1. Basic concept

In the “Basic Policies for Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2022” (Basic Policies 2022), “start-ups” are featured as a focused investment area along with “investment in people,” “science, technology and innovation” and “decarburization and digitization.” The government has described the policy of comprehensively enhancing support of start-ups by setting an objective of increasing investment in start-ups by ten times in the next five years.

We will boost excellent technologies, products and ideas owned by Japanese or developing countries’ start-up companies to solve challenges facing developing countries, overseas expansion of companies and revitalization of the Japanese economy.

2. Items of cooperation

(1) Support for development of start-ups in Japan and developing countries
   Cultivating entrepreneurs through identification of challenges faced by entrepreneurs and policy proposal, empowerment in business management, promotion of matching and investment between entrepreneurs in developing countries and Japanese companies, etc. (Examples) Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan) in Africa

(2) Support of start-ups by using other ODA schemes
   Construction of a framework for promotion of innovation by using international student or training programs and persons who have experienced JOCV (Social Start-up Lab)

(3) Construction of a framework for support of start-ups in developing countries
   Consideration of systems to assist start-ups addressing development challenges while mobilizing private funds in developing countries with grant aid and technical cooperation through the developing country’s governments

(4) Support of developing countries through start-up companies’ activities in Japan
   Provision of remote ICU service by entrusting T-ICU Co., Ltd. (City of Kobe), which deals with remote intensive care support (Examples) Project for Capacity Development of ICU Using Telemedicine under COVID-19 Pandemic (Senegal)