Strengthening Partnership with Diverse Actors and Disseminating Information on Development Cooperation

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Part IV Strengthening Partnership with Diverse Actors and Disseminating Information on Development Cooperation

In addition to the assistance that Japan has extended to date centered on ODA, Japan’s development cooperation must further contribute to solving global issues based on the philosophy of human security. In order to implement such programs, not only the Government and JICA, but also diverse actors such as large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises, local governments, universities and civil society, including NGOs, need to work together, leveraging their respective strengths. In doing so, the Government of Japan will utilize ODA for small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as large companies, so that they can contribute globally. Furthermore, Japan must assist diverse actors in performing their roles in the field of development cooperation world-wide, as well as maximize the power of NGOs and civil society.

Moreover, it is essential to commit to outcomes when implementing ODA, as it is financed by tax revenues from the public. To that end, it is necessary to establish a sound governance system at JICA, which is the main implementing body of ODA, as well as to exert efforts to make sure that the development cooperation is appropriate, such as by ensuring healthy competition in its implementation. Furthermore, Japan will continue to make efforts to strengthen public relations and information dissemination in order to promote a deeper understanding of Japan’s development cooperation domestically and internationally.

1 Efforts for Strengthening Partnerships

Japan’s development cooperation is carried out in partnership with diverse actors. For development cooperation implemented by the Government and its associated agencies, it is important to strengthen collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for handling official funds such as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN), and the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan’s ICT and Postal Services (Japan ICT Fund) as well as to enhance mutually beneficial partnerships with various actors so as to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing and assembling a wide range of resources, including the private sector.

(1) Public-Private Partnership

With the globalization of the economy, the inflow of private finance into developing countries currently exceeds the total amount of ODA. Therefore, it is increasingly important to promote the contribution of private finance to development in order to address the financial needs for the development of developing countries.

Various projects conducted by Japanese private companies in developing countries can yield a range of benefits to these countries such as creating local employment opportunities, augmenting tax revenue, expanding trade and investment, contributing to the acquisition of foreign currency, and transferring Japan’s high-standard technology. The Government of Japan carries out various assistance aiming at generating efficient and effective development outcome through such collaboration with private companies.

For example, the Government of Japan carries out Public-Private Partnership (PPP) utilizing ODA, which aims to implement projects of a highly public nature more efficiently and effectively through public-private cooperation. Japan also provides assistance from the planning stage to the implementation of a project, such as institutional development and human resources development through technical cooperation, as well as utilizing Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) and ODA loans. In addition, the Government of Japan assists Japanese companies to collect information and conduct pilot activities to strategize business models for the resolution of various development challenges.

In addition, international organizations, such as UNDP and UNICEF, promote inclusive businesses by Japanese companies, utilizing the organizations’ extensive experience and expertise in developing countries.
A. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) utilizing ODA

PPP is a form of public-private cooperation in which governmental ODA projects are conducted in collaboration with private investment projects. Opinions from private companies are incorporated from the stage of ODA project formation. Roles of ODA are divided between the public and private sectors. For example, basic infrastructure is covered by ODA, while investment, operation, maintenance and management are conducted by the private sector. This aims to utilize the technologies, knowledge, experience, and funds of the private sector in an effort to implement more efficient and effective projects as well as to improve development efficiency. Typical cases for PPP projects include fields of water supply and sewerage systems, airports, highways and railways, among others.

B. Preparatory surveys for PPP infrastructure projects

In recent years, there has been a growing global trend to improve infrastructure through public-private partnership (PPP) aiming at further enhancing effectiveness and efficiency not only in the construction phase, but also in post-construction operation and maintenance in emerging and developing countries. For such PPP infrastructure projects, it is important for public and private sectors to collaborate and engage in PPP from the initial stages of project formulation in order to appropriately divide roles between the public and private sectors. As such, JICA supports feasibility surveys (F/S)* for the formulation of business plans by calling for proposals widely from private companies that are planning to participate in infrastructure projects aiming at utilizing PSIF or ODA loans.

C. SDGs Business Supporting Surveys

Developing countries struggle with various global issues (development challenges) including poverty, infectious diseases, conflicts, natural disasters and climate change, which have become increasingly difficult and complex in recent years. Thus, it is necessary to incorporate ideas coming from the out-of-the-box thinking of private-sector companies, and to solve problems in the field through business and collaboration with a wide range of partners.

The program is intended to assist in matching the needs of developing countries with the advanced products and technologies, etc., possessed by private-sector companies, and to support the development of businesses that contribute to solving problems in these countries (SDGs business). The program provides opportunities for commissioned surveys for information collection (Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Partnership promotion survey and SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector) and for the development of business plans based on the verification activities of proposed products or technologies (SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector). The program has two categories: “SME support type” and “SDGs business support type”. The former is also expected to invigorate the Japanese economy and regions, through supporting the expansion of SMEs’ businesses abroad, within the aforementioned objectives.

Furthermore, MOFA provides grant aid (including provision of equipment using SMEs’ products) to support the overseas expansion of SMEs and other entities. By providing Japanese SMEs’ products based on the requests and development needs of developing country governments, MOFA supports not only the socio-economic development of developing countries, but also the overseas business expansion of Japanese SMEs by raising the profile of the SMEs’ products and creating sustained demand for them.

In addition, in order to assist in developing global human resources required by SMEs and other entities, the Government of Japan established the “Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer”* program in 2012, in which employees from companies are dispatched to developing countries as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) or Senior Volunteers (SV) while keeping their affiliation with their companies. Through this program, Japan proactively supports companies to train their human resources to gain experience of working globally. Since Autumn 2018, the name of the system has been changed to “JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (Private Partnership)”, due to a systematic review of the JICA volunteer program.

D. Grant aid for business/management rights

Since FY2014, the Government of Japan introduced grant aid for business/management rights. As such, this grant aid aims to facilitate the acquisition of business and management rights by Japanese companies and utilize Japan’s advanced technologies and know-how for the development of developing countries, by providing grant aid to public work projects that comprehensively carry out a continuum of activities from facility construction to operation, maintenance and management, with the participation of private companies. Since FY 2016, this grant aid has been provided for five projects; a project to address water leakages in Myanmar, a project to address medical waste in Kenya, a project to expand water supply systems in Cambodia, a project to address waste management in the Philippines, and a project to build water supply systems in Myanmar.
E. Improving Japan’s ODA loans

In recent years, it is expected that Japan provide advanced technologies and know-how to developing countries, and thereby improve people’s living standards. At the same time, Japan seeks to tap into the growth in emerging economies including BOP businesses\(^1\) in Asia, which have particularly close relationships with Japan, and to contribute to the vitalization of the Japanese economy. In this regard, it is necessary for Japan to carry out further improvement of Japan’s ODA loans to make them even more attractive to both developing countries and Japanese companies.

Up until now, the Government of Japan has introduced the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP)\(^2\) scheme to promote “Visible Japanese Development Cooperation” through promoting the transfer of Japan’s advanced technologies and know-how to developing countries, and improved the scheme by expanding the scope of application and lowering interest rates. Also, Japan has taken additional measures, such as the establishment of the Stand-by Emergency Credit for Urgent Recovery (SECURE)\(^3\). Furthermore, it has introduced the Equity Back Finance (EBF)\(^4\) loan and the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan\(^5\). These instruments are designed to support the improvement and application of various measures of recipient governments as needed, to promote the steady formulation and implementation of PPP infrastructure projects.

In addition, as follow-up measures for “Partnerships for Quality Infrastructure”\(^6\), the Government of Japan has been making efforts to improve its ODA loan and Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) by accelerating Japan’s ODA loan procedures and creating new ODA loan options. Specifically, the following measures are included: reducing the period necessary for Government-related procedures for Japan’s ODA loans that normally require three years to approximately one and a half years for especially important projects, introducing ODA loans with currency conversion option to middle-income countries or higher on the condition that JICA’s financial grounds are ensured, and the establishment of dollar-denominated forms of Japan’s ODA loans, Preferential Terms for High Specification and Japan’s ODA loans for business/management rights. Furthermore, in the “Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure,” Japan is committed to the further acceleration of ODA loan procedures, and decided to streamline the period between the initiation of the feasibility study (F/S) and commencement of the construction work to one and a half years at the fastest, and aim for increased “visibility” of the project period, as well as other efforts necessary to accelerate the procedures for project development, and will continue to strive to do so.

F. Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

Private financial institutions are often reluctant to finance projects by private companies in developing countries for reasons including the high risk involved. In such situations, Japan uses JICA’s PSIF to directly invest in and provide loans for, and thereby assist the implementation of development projects by private companies in developing countries.

PSIF refers to a type of ODA financing scheme implemented by JICA, and is provided to private companies carrying out projects in developing countries as investments and loans for its necessary funds. Although such projects create jobs and revitalize the economy of hosting countries, it entails various risks, and high return cannot often be expected. Thus, existing financial institutions are often reluctant to provide these companies with sufficient loans. PSIF provides loans and investment for projects that are considered highly effective from a development perspective, but may be difficult to be sufficiently funded by existing financial institutions only. PSIF assists in the following fields for funding: i. infrastructure development and accelerating growth, ii. SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and poverty reduction and iii. measures against climate change. JICA has signed 22 loan and investment contracts in total by the end of FY2017.

Also, in order to reduce the exchange rate risk of Japanese companies participating in infrastructure projects overseas, the Government of Japan announced in succession the introduction of local currency-denominated PSIF (2014) and U.S. dollar-denominated PSIF (2015) to supplement the existing yen-denominated PSIF. In 2015, Japan announced the acceleration of PSIF, expansion of the targets of PSIF, and strengthening collaboration between

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1. STEP: Special Terms for Economic Partnership
2. The system allows developing countries that have a high chance of encountering natural disasters, to quickly accommodate funds for post-disaster recovery activities, by having the ODA loan signed in advance.
3. EBF (Equity Back Finance) loan provides a loan to the developing country’s part of the investment of the Special Purpose Company (SPC), which takes the lead in public projects in the developing country. It is restricted to PPP infrastructure projects, wherein the recipient country governments or their nationally-owned companies and others make the investment, and the Japanese companies participate as a business operating body.
4. Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan is the loan against VGF which the developing country provides to the SPC in case that in principle Japanese companies invest in the PPP infrastructure projects by the developing country.
5. “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” has the following pillars: 1 Expansion and acceleration of assistance through the full mobilization of Japan’s economic cooperation tools, 2 Collaboration between Japan and ADB, 3 Expansion of the supply of funding for projects with relatively high risk profiles by such means as enhancement of the function of JIC, 4 Promoting “Quality Infrastructure Investment” as an international standard.
6. “Expanded Partnerships for Quality Infrastructure” was introduced by Prime Minister Abe at G7 Ise-Shima Summit, held in May 2016. It includes Japan’s commitment to provide approximately USD 200 billion funds in the next 5 years for infrastructure projects in the world including Asia. At the same time, it includes further system reforms, strengthening the structure of related institutions including JICA, as well as securing financial foundation.
JICA and other organizations as follow-up measures for the “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure.” Specifically, measures were set out that JICA would start its appraisal process, in principle, within one month after an application is filed by private companies or others, while the standard period for JBIC to respond to inquiries on projects was set at two weeks. Other measures include enabling JICA to co-finance with private financial institutions, reviewing the requirement of the “no-precedent policy” and allowing loans to be provided in cases where non-concessional loans by existing Japanese private financial institutions are impossible.

In 2016, the Government of Japan decided to examine the possibility of flexible operation of JICA’s PSIF by relaxing the upper limit of investment ratio from 25% to 50% (but less than the percentage that would make JICA the largest shareholder) and to introduce PSIF in Euro in the “Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” and determined that these are operable and can be introduced.

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**Glossary**

*Inclusive business*
Inclusive business is a generic term for a business model advocated by the UN and the World Bank Group as an effective way to achieve inclusive market growth and development. It includes sustainable BOP businesses that resolve social challenges.

*Feasibility survey (Feasibility study)*
Feasibility survey verifies whether a proposed project is viable for execution (realization), and plans and formulates a project that is most appropriate for implementation. The survey investigates a project’s potential, its appropriateness, and its investment effects.

*Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer*
The Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer is a program in which employees of private companies and other entities are dispatched to developing countries as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) or Senior Volunteers (SV), and contributes to the development of global human resources and overseas business expansion of the companies. The country of dispatch, occupation type, and duration of dispatch are determined through consultation based on the requests from companies and other entities. Volunteers are dispatched to countries in which their companies are considering business expansion. Not only are volunteers expected to gain an understanding of the culture, commercial practices, technical level of their respective destination countries, and language skills, but are also expected to acquire skills of communication, problem solving and negotiation, which will be brought back into corporate activities upon their return.

*(2) Partnerships Inviting Civil Participation from Volunteers, NGOs, and others*
A. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer / Senior Volunteer (JICA Volunteer) Program

The JICA Volunteer Program, which includes Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), was founded in 1965 and marked its 50th anniversary in 2015. The Program has dispatched over 50,000 volunteers to 91 countries in total, contributing to the development of developing countries as a good example of Japan’s “Visible Development Cooperation.” The JOCV program dispatches Japanese citizens between the ages of 20 and 39 with skills, knowledge, experience, etc. to developing countries, while the Senior Volunteer (SV) program dispatches people between the ages of 40 and 69 with a wide range of skills and abundant experience. This Program is a public participatory program, under which volunteers stay in developing countries in principle for a two-year-term to assist economic and social development in the countries, while living and working with the local communities.

The JICA Volunteer Program not only contributes to the economic and social development of the recipient countries, but also to deepening local people’s affinity for Japan, thereby promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and these countries. Additionally, the program is drawing attention in the respect that the volunteers return their experiences to the society. For example, some returned volunteers contribute to the business expansion of Japanese private companies in developing countries.

In order to promote these initiatives, the Government

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7 The income bracket with an annual income per capita of $3,000 or less in purchasing power parity (PPP). PPP is determined by removing differences between price levels to make purchasing power between different currencies equivalent.
of Japan has been striving to make it easier for people to participate in the Volunteer Program through supporting returned volunteers in developing their careers, as well as disseminating information on how to participate in the Program through taking career breaks.

Regarding the JICA Volunteer Program including the JOCV and the SV, a new system has been introduced since the autumn recruitment in 2018, as a result of reviewing the Program. The collective name of “JICA volunteers” has been renamed to “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.” In the new system, volunteers are classified not by the age category (youth/senior), but by whether or not the contents of the work requires a certain level of experience and skills.

B. Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs implement high-quality development cooperation activities in various fields in developing countries and regions. Even in sites affected by conflict or natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, they have been providing prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance. Japanese NGOs are attuned to different local situations in developing countries and are capable of carefully tailoring responses to the needs of the local people. Accordingly, Japanese NGOs can provide assistance to even the hard-to-reach grassroots level through the support of the government and international organizations. MOFA regards Japanese NGOs that carry out “Visible Japanese Development Cooperation” as indispensable partners in development cooperation. It also promotes collaboration with them through: (i) funding assistance for Japanese NGOs (p.110), (ii) support for the creation of an enabling environment for NGOs (p.111), and (iii) dialogues with NGOs (p.112).

Furthermore, under the Development Cooperation Charter, MOFA and NGOs have jointly developed a plan outlining the direction of their collaboration over the next five years, and announced the plan in 2015. Subsequently, MOFA has been following up on this plan, releasing an annual progress report on the joint plan together with NGOs.

- **Funding assistance for Japanese NGOs**

  The Government of Japan is cooperating in various ways to enable Japanese NGOs to smoothly and effectively implement development cooperation and emergency humanitarian assistance projects in developing countries and regions.

- **Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects**

  MOFA provides financial support for the socioeconomic development projects that Japanese NGOs implement in developing countries through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. There is a wide range of fields in which the projects are implemented, such as medical care and health, education and human resources development, vocational training, rural development, water resource development, and human resources development for landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance. In FY2017, 62 Japanese NGOs utilized this framework.
to implement 113 projects in 35 countries and 1 region, amounting to approximately ¥5.07 billion.

**Japan Platform (JPF)**

Japan Platform (JPF), an emergency humanitarian aid organization, was established in 2000 through partnership among NGOs, the government, and the business community, and 42 NGOs are its members as of January 2019. JPF utilizes ODA funds provided by MOFA, as well as donations from companies and citizens to carry out emergency humanitarian assistance, such as the distribution of living supplies and livelihood recovery, when a major natural disaster occurs or a vast number of refugees flee from conflicts. In FY2017, JPF implemented 83 projects under 10 programs, including humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, assistance for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Iraq and Syria, humanitarian assistance in Gaza Strip in Palestine, assistance in South Sudan, humanitarian assistance for displaced persons in Bangladesh, assistance for flood damage in Sierra Leone and South Asia, and assistance for Sri Lanka affected by flooding.

**MOA Project Subsidies**

MOA provides subsidies to Japanese NGOs that conduct project formulation studies, post-project evaluations, and seminars and workshops in Japan and overseas for socio-economic development projects. The subsidies are provided at a maximum of ¥2 million up to half of the total project cost. In 2018, eight organizations utilized these subsidies to implement activities such as project formulation studies, post-project evaluations, and seminars and workshops both in and outside of Japan.

**JICA Partnership Program (JPP)**

JICA’s technical cooperation projects are occasionally outsourced to the private sector including NGOs, so as to make use of the expertise and experience of various organizations including NGOs, universities, and local governments. Furthermore, JICA conducts the “JICA Partnership Program (JPP)” in which JICA entrusts international cooperation activities proposed by Japanese NGOs, universities, local governments, and public interest corporations, etc. with an interest in international cooperation. In FY2017, a total of 222 projects were implemented in 51 countries across the world. The Program offers three categories of assistance depending on the size and type of organizations: (i) Partner Type (scale of project: less than a total of ¥100 million, duration of project: less than 5 years), (ii) Support Type (scale: less than a total of ¥10 million, duration: less than 3 years), and (iii) Local Government Type (scale: less than a total of ¥30 million, duration: less than 3 years. Less than a total of ¥60 million for projects under the Special Category of Local Government Type.)

**Support for the creation of an enabling environment for NGOs**

Further measures to support Japanese NGO activities other than financial assistance include programs for establishing a better environment for NGO activities. The objective of these programs is to further strengthen the organizational arrangements and project implementation capabilities of Japanese NGOs, as well as develop their human resources. Specifically, MOF carries out the following four programs.

**NGO Consultant Scheme**

Under this scheme, MOF commissions highly experienced NGOs in all of Japan (15 organizations were commissioned in FY2017) to address inquiries and respond to requests for consultation from citizens and NGOs, regarding international cooperation activities, NGO organizational management methods, approaches for providing development education, etc. NGO consultants also provide free lectures and seminars on international cooperation at international cooperation events and other educational occasions, as well as create opportunities for many people to enrich their understanding of NGOs and international cooperation activities.

**NGO Intern Program**

The NGO Intern Program aims to open doors for young people seeking employment in Japanese international cooperation NGOs, and to train them to contribute to Japan’s ODA in the future. Through this Program, MOF seeks to expand the international cooperation efforts of Japanese NGOs and further strengthen the collaborative relations between ODA and NGOs. To this end, MOF commissions international cooperation NGOs in Japan to accept and train interns, and disburse a certain amount of the training costs.

The NGOs that accept interns may apply to extend the internship duration for “new interns” hired for 10 months, for another 12 months as “continuing interns” which amounts to a maximum of 22 months of intern training. In FY2017, 10 interns were newly accepted into NGOs through this program.
NGO Overseas Study Program

The NGO Overseas Study Program covers the costs for the overseas training of mid-career personnel from Japanese international cooperation NGOs for up to six months, aiming at strengthening their organizations through human resources development. The training is divided into two types: “Practical Training,” through which the participants improve their practical skills and gain working experience at overseas NGOs or international organizations that have an excellent track record of international development projects and relevant policy recommendations, and “Training Enrollment,” through which participants enroll in fee-based programs offered by overseas training institutions, aiming at improving their expertise. Trainees can establish training themes themselves, based on the issues that their organizations are facing. Upon returning to Japan, trainees are expected to utilize the fruits of their training for their organizations’ activities, and contribute to enhance the capabilities of Japanese NGOs as a whole by sharing information with other Japanese NGOs. In FY2017, seven people received the training through this program.

MOFA Study Group

MOFA supports Japanese NGOs in organizing study group meetings to build up the capabilities and expertise of NGOs. In particular, NGOs that are commissioned to implement the program conduct studies, seminars, workshops (participatory lectures), and symposiums in cooperation with other NGOs. This program is designed for NGOs to strengthen their organizations and capacities by accumulating experience through the above activities, and reporting or suggesting specific measures for improvement. In FY2017, study group meetings were held on the following three themes: (i) “Research on the Methods for Japanese NGOs to Assist the Development of Dialogue Process between the Government and Local NGOs in Asian and African Countries,” (ii) “Research on Challenges for Japanese NGOs in Safety and Security Management with Policy Recommendations,” and (iii) “Global Health and NGOs.” Activity reports and outcomes are available on the ODA website of MOFA.

NGO Activities Support Project by JICA

Apart from the support provided by MOFA, JICA also conducts NGO activities support programs in various forms such as training for NGOs and NPOs, public interest corporations, educational institutions, and local governments that carry out international cooperation activities. It is designed for them to conduct and promote more effective and constructive projects. As part of JICA’s own initiatives or through proposals by NGOs, JICA organizes training concerning the implementation of projects in developing countries, necessary to carry out the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), as well as training tailored to the situation of each region and field to strengthen the functions of NGOs.

NGO-JICA Japan Desk

In addition to supporting NGO’s on-site activities, JICA has also established “NGO-JICA Japan Desks” in 20 countries outside of Japan in order to strengthen projects jointly conducted by NGOs and JICA. The NGO-JICA Japan Desks provide support primarily in three areas: (i) Operations essential for the smooth implementation of JICA projects conducted in collaboration with Japanese NGOs, etc., (ii) Operations to assist on-site activities of Japanese NGOs, etc., and (iii) Operations necessary for enhancing cooperation between Japanese NGOs and JICA.

Dialogue with NGO

NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings

In order to promote a stronger partnership and dialogue between NGOs and MOFA, the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting was launched in FY1996 for sharing information on ODA and regularly exchanging opinions on measures for improving partnerships with NGOs. In addition to the General Meeting held once a year, there are currently two subcommittees, the “ODA Policy Council” and the “Partnership Promotion Committee.” Both subcommittees are convened three times a year as a general rule. At the “ODA Policy Council,” opinions are exchanged on general ODA policies, while at the “Partnership Promotion Committee,” the agenda focuses on support for NGOs and partnership policies.

NGO-Embassies ODA Consultation Meeting

Since 2002, the Japanese Government has been organizing “NGO-Embassies ODA Consultation Meetings” in developing countries where many Japanese NGOs operate, providing actors from embassies, JICA, and NGOs a platform to exchange their views on the efficient and effective implementation of ODA.

NGO-JICA Consultation Meeting

Based on equal partnership with NGOs, JICA held the NGO-JICA Consultation Meeting four times in FY2017 to promote the realization of more effective international cooperation, as well as public understanding and participation in international cooperation.

(3) Collaboration with local governments

The various kinds of know-how possessed by the local governments of Japan are needed for the development of the economies and societies of developing countries around the world. For example, against the remarkable growth and urbanization of developing countries in recent years, responses to environmental issues and infrastructure issues have not been keeping up with the pace of growth. Therefore, the cooperation of the local governments of Japan, which have accumulated rich expertise in the fields of water, energy, waste disposal, disaster risk reduction,
et al., is becoming increasingly necessary. For this reason, Japan has promoted the participation of local governments in ODA. Moreover, from the viewpoint of the needs of the local governments, Japan is actively promoting the overseas expansion of local governments including their industries in order to stimulate the revitalization and globalization of the local regions of Japan.

Furthermore, JICA established the “Special Category of Local Government Type,” under the JPP in FY2013. Aiming at striking a balance between local governments’ overseas expansions initiated by themselves, leveraging their expertise, experience, and skills and solving developmental issues in developing countries, this new measure is expected to create a win-win relationship, which contributes not only to the developing countries but also to the revitalization of local economies in Japan.

(4) Partnership with universities

Some of the roles of universities are; to contribute to the development of developing countries, to develop human resources that will be responsible for international cooperation, and to organize and disseminate the philosophy and theories of Japan’s assistance. Taking these roles of universities into account, Japan is striving to cooperate with various universities in terms of broad intellectual cooperation, regarding all aspects of the cycle of assistance, from organizing the theories of assistance to putting it into practice and giving back to the Japanese people through education. As a matter of fact, Japan is promoting various projects in collaboration with many universities, including technical cooperation, ODA loan projects, and the JICA Partnership Program (JPP).

As one example, with the objective of developing advanced human resources who will become the core of socioeconomic development in developing countries, Japan utilizes the JICA Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) to accept young officials from developing countries as international students in a cumulative total of 36 universities. In FY2018, 321 students were newly accepted.

Moreover, under the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), through industry-academia-government cooperation, 129 departments in 72 universities throughout Japan are accepting trainees. Furthermore, Japan has implemented the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project*, as a JICA technical cooperation project, in which Japan is working to strengthen the network among Japanese and ASEAN universities, collaborating with the industrial sector, and engaging in joint research with neighboring countries.

Ms. Yuri Ushijima from the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University providing technical guidance in research at Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL) in Lambarènè state in Gabon, under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development Program (SATREPS). See p.47 "Project Introduction" for details. (Photo: Jun Aoki, JICA operational liaison specialist)

Tanzania


In Unguja, the largest island in the Zanzibar Archipelago in Tanzania, time restrictions in water availability and water outages were a part of everyday life. This lack of water supply was caused by the deteriorated water distribution facility, which was kept unrepaired due to financial difficulties. In response, Japan supported the transfer of technology relating to the installation of customer management systems and collection of fees, and established a water fee collection system for the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA), in its technical cooperation project, “Project for Enhancement of Water Supply Management of Zanzibar Water Supply,” from 2008 to 2010. The current Director of ZAWA, Mr. Musa Ramadhan Haji, has worked tirelessly as the ZAWA Customer Manager during Phase 2 of the Project (2011 – 2015). The implementation of this project contributed to an improvement of the managerial capabilities of ZAWA, which led to the provision of a stable water supply service.

Mr. Haji participated in the ABE Initiative in 2015, after the conclusion of Phase 2. During the Program, he carried out research in Toyo University on the relationship between the installation of water meters and water usage in ZAWA, and obtained a master’s degree in 2017. After returning to his country, he worked at the President’s Office – Public Service Management, and was appointed to Director of ZAWA by the President of Zanzibar in March 2018.

Director Haj strives to improve the water supply services of ZAWA under his strong leadership, and is also contributing to the development of the ODA Loan project, “Zanzibar Urban Water Distribution Facilities Improvement Project.”

Working to repair a well by the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) (Photo: JICA)
In addition, a rapid surge in threats stemming from global issues such as global warming and infectious diseases in recent years calls for further advancement in science and technology for solutions. There is an increasing expectation for Japan’s advanced science and technology especially in developing countries, since they are vulnerable to the impacts of these threats, and thus require research and development based on their regional needs. At the same time, it is also imperative for universities and research institutions in developing countries to improve their self-sustainable capabilities in research and development, and build a framework which promotes continuous activities. With this awareness of the issues in mind, JICA has been implementing the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)” since 2008, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). International joint studies between universities and research institutions of Japan and developing countries are being conducted through SATREPS (see p.24 “Stories from the Field” for specific examples).

Such partnerships with universities contributes to academic advancement in solving problems in developing countries, as well as the globalization of Japanese universities by welcoming trainees from overseas to train and conduct research in Japan.

(5) Partnership with other countries and international organizations

A. Partnership with other countries

Japan promotes coordination with other donors in each region and field. Japan also conducts high level dialogues on a wide range of development issues. In 2018, one such dialogue with the EU was held. It is becoming increasingly important to cooperate and collaborate with other donors to effectively utilize the ODA budget and address development issues by the international community as a whole.

Members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the so-called traditional donor countries, have been taking a leading role in carrying out development cooperation thus far. Nonetheless, emerging donor countries such as China, India, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Turkey have also started to provide assistance for developing countries, and to gain significant influence in recent years on the development issues. Japan, having experienced the transition from an aid recipient to a leading donor, has been striving to promote the effectiveness of development cooperation implemented by emerging donors to developing countries (South-South cooperation), by providing assistance to emerging countries, in collaboration with other countries including emerging countries, particularly by means of Triangular Cooperation.

B. Partnership for the G7 development issues

From May 31, 2018 to June 2, 2018, the G7 Development Ministers Meeting was held in Whistler, Canada for the first time in eight years. Representing Japan, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane attended the meeting. At the meeting, discussions were held on a range of development topics with a focus on gender, and in addition to the Meeting Chair’s Summary, (1) the Whistler Declaration on Unlocking the Power of Adolescent Girls for Sustainable Development, (2) the Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action, (3) the Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action, (3) the Whistler Declaration...
on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in International Assistance, and (4) the Whistler Principles to Accelerate Innovation for Development Impact were also issued.

C. Partnership with International Organizations

Amidst the growing need in recent years for the international community to make unified efforts to address global issues, such as poverty, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and health issues, Japan is cooperating with international organizations.

The OECD-DAC is working for development cooperation aligned to the current era, including the “2030 Agenda,” through strengthening cooperation with various actors such as emerging countries and the private sector. Specifically, discussions are underway on the revision of measurement methods for the proper assessment of each country’s ODA disbursements, approaches to utilize ODA for mobilization of development funds from the private sector, and approaches to statistically capture a wide range of non-ODA development finance, including private sector investment and financing from emerging donor countries.

In 2016, Japan returned to the OECD Development Centre, which is a think tank of the OECD that conducts surveys and research regarding the development issues of developing countries. Not only OECD member states, but also emerging countries and developing countries that are not members of the OECD participate in the Centre. It plays an important role as a forum for policy dialogue on development in a variety of regions. In April 2018, Japan jointly organized the “Seminar on Promoting Quality Infrastructure” with the Centre, and will continue to cooperate closely and fulfill its role in strengthening the Centre’s relationship with Asia. This Seminar presented Japan’s voluntary contributions to the Centre to promote the concept of “Quality Infrastructure,” and also introduced each activity for Quality Infrastructure to relevant countries and organizations. As a result, the importance of building infrastructure with a focus not only on quantity, but also on quality, was recognized among the participants.

Japan contributes to discussions related to improving effectiveness of development cooperation through multi-stakeholder partnerships in the international arena, particularly within the context of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), an international forum established at the 2011 Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. At the Second High-Level Meeting of GPEDC in 2016, Japan also contributed to discussions by leveraging examples from its own achievements in development cooperation to widely present the effectiveness of triangular cooperation as one effective and inclusive collaborating tool to achieve the SDGs.