in Haiti, which was hit by the major earthquakes in 2010. It will continue providing reconstruction support from a mid- to long-term perspective, with a focus on basic social services such as health, sanitation and education.



As part of the Project for Strengthening Pedagogical and Technical Skills of Teachers of Health Training Institute, a Japanese-Brazilian expert, Ms. Lucy Sayuri Ito, having a meeting with the counterpart from the Ministry of Health of Mozambique. (Photo: Hikaru Nagatake / JICA)

## Glossary

### Cardiac catheterization

The term refers to transradial cardiac catheterization. This method involves inserting a catheter through a large blood vessel in the wrist in order to expand the blood vessels to the heart that have narrowed or become blocked.

### South-South Cooperation

Cooperation provided by relatively advanced developing countries to other developing countries, utilizing their experiences in development and own personnel. In many cases it is conducted in countries that have similar natural environments and cultural and economic circumstances, and are facing similar development challenges. In addition, support by donors or international organizations for cooperation between developing countries is referred to as "triangular cooperation."

Note 6: ISDB-T: Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial



Along with soybeans, sesame seeds are one of the major export products of Paraguay, and Japan is their largest importer. However, problems have arisen, such as replant failure caused by the continuous cultivation of sesame seeds by small farmers, and the deterioration of the quality of seeds. As a result, in some cases the sesame seed production per unit area has declined to less than half of the 1993 yields, when cultivation of sesame seeds started to increase.

Under such circumstances, since 2009, Japan has extended technical cooperation to Paraguay for providing a stable supply of high quality seeds to sesame seed small-scale farmers. Japan contributed to creating model groups of seed production farmers, and is currently promoting efforts to grow “Escoba,” the main variety of white sesame seeds, by the purification cultivation method<sup>1</sup>. In addition, Japan provides technical support for the implementation of adaptability tests of the varieties imported from Mexico and for the dissemination of promising varieties. Japan also offers technical support to increase the technical guidance and seed management capacities of Universidad Nacional de Asuncion, which has campuses in three sesame-producing Departments. The university provides technical guidance to sesame seeds farmers at the request of private companies. In Phase II of the technical cooperation that started in 2012, Japan continues to provide cooperation for the production of high quality seeds including black sesame seeds, along with white sesame seeds, as well as for the improvement of sesame seed cultivation techniques and the promotion of partnerships between the industrial, academic, and public sectors.

This cooperation is implemented in collaboration with Mexico, which has advanced techniques in sesame seed production, under the framework of the Japan and Mexico Partnership Program<sup>2</sup> (JMPP). Japan’s assistance based on the cooperative relations between Japan, Paraguay, and Mexico is expected to be significantly fruitful.

(As of August 2014)

- \*1 In the purification method, seeds of one variety are selected from the seeds of mixed varieties. The seeds then go through the process of germination, sprouting, and cultivation. When seeds are sprouted, the seedlings of different varieties that were mixed in will be removed, leaving only one variety at the time of harvest.
- \*2 A partnership program is a project in which a former aid recipient developing country becomes a donor country, and provides cooperation to other developing countries on an equal footing with Japan. Japan has partnership programs or has signed similar agreements with 12 countries including Mexico.



Selection of superior sesame seeds is conducted in the project.  
(Photo: JICA)

In Peru, while the electrification rate has reached over 90% in urban areas, the figure is still around 32% in rural areas – a low level even among Latin American and Caribbean countries. Since 1993, the Government of Peru has actively undertaken electrification projects in rural areas, and succeeded in raising their average electrification rate from 5% to 32% in ten years through 2003. However, depopulated areas such as mountainous areas continue to have high electrification needs.

The Regions of Cajamarca, Huánuco, and Loreto have the lowest electrification rates among all Regions of Peru. In this project, power transmission and distribution networks will be developed and improved in the Region of Cajamarca to raise the electrification rate in the project areas, and thereby, improve the living standard of the people living in the areas.

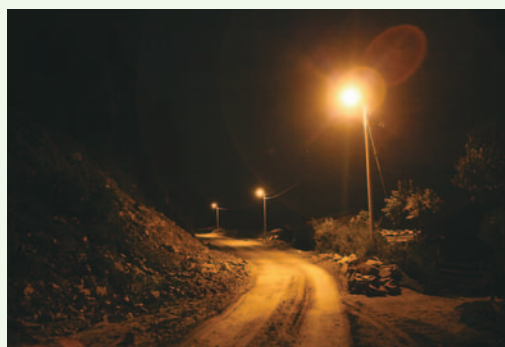
The project is being implemented in the 12 areas of the Region of Cajamarca. The funds provided through ODA loans (up to ¥4,171 million) covered expenses for the materials and equipment necessary for the development and improvement of power transmission and distribution networks in these areas, the construction work, consulting services, among other expenses. All construction work has been completed in the 12 areas. Currently, the regional government of Cajamarca, the executing agency of this project, is gradually handing over power distribution network facilities to the local power distribution companies that will be responsible for the maintenance of such facilities.

The project will provide power to 950 villages in the 12 areas of the Region of Cajamarca. It is estimated that approximately 200,000 people from 45,000 households will newly gain access to electricity. The electrification rate in the Region of Cajamarca is expected to increase from its pre-project rate of 40% to 73%.

(As of August 2014)



A telegraph pole that also serves as a street light, which was installed through the Electric Frontier Expansion Project. Every household is now supplied with electricity, and able to use electrical appliances. (Photo: Kosuke Okahara / JICA)



Thanks to the street lights, it is easy to walk on the streets at night, which were pitch-dark in the past. (Photo: Kosuke Okahara / JICA)

## Japan's international cooperation policy in Latin America and the Caribbean Region



The ceremony for the completion of the "Proyecto de mejoramiento del Sistema de agua potable en Puruhuy district" in FY2012 in Echeandia City in Bolívar Province, the inland area of Ecuador. (Photo: Yutaka Sonoda / Embassy of Japan in Ecuador)



An international symposium held at the National Genetic Resources Centre in Jalisco State in the central west of Mexico. A Japanese researcher demonstrating ultra low-temperature preservation in front of the participants from American countries. (Photo: Ryoko Machida)

Chart II-13 / Japan's Assistance in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Calendar year: 2013

(US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants			Total	Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants provided through multilateral institutions	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
1	Brazil	1.40	—	27.00	28.40	67.63	110.39	-42.76	-14.35	96.03
2	Peru	0.98	—	11.85	12.83	50.84	103.87	-53.03	-40.20	63.67
3	Paraguay	11.07	—	10.60	21.67	3.60	36.92	-33.31	-11.65	25.27
4	El Salvador	14.16	—	8.75	22.91	—	18.57	-18.57	4.34	22.91
5	Nicaragua	11.73	—	7.39	19.12	—	—	—	19.12	19.12
6	Costa Rica	0.47	—	3.93	4.40	13.43	26.18	-12.75	-8.35	17.83
7	Guatemala	2.28	—	6.29	8.57	8.49	9.24	-0.75	7.82	17.06
8	Bolivia	2.60	—	11.69	14.29	—	0.51	-0.51	13.78	14.29
9	Honduras	5.40	—	8.61	14.02	—	—	—	14.02	14.02
10	Mexico	0.40	—	13.09	13.49	—	52.27	-52.27	-38.78	13.49
11	Haiti	10.93	1.63	2.47	13.41	—	—	—	13.41	13.41
12	Colombia	2.45	0.11	7.69	10.13	—	—	—	10.13	10.13
13	Dominican Republic	2.59	—	7.50	10.10	—	9.15	-9.15	0.95	10.10
14	Ecuador	0.56	—	7.60	8.15	—	17.49	-17.49	-9.34	8.15
15	Argentina	0.37	—	7.30	7.66	—	6.56	-6.56	1.11	7.66
16	Panama	0.81	0.30	3.75	4.57	2.77	7.17	-4.41	0.16	7.33
17	Cuba	1.47	—	4.19	5.66	—	—	—	5.66	5.66
18	Chile	1.02	—	3.64	4.65	—	1.03	-1.03	3.62	4.65
19	Uruguay	1.21	—	1.41	2.63	—	1.98	-1.98	0.65	2.63
20	Jamaica	0.38	—	1.78	2.16	—	20.31	-20.31	-18.15	2.16
21	Venezuela	0.13	—	1.50	1.64	—	—	—	1.64	1.64
22	Belize	0.10	—	1.11	1.22	—	—	—	1.22	1.22
23	Saint Lucia	0.06	—	1.10	1.15	—	—	—	1.15	1.15
24	Guyana	0.34	0.20	0.66	1.00	—	—	—	1.00	1.00
25	Dominica	0.21	—	0.53	0.74	—	—	—	0.74	0.74
26	Antigua and Barbuda	—	—	0.35	0.35	—	—	—	0.35	0.35
27	Saint Vincent	—	—	0.32	0.32	—	—	—	0.32	0.32
28	Grenada	—	—	0.15	0.15	—	—	—	0.15	0.15
29	Saint Christopher and Nevis	—	—	0.15	0.15	—	—	—	0.15	0.15
30	Suriname	—	—	0.07	0.07	—	—	—	0.07	0.07
	Multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean	0.06	0.06	4.98	5.05	—	—	—	5.05	5.05
Latin America and the Caribbean region total		73.20	2.30	167.54	240.74	146.76	421.65	-274.89	-34.14	387.51

\*1 Ranking is based on gross disbursements.

\*2 Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.

\*3 Aid for multiple countries is aid in the form of seminars or survey team dispatches, etc. that spans over multiple countries within a region.

\*4 Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.

\*5 Negative numbers appear when the recovered amount of loans, etc. exceeds the disbursed amount.