

Growing Presence of Various Development Actors



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (occupational therapist), Ms. Chika Hashimoto visits people with disabilities in their homes and provides rehabilitation support as well as guidance to their families and local people as part of the assistance for promotion of community based rehabilitation (CBR) activities in Panama. (Photo: Maximo Novas)

In the international community today, various actors including the private sector, local governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are involved in global activities and play important roles in addressing development challenges and promoting sustainable growth in developing countries. Japanese companies conducting business in developing countries also take part in development activities in increasingly diverse contexts; some provide development assistance as part of their corporate social responsibility activities, while others treat these activities as a vital part of their business. Synergy can be produced if diverse actors take various approaches that

draw on their respective areas of strength. Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter was revised and renamed the Development Cooperation Charter in February 2015. The new Charter sets out that "All-Japan" cooperation involving private companies, local governments, and NGOs should be promoted. The following special article introduces development cooperation activities that are implemented hand-in-hand with a variety of partners whose presence in this field is growing.

Cooperation with Civil Society



An employee of a Textile Centre in Bandung City in Indonesia's West Java province receives training from Senior Volunteer Mr. Hiroshi Fukayama on energy conservation diagnostics at textile plants. (Photo: Perry Leksono)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are committed to enhancing public participation in a variety of ways, including: encouraging discussions and dialogues regarding development cooperation; promoting development education; disclosing information regarding the status of development cooperation; and disseminating relevant information to a wide spectrum of people, including the population in rural areas. In addition, opportunities are offered to a range of Japanese nationals to participate in actual assistance activities in developing countries, thereby gaining first-hand experience in development cooperation. Notably, it is becoming more important to carry out development cooperation through closer coordination with civil society. Examples include JICA's volunteer activities, such as the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) and Senior Volunteer (SV) programs, and collaboration with NGOs for the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance.

The JOCV program is a participatory program in which Japanese men and women aged 20 to 39 are dispatched to developing countries for a two-year period, in general, to support the countries' economic and social development while living and working with the host community. Celebrating its

50th anniversary in 2015, the JOCV program is an example of "Visible Japanese Assistance" that has been highly appreciated overseas. On the other hand, the SV program is also a participatory program where Japanese men and women between the ages of 40 and 69 engage in activities that benefit developing countries, drawing on their wide range of skills and abundant experience. The SV program is considered to be the JOCV program for seniors. In these volunteer programs, Japanese volunteers engage in development work in cooperation with the host community in developing countries, which deepens the host community's sense of connectedness with Japan and creates grassroots-level friendships between Japan and these countries.

A good example of the active engagement of JICA volunteers is the activities to preserve the historic landscape of Duong Lam Village in Northern Viet Nam. Located approximately 60 km from the capital city of Hanoi, Duong Lam Village, surrounded all around by paddy fields, is home to a nostalgic Vietnamese landscape featuring houses with light brown wooden walls and honeycomb brick paths with the drifting smell of burning rice straw. This traditional landscape was considered a potential key tourism resource for Duong Lam Village. Therefore, JICA and the Office of Duong Lam Ancient Village Management

and Preservation Board commenced a project to preserve the village's landscape from early 2007. "Preservation of cultural property" and "tourism development" are complementary. If cultural property cannot be preserved, it cannot attract tourists. Conversely, if there is no increase in revenue from tourism, preservation of cultural property will be difficult. "Revenue increases" were needed to motivate people living in historic buildings to give up "renovations to turn them into more convenient housing," and cooperate with the "preservation" of the houses. In this connection, JICA volunteers with different expertise were dispatched. For example, a JICA volunteer dispatched in the "architecture" category shared techniques for restoring historic buildings without losing their value as cultural property.



Ms. Haruka So, a Community Development Officer, conducts an interview at a candy factory in the Duong Lam Village in Viet Nam for the making of festival signs from candy. (Photo: Yuki Kato / JICA)

Meanwhile, volunteers with "business" know-how offered ideas and gave technical guidance for tourism development. Thus, JICA volunteers who were dispatched to Duong Lam Village squarely addressed both aspects of "preservation of cultural property" and "tourism development." As of 2015, a JOCV from JICA is on dispatch to the Office of Duong Lam Ancient Village Management and Preservation Board. The JOCV and local staff are working to repair and manage the private houses that are cultural properties designated by the city of Hanoi (designated private houses), as well as plan and promote local development.

The Government of Japan undertakes various initiatives through JICA to promote participation in these volunteer programs. For example, the government has traditionally provided career support to volunteers who have returned to Japan from overseas, including support for finding employment. Furthermore, the government proactively conducts outreach and other activities to encourage people to take greater advantage of the "career break" system,¹ which allows people to become JICA volunteers without quitting their jobs. In this manner, the government facilitates people's participation in volunteer programs.

A different example of participatory development cooperation is the activities of Japanese NGOs. NGOs

implement quality development cooperation activities in developing countries and regions in various sectors, including education, health, agricultural and rural development, assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and technical guidance for landmine disposal. NGOs' strengths lie in their attunement to local situations in developing countries and ability to carefully tailor their responses to the assistance needs of the host communities—assistance at the grassroots level that copes with local needs that are difficult to be addressed through assistance by governments and international organizations. In sites affected by conflict or natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons, NGOs provide prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance.

An example is the water supply and sanitation assistance in Jonglei State in South Sudan implemented in 2012 by the Japanese NGO, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), as part of emergency humanitarian assistance, with financial cooperation provided by the Japanese government through the Japan Platform (JPF).²

After gaining independence in 2011 following a civil war that lasted for over two decades, South Sudan is undergoing a state-building process that is rebuilding the lives of its citizens. However, water supply facilities remained broken due to the effects of the civil war, causing an absolute shortage in boreholes, while refugees began to repatriate to South Sudan from neighboring countries. As a result, securing sufficient access to safe water became difficult in many areas, including Jonglei State, and this in turn gave rise to sanitation problems.

To rectify this situation, PWJ, with support from the Japanese government, provided assistance for communities to repair and build boreholes, as well as establish water management committees comprised of community members. After the boreholes were completed, PWJ provided training through the community members' water management committees for the maintenance and management of the boreholes by the community members themselves. Through these efforts, safe water became accessible in Jonglei State, improving the sanitary living conditions of the people. In addition, PWJ provided supplies to IDPs who fled the clashes between the government and anti-government forces, built latrines at schools and clinics, and held sanitation workshops, among other activities.



People gather around a well with improved sanitary conditions. (Photo: PWJ)

Note 1: The career break system refers to a system in which personnel of companies, national or local governments, or schools participate in the JOCV and SV programs by taking advantage of such arrangements as "leaves" and "waiver of duty of devotion to service," thereby remaining affiliated with their organizations.

Note 2: A non-profit, emergency humanitarian aid organization established in 2000 through a partnership among NGOs, the government, and the business community.

Partnership with the Private Sector



A Hanshin Engineering team collects water samples from an existing water treatment lagoon pond to survey water quality at a palm oil factory in Malaysia.

Official finance including ODA will continue to play a central role in advancing growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. On the other hand, private finance far exceeds official finance into developing countries and the activities of the private sector are increasingly serving as a powerful engine for economic growth of developing countries, and these present circumstances need to be addressed. Based on this recognition, the Development Cooperation Charter outlines Japan's policy to promote development cooperation through public-private partnerships and partnerships with local governments in order to stimulate private-led economic development of developing countries more vigorously and to enable such development to lead to the robust growth of the Japanese economy.

Collaboration with the private sector is also an essential aspect of the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, which was announced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in May 2015 and of which the follow-up measures were announced in November 2015 (for more information, see ODA Topics "Quality Infrastructure Investment" on pages 42-43). There is a limit to what public finance alone can achieve in meeting Asia's immense infrastructure demand.

Accordingly, it is vital to develop mechanisms that attract both public and private finance to infrastructure investment in Asia. For this reason, it is important to establish a mechanism under the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure to use public finance, including ODA as a "catalyst" to mobilize private finance, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In other areas than infrastructure, it is also expected that the technologies and know-how of Japanese companies will help provide solutions to the challenges developing countries are facing. In particular, there has been a growing focus on the potential of the excellent products, technologies, and know-how of Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In a variety of development areas, the Government of Japan has stepped up its efforts to partner with Japanese SMEs that take interest in the development challenges of developing countries and that aspire to expand their overseas businesses. More specifically, the government collaborates with Japanese SMEs in a range of surveys for the SMEs to engage in development cooperation in developing countries; for example, Needs Survey in developing

countries; survey to collect local information and formulate business plans; and surveys to examine the potential use of specific products and technologies of Japanese SMEs. Furthermore, the government also collaborates with Japanese SMEs in surveys to verify ways to enhance

compatibility of products and technologies with developing countries (see below). These initiatives are continuously producing examples of the masterful techniques of Japanese SMEs contributing to improving the lives of the people in developing countries.

Partnership with Japanese SMEs using ODA

(1) Needs Survey

Surveys that take into account the establishment of development assistance projects that make use of a product, technology, etc. of an SME or other entities

(2) Promotion Survey

Survey for collecting basic information and formulating business plans necessary for the SME's overseas business (a business undertaken by direct entry into the country) that contributes to resolving the development challenges of developing countries, based on proposals from SMEs, etc.

(3) Feasibility Survey with the Private Sector for Utilizing Japanese Technologies in ODA Projects

Survey for studying the feasibility of using Japanese SMEs' products and technologies in developing countries, based on a proposal from an SMEs, etc.

(4) Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies

Surveys to verify ways for enhancing compatibility of products and technologies with developing countries and thereby disseminate the products and technologies, based on proposals from an SMEs, etc.

An example of a Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies is the initiative to address the issue of household wastewater on Cebu Island, the Philippines. In the city of Cebu in the central part of Cebu Island, the pollution of public waters and groundwater was becoming a serious problem due to the discharge of sewage without appropriate dewatering of sludge from households.

Attention was then directed to the dewatering machine for septage management developed by AMCON INC., a dewatering machinery maker in Yokohama City. This machine is not only easy to install and inexpensive, it is also capable of separating sludge including human feces into solids and liquids, enabling efficient dewatering treatment of septage.

In 2013, the Government of Japan partnered with AMCON INC. to conduct a survey to verify the practicality



Dewatering equipment with sludge treatment capacity of 10t per hour. The equipment, which features power and water saving and ease of operational control enables unattended operation around the clock. (Photo: AMCON INC.)



All septic tank sludge generated in the city is treated using dewatering equipment developed by AMCON INC., and after that transported by trucks. The water is treated appropriately and then released in rivers, and the solid parts can be composted. (Photo: AMCON INC.)

of this technology and to promote its use in Cebu. The survey found that the technology was very effective for addressing the issue of sludge treatment in this city, leading to several private companies and neighboring local governments expressing strong interest in the technology. As a result of this survey, it is highly expected that this Japanese SME's technology will resolve the serious sanitation problem in the Philippines.

For more examples of active contributions of Japanese SMEs to development cooperation, see the "Master Techniques — From Japan to the World" columns in this White Paper.

Partnership with Local Governments and Universities



Nagoya University Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory Professor Akira Mizuno and researchers from Argentina and Chile implement a joint ozone layer gauging campaign at the Patagonian Atmospheric Observatory in Rio Gallegos, Santa Cruz Department, in the southern part of Argentina. (Photo: Yuji Mitsu)

The Government of Japan has always worked closely with universities and local governments, including prefectures and municipalities, in order to implement more effective development cooperation. These partnerships will gain even further importance under the new Development Cooperation Charter. For example, the government promotes technical cooperation and ODA loan projects with a range of universities. The objective is to comprehensively address the issues developing countries are facing by drawing on the expertise of universities. In addition, the government proactively collaborates with local governments with know-how and experiences useful for development cooperation, including know-how regarding urban infrastructure management.

A study regarding water-related disaster management is one example of the government's partnership with universities. In recent years, Thailand has experienced an increasing number of water-related disasters that include floods and droughts, stimulating interest in their linkages with climate change. Against this background, from 2009, the Japanese government conducted a joint study for Thai universities with Japanese universities through JICA. The purpose of the study

was to support the Thai government's water-related disaster management by proposing models for ensuring effective management methods for Thailand's water resources as well as water disaster mitigation measures, through collaboration among Japan's University of Tokyo, Kyoto University and Tohoku University, and in partnership with Thailand's Kasetsart University. As an outcome of this study, a technology was developed that can forecast the river's water flow and then predict what the water level will be in a few hours to a few weeks' time. This technology led to the development of a monitoring network in Thailand that can monitor the water flows and water levels of rivers in almost real time. In addition, this joint study led to the development of various forecasting models useful for flood control and water utilization measures, as well as the training of many young researchers on which the future of Thailand rests. As a result, a foundation has been created for engaging in comprehensive water utilization and flood control programs by the Thai government and local governments from a long-term perspective. Assessments of the outcomes of this joint study indicate that it has been enormously useful for collecting data and designing water-related disaster mitigation measures, as well as for the Thai



Flooding in the Pathum Thani Province north of Bangkok. (Photo: Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo)

government's quick response to the major flooding that occurred in the Chao Phraya River basin in Thailand in 2011. Flooding, landslides, and water resource management are significant challenges not only in Thailand, but also in the neighboring countries in the region. It is expected that the achievements of this joint project with the involvement of Japanese and Thai universities will also be useful for addressing the issues facing the entire Southeast Asian region.

As for joint initiatives by the government and local Japanese governments, one such example is the collaborative effort between the government and Miyakojima City to support the operation of Samoa's waterworks, as described below. Samoa has few water resources though it is an island country surrounded by sea. The island has grappled with various problems that include a worsening sanitation situation during the rainy season due to the turbidity of the water in water tanks that store rainwater and groundwater, and water leakage from the water supply system. However, with the electricity supply also being unstable, Samoa did not have the capabilities to install water purification facilities, which are expensive to install, and require sophisticated maintenance and management systems and know-how. This brought attention to the technology employed by Miyakojima in Okinawa Prefecture, which has dealt with water issues specific to an island similar to Samoa. Having a flat terrain with no



People of Samoa and Miyakojima engage in joint initiatives for improvement of water tank operations. (Photo: JICA)



Japanese and Thai researchers work together to install gauging equipment in order to prevent water damage. (Photo: Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo)

mountains or rivers, Miyakojima relies on groundwater for all of its drinking water and water for agriculture. Therefore, it was necessary to develop creative approaches to effectively filter stored groundwater. In this development process, a technology called the "ecological water purification system" was created. In this method, microbes decompose impurities as water passes through layers of gravel and sand at moderate speed. This safe and low-cost "ecological water purification system" perfectly matched the needs of Samoa. Thus, since 2010, Miyakojima City has partnered with the Japanese government to provide technical training to Samoan government officials. In addition, the city dispatched water and sewerage officials to Samoa to provide technical guidance. Thanks to these initiatives, Miyakojima's "ecological water purification system" has been introduced in different areas of Samoa. The technology of Miyakojima has not only brought safe water to the people of Samoa, but has also delivered a waterworks operation that is managed by the people of Samoa.

In October 2014, the Government of Japan held a seminar on partnerships with local governments to broaden the horizons of local governments engaging in international cooperation, and to revitalize Japanese local regions through overseas programs. A total of 107 people attended the seminar, including 43 local government officials. At this seminar, JICA explained the various schemes available for local governments to conduct overseas programs using ODA. In addition, local governments that have partnered with developing countries in a variety of sectors, such as water, disaster risk reduction, and waste treatment, namely, Obihiro City, Higashi-Matsushima City, Yokohama City, Komagane City, Osaka City, Kita-Kyushu City, and Naha City, shared their experiences and know-how. For example, Obihiro City shared its experience of having held a seminar for food industry people in developing countries on food safety and distribution held in collaboration with local companies. Kita-Kyushu City explained its international cooperation programs in the water sector. Through these initiatives, the government will continue to further enhance its partnerships with local governments in the field of development cooperation.