

Part **IV**

Strengthening Partnership with Diverse Actors and Disseminating Information on Development Cooperation



Conducting training on COVID-19 under the “Project for Establishment of Laboratory Surveillance System for Viral Diseases of Public Health Concern” (SATREPS) implemented in Gabon by Nagasaki University (Photo: JICA)

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

1 Efforts for Strengthening Partnerships with Diverse Actors

(1) Partnership with Private Companies

The Government of Japan strives to effectively utilize the excellent technologies, knowledge, experience, and funds of Japanese private companies so that the collective strengths of Japanese companies can be further demonstrated in ODA projects by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA. In addition, Japan promotes partnerships with private sector investment projects through the sharing of roles between public and private sectors. For example, the private sector's knowledge and know-how can be incorporated from the stage of ODA project formation, or basic infrastructure can be covered by ODA while investments, operation, maintenance, and management are carried out by the private sector. Japan will enhance development outcomes by strengthening collaboration with private sectors and carrying out projects more efficiently and effectively.

A. Grant Aid

The Government of Japan supports the overseas expansion of Japanese companies by providing mainly their products to developing countries based on the requests and development needs of developing country governments. In 2021, for example, products of Japanese companies were provided to Cambodian organizations that have conducted research and human resources development through collaboration between Japanese and Cambodian industry and academia. This led to the development of highly-skilled engineers in Cambodia as well as the strengthening of the foundation for Japanese companies to expand their business.

B. Improving Japan's ODA Loans Utilizing Japan's Strengths

The Government of Japan has improved its aid schemes including the introduction of the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP), expansion of the scope of application, and the lowering of interest rates to promote "Visible Japanese Development Cooperation" through the utilization and transfer of Japan's advanced technologies and know-how to developing countries. In

addition, it has also introduced the Equity Back Finance (EBF) loan ¹ and the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan ² based on the improvement and application of measures by the recipient governments to promote the steady formulation and implementation of infrastructure development projects by utilizing Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) participated by Japanese companies. In recent years, there are increasing number of orders of ODA loan projects by Japanese companies, which support their overseas business expansion.

In addition, as follow-up measures for "Partnerships for Quality Infrastructure," ³ the Government of Japan has been making efforts to improve its ODA loan and Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) by speeding up Japan's ODA loan procedures and creating new ODA loan options. For example, it has reduced 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 important projects. It has also introduced ODA loans with currency conversion option to middle- to upper-middle-income countries on the condition that JICA's financial grounds are ensured, and established dollar-denominated ODA loans and Japan's ODA loans with Preferential Terms



A Rwandan exchange student receiving training at OTOWA ELECTRIC CO., LTD. The company aims to spread lightning protection technology in the country in cooperation with the Government of Rwanda through the SDGs Business Supporting Surveys. (Photo: OTOWA ELECTRIC CO., LTD./JICA)

- ¹ EBF (Equity Back Finance) loan provides a yen 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.
- ² Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan is the loan against VGF which the developing country provides to the SPC in order to secure profitability expected by SPC when Japanese companies invest in the PPP infrastructure projects by the developing country in principle.
- ³ Announced in 2015, the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure has the following pillars: expansion and acceleration of assistance through the full mobilization of Japan's economic cooperation tools, collaboration between Japan and ADB, expansion of the supply of funding for projects with relatively high risk profiles by such means as enhancement of the function of JBIC, and promoting "Quality Infrastructure Investment" as an international standard.

for High Specification. ⁴ Furthermore, in the “Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure,” ⁵ Japan announced that it would further accelerate ODA loan procedures, decided to reduce 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 increased “the visibility” of the project period. Japan will strive to improve the ODA loan so that projects can be formulated and developed in an expeditious manner.

C. Proposal-based Public-Private Partnership Support Schemes

In order to actively utilize opinions and proposals from private companies, the Government of Japan and JICA also promote public-private partnership support schemes based on private sector proposals, such as SDGs Business Supporting Surveys and Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance.

■ SDGs Business Supporting Surveys

SDGs Business Supporting Surveys* is a program that aims to solve problems in the field through business and to promote collaboration with a wide range of partners by incorporating ideas from private companies based on their creativity and originality. In FY2021, public announcements were made twice on the JICA website, and JICA adopted proposals submitted by companies based on their content.

In 2021, a total of 86 projects in 29 countries (SME Partnership Promotion Survey: 19 projects; SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector: 40 projects for the “SME Support Type” and 11 projects for the “SDGs Business Support Type”; SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector: eight projects for the “SME Support Type” and eight projects for the “SDGs Business Support Type”) were adopted under this program (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the

Egypt

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private-Sector Partnership)*1 (January 2019 – January 2020) Mr. NIINOBE Yuta (Panasonic Corporation)



In Egypt, 95% of the entire population is concentrated in the Nile River Basin, which runs from south to north through the country. Among the basin zone, the central and southern areas of Egypt are poor and there is limited access to hospitals for the residents. In order to provide medical services to this region efficiently, an Egyptian philanthropic organization is working on a floating boat hospital project whereby it operates a hospital boat along the Nile River and conducts medical examinations of children living along the river. It has provided medical services free of charge to a total of more than 66,000 children to date.

I participated in the project implemented by the philanthropic organization as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (Private-Sector Partnership), while retaining the status of an employee of my company, Panasonic Corporation. I was in charge of overall operational control for running the boat hospital and the marketing to increase the number of supporters of the project.

Utilizing my prior work experience at a Japanese manufacturing company, I have improved the efficiency of the medical treatment system by the development and management of medical facilities, establishment of a patient information data system, inventory management of medicines, and the formation of waiting lines. As a



Mr. Niinobe providing water to people waiting for a medical examination in over 40-degree heat, in order to prevent heatstroke (Photo: JICA)



Volunteer ophthalmologist examining a child on the boat (Photo: JICA)

result, the number of patients who could be examined on the boat increased from 500 to 1,500 a day after my arrival. Furthermore, regarding marketing, I was involved in the setting up of social media pages, managing relations with companies sponsoring operations, and the creation of PR materials. In particular, thanks to our proactive promotional activities through social media, and as a result, I gained more than 500 new supporters during my tenure on the project.

After I resumed my work at the company, I took up a position in the Middle East region and have taken charge of marketing in the area so that I can return to society what I have gained as a JOCV, such as the on-site management skills, marketing skills, Arabic skills, and understanding of the local community. I am working with the goals of invigorating Japanese industry overall and further enhancing Japan's brand strength by promoting the products and value provided by Japanese manufacturing companies to the world.

*1 See also page 128.

⁴ Concessional loans provided to projects recognized as contributing to the promotion of “Quality Infrastructure” based on the “G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment” compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016.

⁵ The Expanded Partnerships for Quality Infrastructure was announced at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in 2016. It includes Japan's commitment to provide approximately \$200 billion funds in the following five 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.

World” on page 60. For more information about the program’s framework, target areas and countries, and other details, see the JICA website). ⁶

■ Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance

In recent years, there has been a growing trend to improve infrastructure in developing countries through public-private partnership and to promote economic and social development through private-sector projects. JICA implements its Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) to formulate projects that utilize private-sector funds with the provision of support through Private-Sector Investment Finance in mind. Through PSIF, JICA supports feasibility surveys (F/S) for

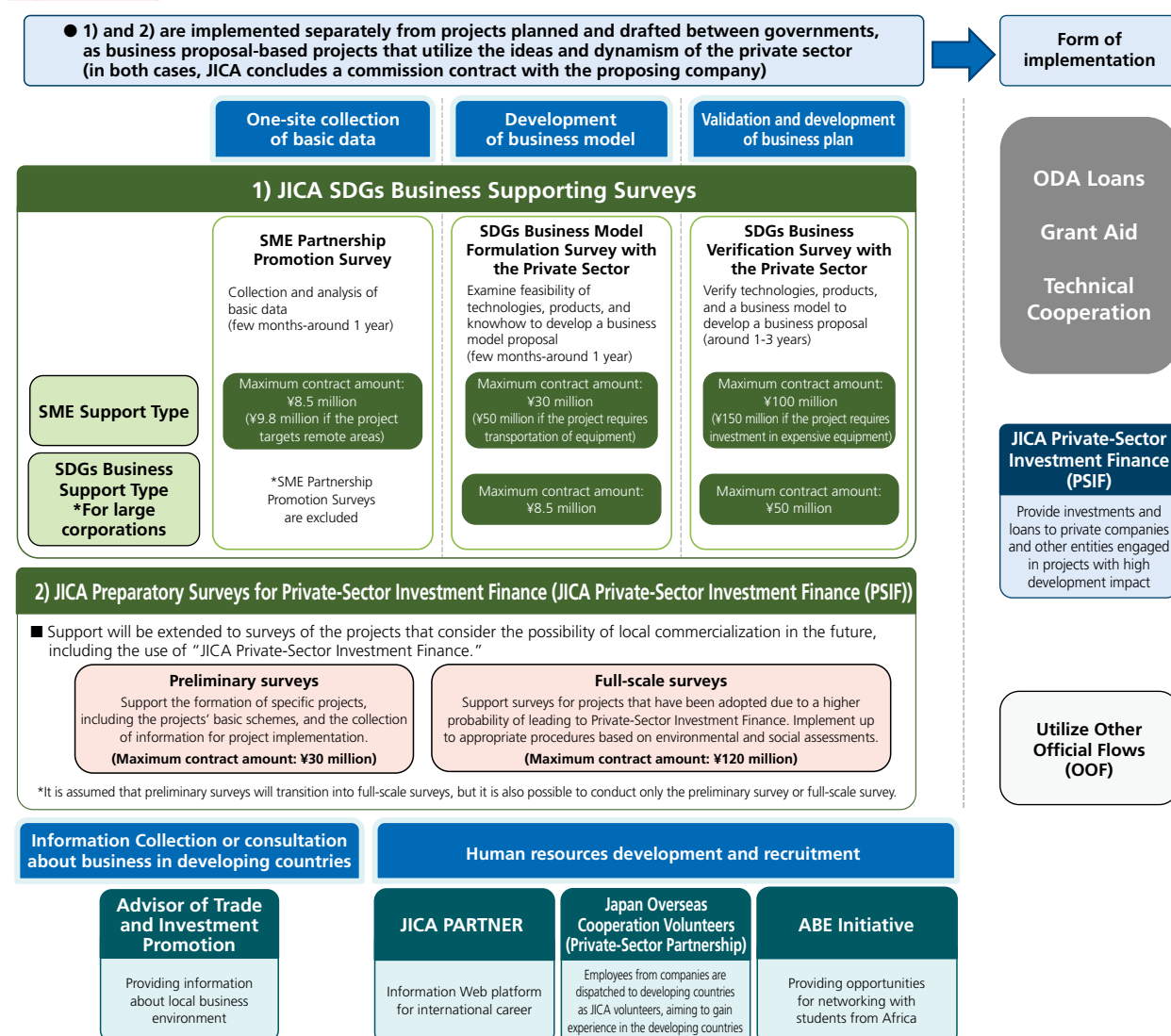
the formulation of business plans by calling for proposals widely from private companies that plans to participate in projects in developing countries (for more information about the program’s framework, target areas and countries, and other details, see the JICA website). ⁷ In 2021, four projects were adopted in Asia and Africa.

■ Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private-Sector Partnership)

As Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private-Sector Partnership), established in 2012, 120 volunteers have been dispatched to 38 countries thus far and actively support the overseas expansion of companies (see also “Project Introduction Column” on page 127).

Chart IV-1

Public-Private Partnership Support Schemes Using ODA



⁶ SDGs Business Supporting Surveys: https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/sme/index.html (in Japanese only)

⁷ Preparatory Survey for Private-Sector Investment Finance (formerly Preparatory Survey for PPP Infrastructure Project): https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html (in Japanese only)

D. Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

PSIF ⁸ refers to a type of ODA financing scheme in which JICA provides necessary funds to private companies carrying out projects that are considered highly effective from a development perspective in developing countries in cases when they cannot receive sufficient funds from private financial institutions (see also “Stories from the Field” on page 130). JICA signed 47 investment and loan contracts in total by the end of FY2020, and many Japanese companies have participated in them (for more information about the program’s framework, target areas, conditions, and other details, see the JICA website). ⁹ A recent good example is the international airport development project in Palau, for which a loan contract was signed in 2019. In Palau, where an ODA loan project was not able to be implemented due to the heavy debt burden of the government, PSIF enabled cooperation as the first public-private partnership (PPP) project to leverage Japan’s quality infrastructure development. In addition, Japan actively supports women entrepreneurs and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises that have had difficulty accessing finance due to the impact of COVID-19, through the Initiative on Overseas Loans and Investment for ASEAN and other efforts (see also page 91 for Initiative on Overseas Loans and Investments for ASEAN).

The Government of Japan continuously reviews and improves its PSIF system and in 2021, the effectiveness of the process of the relevant ministries and agencies as well as JICA has been monitored based on the “Guidelines for Selecting JICA Private-Sector Investment Finance Projects,” which were revised in November 2020.

Japan’s development cooperation is carried out in partnership with diverse actors. When implementing development cooperation, it is important for the Government 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 (JICT) as well as to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing and assembling a wide range of resources, including the private sector.

In addition, international organizations, such as the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), support inclusive businesses* by Japanese companies, utilizing the organizations’ extensive experience and expertise in developing countries.



Glossary

SDGs Business Supporting Surveys

The program, which is based on proposals from private companies, assists in matching the needs of developing countries with the advanced products and technologies, etc., possessed by private-sector companies, and supports the development of businesses that contribute to solving problems in these countries. The program implements the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey, the SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector, and the SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector as support options tailored to various project stages. The program has two categories: SME Support Type and SDGs Business Support Type. The former not only supports the expansion of SMEs’ businesses abroad, but is also expected to invigorate the Japanese economy and local communities (see also Chart IV-1 on page 128).

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 Base of the Economic Pyramid (BOP) businesses that resolve social challenges.

(2) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program)

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program) was started in 1965 and has a long record of success of more than half a century. More than 54,000 volunteers have been dispatched to 98 developing countries and regions in total. This is truly a program for public participation and has contributed to the development of these countries and regions, embodying the “visibility of Japanese development cooperation.”

The JICA Volunteer Program is highly regarded both domestically and internationally. The program contributes not only to the economic and social development of developing countries and regions, but also to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and these countries and regions through the deepening of local people’s affinity for Japan (see “Project Introduction Column” on page 70). Moreover, the program draws attention in the respect that ex-volunteers utilize their experiences and knowledge to give back to Japanese society. For example, ex-volunteers who have obtained global views through the program contribute to the local

⁸ PSIF assists in the following fields for funding: (i) infrastructure development and accelerating growth, (ii) SDGs and poverty reduction, and (iii) measures against climate change.

⁹ Overview of PSIF: https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance_co/loan/index.html (in Japanese only)

Stories from the Field

JICA's Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) Supports the Establishment and Operation of a General Hospital by Japanese Private Companies in Bangladesh



7

Bangladesh suffers from a chronic lack of medical care facilities and healthcare workers, and people often have to go to medical facilities in neighboring countries to receive appropriate tests and treatments. Therefore, it is a major issue to develop the domestic medical care system.

A delegation from Ship Healthcare Holdings, Inc., a company with experience working on ODA projects in Viet Nam, Myanmar, and other countries, visited Bangladesh medical college hospitals in 2013, and witnessed the severe medical situation, and consequently decided to establish and operate a general hospital in the country. "At the time, patients were sleeping on the floor, for example, even in medical college hospitals, and adequate medical care was not fully provided. We thought we would like to somehow create a medical environment where the people of Bangladesh would be able to receive appropriate tests and treatments within their own country," said Mr. KOBAYASHI Hiroyuki, an Executive Director at the company.



A joint team made up of Japanese and Bangladeshi staff carrying out a meeting on drug management (Photo: SAMSL)

In 2016, the company established a local subsidiary, Ship Aichi Medical Service Limited (SAMSL), and embarked on facility expansion of East West Medical College and Hospital*1 to increase the number of hospital beds from

250 to 650, and on operation of the hospital. JICA invested in SAMSL in 2018 and has provided support for this project at Ship International Hospital, aiming to improve medical care standards of Bangladesh by utilizing the expertise of Japanese hospital administration.

In this project, the hospital was renovated and expanded according to the latest Bangladesh National Building Code,*2 based on the belief that medical facilities must be able to function even at times of disaster. Meanwhile, taking safety into account, the hospital was equipped with infrastructure, such as electricity, air conditioning, water facilities, and others, that would meet the same standards as those of Japanese hospitals. Furthermore, the new hospital also introduced the latest medical equipment and facilities, and adopted the Japanese-style of consultations and examinations such as outpatient reception systems using ID cards.

"The Japanese style of hospital operation takes hygiene-related aspects into

consideration in its design, including the separation of patients and medical staff movement lanes. Whereas there had been sanitation issues in the old hospital such as dirty items and



A Japanese staff member taking the role of a patient in a training exercise (Photo: SAMSL)

clean supplies being placed together, the introduction of the Japanese-style movement lanes has enabled appropriate management of these issues," said Mr. Kobayashi.

There was a big struggle to change the mindsets and behaviors of the local staff, accustomed to protocols and operational practices that had been in place for many years. "It is difficult to get people to understand unexperienced new routines through verbal explanations alone. However, when we work together with the local staff and they experience the success of new methods that bring about a good result, they would tell their colleagues in their workplaces about the advantages of these methods. By developing leaders among local staff continuously, we expect that these leaders will play a central role and that levels among the local staff as a whole will be gradually improved," said pharmacist Ms. ISHII Kasumi.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the construction period had to be extended and the official opening of the new hospital was delayed, but it had a pre-opening in October 2019. After that, it began operation as a Government-designated COVID-19 hospital in June 2020 based on the strong requests of the Government of Bangladesh. The hospital made a significant contribution to the treatment of COVID-19 patients, accepting over 1,600 patients by the end of September 2021, 1,500 of whom were discharged healthily.

*1 The hospital's name at the time. With the inauguration of the SAMSL project, it opened under the new name of "SHIP INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL."

*2 Bangladesh's new earthquake-resistance standards (draft version), revision work on which was carried out with JICA assistance in 2015.



Tests taking place using cutting-edge medical devices: an angiography device (left) and endoscope (right) (Photo: SAMSL)



A JOCV conducting a workshop on dietary education and infant growth in the City of San Juan de la Maguana, the Dominican Republic (Photo: JICA)

revitalization in Japan and the business expansion of Japanese private companies to developing countries.

In order to promote these initiatives, the Government of Japan strives to make it easier for more people to join the program through supporting ex-volunteers in developing their careers, as well as disseminating information on how to participate in the program while retaining one's job (see "Project Introduction Column" on page 127 for the activities of a JOCV who participated in the program while retaining their job).

As for the response to COVID-19, the dispatch of JOCVs was resumed in November 2020 and volunteers were dispatched to 32 countries by December 2021. The spring recruitment for FY2021 was conducted after a one year pause. However, the resurgence of COVID-19 cases caused difficulties for the planned dispatch of new JOCVs and the autumn recruitment for FY2021 was postponed. The recruitment for FY2022 will be held depending on the infection situation.

(3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs implement development cooperation activities that directly benefit local residents in various fields in developing countries and regions. Even in sites affected by conflict or natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, they provide prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance. 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, NGOs can well provide assistance at the grassroots level, which can be hard-to-reach through the support of the government and international organizations. MOFA positions Japanese NGOs that carry out activities, which represent the "visibility of development cooperation," as indispensable partners in development cooperation. It thus promotes collaboration with the NGOs through the three pillars of assistance, financial cooperation for NGOs' projects, support to capacity development of NGOs, and dialogues with NGOs.

A. Financial Cooperation for NGOs' Projects

The Government of Japan cooperates 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

The Government of Japan provides financial support for the socio-economic 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 health and medical care, education and human resources development, vocational training, rural development, water resource development, and human resources development for landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal. In FY2020, 59 Japanese NGOs utilized this scheme to implement 109 projects in 34 countries and one region, amounting to approximately ¥5.8 billion (see also "Project Introduction Columns" on pages 65 and 97).



Libraries were built in 12 target schools in the Dweshula school district in South Africa. The libraries are equipped with computers and other equipment, and IT skills are taught to students of the library committee. (Photo: Together with Africa and Asia Association)

■ Japan Platform (JPF)

Japan Platform (JPF)* supports and coordinates emergency humanitarian aid activities of NGOs in cooperation with Japanese NGOs, the business community, and the government. In FY2020, JPF implemented 93 projects under 19 programs, including assistance for the humanitarian crises that occurred in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, and Syria, emergency assistance for refugees from South Sudan, emergency assistance for Democratic Republic of the Congo refugees in Uganda, Emergency Response for Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Program, and Emergency Response to the damage caused by Locust Crisis. As of October 2021, JPF has 43 member NGOs (see also page 45 for assistance for refugees and displaced persons by JPF).

■ NGO Project Subsidies

In FY2020, MOFA provided NGO project subsidies to seven Japanese NGOs conducting such activities as project identification and formulation, post-project evaluations, and seminars and workshops including online, in Japan and overseas for development cooperation projects.

■ JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is a joint program outsourced by JICA to Japanese NGOs/CSOs, local public entities, universities, private enterprises, and other organizations. Proposals are submitted to JICA for international cooperation activities based on their accumulated knowledge and experience and implemented by these partners in collaboration with JICA (see the JICA website ¹⁰ for information on program details among others). Through the JICA Partnership Program, approximately 200 projects are implemented in approximately 90 countries every year.

B. Support to Capacity Development of NGOs

In response to the growing importance of activities by non-governmental actors and the use of private funding in international cooperation, MOFA carries out the following programs with the objective of further strengthening the organizational structures and project implementation capabilities of Japanese NGOs and developing their human resources.

■ NGO Consultant Scheme

Under this scheme, MOFA commissions highly experienced Japanese NGOs (15 organizations in FY2020) to address inquiries and respond to requests for consultation from citizens and NGOs on such topics as international cooperation activities by NGOs, how to establish an NGO, organizational management and operation, and approaches for providing development education.

■ NGO Internship Program/NGO Study Program

MOFA implements the NGO Internship Program and NGO Study Program with the objective of strengthening the organization through human resources development. The NGO Internship Program aims to develop human resources of younger generation who can play an active role in Japanese NGOs for international cooperation in the future. A total of eight interns were accepted by NGOs through this program in FY2020.

Under the NGO Study Program, mid-career personnel from Japanese NGOs for international cooperation undergo domestic and overseas training and widely share the fruits of their training within their organization and with other NGOs, with the aim of contributing

to enhancing the capabilities of Japanese NGOs as a whole. In FY2020, five people received training through this program.

■ NGO Study Group

The NGO Study Group aims to strengthen NGOs and their capacities by conducting joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, and other activities regarding common issues faced by NGOs and reporting and recommending specific measures for improvement. In FY2020, the NGO Study Group was held on the following two themes: (i) "Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) in International Cooperation: Study of Global Trends, and the Development and Dissemination of Guidelines for Efforts by Japanese International Cooperation NGOs," and (ii) "Towards a Resilient Society: Redesigning Japanese NGOs under the impact of COVID-19 pandemic." The reports and outcomes of these activities are available on the ODA website of MOFA (in Japanese only).

C. Dialogue with NGO (NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings and NGO-JICA Consultation Meeting)

The General Meeting of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting* was not held in FY2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. However, subcommittee meetings, namely the "Partnership Promotion Committee" and an ad hoc meeting of the "ODA Policy Council," were each held one time (see the MOFA website ¹¹ for more information on the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

JICA holds the NGO-JICA Consultation Meeting to promote dialogue and collaboration between NGOs and JICA. Two meetings were held online in FY2020, with participation of 36 organizations in the first meeting and 94 organizations in the second meeting (see the JICA website ¹² for more information on the NGO-JICA Consultation Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

(4) Collaboration with Local Public Entities

As economic development rapidly progresses in developing countries with continued urbanization, there is an escalating need for solutions to urban problems concerning water, energy, waste disposal, urban transportation, anti-pollution, and others, not only in larger cities, but also in regional cities. Under such circumstances, it would be extremely beneficial for the development of developing countries if local public entities in Japan with accumulated expertise in various fields could respond to the needs of those countries in a

¹⁰ https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/citizen/partner.html

¹¹ https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html (in Japanese only)

¹² https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo_meeting/index.html (in Japanese only)

Public nomination

Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda

Building an e-Extension Platform for Smallholder Farmers

(1) Technical Cooperation Project (August 2020 – ongoing)*1

(2) The Nippon Foundation Funds (1986 onwards)



The Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) is a non-profit organization established to support agricultural development in Africa in response to the devastating famine that hit East Africa at the beginning of the 1980s. It has been working to disseminate improved agricultural technologies to smallholder farmers in Africa for 35 years. In particular, SAA concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with JICA in the agriculture sector and, to date, has worked on projects to improve the income of farmers through a technical cooperation project including the market-oriented agricultural promotion (SHEP) approach,*2 among other activities.

In 2020, SAA conducted a survey concerning the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture of Africa. The results revealed that farmers were having difficulty obtaining seeds and fertilizer, that access to the financial services and market was being affected, and that there were fewer opportunities for farmers to get advice



An agricultural extension worker checking GPS-based cultivation advice through the app (Nigeria) (Photo: SAA)

from agricultural extension workers in their local public entities. In response to this, SAA initiated the launch of Africa's e-Extension Platform*3 concept, aiming to strengthen the resilience of Africa's food system from a medium to long-term perspective by eliminating the information gap between smallholders and their stakeholders and facilitating communication, while making full use of ICT.

For example, in Uganda, SAA has provided improved agricultural technologies and information on markets and weather to farmers and enabled two-way communication between farmers and agricultural extension workers, through an app developed by m-Omulimisa, a local venture. In Nigeria, the utilization of GPS-based agronomy advisory tools enabled the proper application of fertilizer by smallholder farmers, which resulted in an increase of the unit yield*4 of maize by 48%. In Ethiopia, now farmers are able to send information about diseases and insect pests via photos and social media, and agricultural extension workers quickly respond to give them advice through the apps. Going forward, SAA will continue its activities utilizing these digital tools to promote the digital transformation in agriculture in Africa.

*1 Project on Promotion of Market-oriented Agricultural Extension System for Livelihood Improvement.

*2 See the glossary on page 84.

*3 An ICT-based approach developed by SAA with three priority areas of technology transfer, labor-saving agriculture and access to inputs as a response to the logistical stagnation caused by lockdowns. SAA cooperated with local venture companies to introduce smartphone apps for spreading agricultural technologies and to develop new apps, thereby aiming to eliminate the information gap faced by smallholder farmers.

*4 The crop yield per area of an agricultural product.

highly detailed and attentive manner. For this reason, the Government of Japan has promoted the participation of Japanese local public entities in ODA. Moreover, Japanese local public entities themselves also actively promote the overseas expansion of their initiatives, including their local industries, in order to stimulate the revitalization and globalization of the local regions of Japan ¹³ (see "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 62 for specific example).

(5) Partnership with Universities and Educational Institutions

Some of the roles that universities can play in development cooperation 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, the Government of Japan strives to cooperate with universities in terms of broad intellectual cooperation, regarding all aspects of the cycle of assistance from organizing the theories of

assistance to putting them into practice and giving back to the Japanese people through education. Japan indeed promotes projects including technical cooperation, ODA loan, and the JICA Partnership Program (JPP) in collaboration with various universities.

To give an example, with the objective of developing advanced human resources who will become the core of socio-economic development in developing countries, the Government of Japan utilizes the JICA Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) to accept young officials from developing countries as international students in a total of 41 universities in Japan so far. Over 5,000 international students have enrolled in the universities, including those in master's and doctoral programs. Moreover, Japan provides support to Thailand to establish and operate Kosen schools (Colleges of Technology), which are unique to the Japanese education system, in Thailand, and cooperates in the provision of Kosen education that meets the same standards as those in Japan in order to develop industrial human resources in Thailand. Furthermore, Japan has implemented the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering

¹³ Support for overseas development of local public entities through ODA: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/page23_000707.html (in Japanese only)

Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project,* as a JICA technical cooperation project, in which Japan works to strengthen the network among Japanese and ASEAN universities, collaborating with the industrial sector, and engaging in joint research with neighboring countries.

In addition, MOFA and JICA have implemented Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), 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 those of developing countries are being conducted through SATREPS (see “Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation, and Research and Development” on page 37 for the results, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 73 and 135 for cooperation in Thailand and Cameroon).

Above-mentioned partnerships with universities have contributed to the advancement of the academic capabilities of developing countries for solving issues, as well as the globalization of Japanese universities through accepting trainees who study in Japan.



Glossary

Japan Platform (JPF)

Japan Platform (JPF), an emergency humanitarian aid organization, was established in 2000 through a partnership among NGOs, the government, and the business community with the aim of supporting and coordinating rapid and effective emergency humanitarian aid activities by Japanese NGOs in the event of a large-scale natural disaster or conflict that results in a vast number of refugees or internally displaced persons, etc. JPF utilizes ODA funds provided by the Government of Japan, as well as donations from companies and citizens to carry out emergency humanitarian assistance, including through the distribution of food/non-food items and livelihood recovery support, during occurrences such as a large-scale natural disaster or a vast number of refugees or internally displaced persons fleeing from conflicts.

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. It comprises the General Meeting as well as two subcommittees, the “ODA Policy Council” and the “Partnership Promotion Committee.”

ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net)

AUN/SEED-Net was launched in 2001 as a university network comprising 26 top-ranking engineering universities in 10 ASEAN member countries and 14 partner universities from Japan. It implements various research and education activities to produce advanced human resources in the engineering sector, with the aim of realizing sustainable development in Southeast Asia and Japan. This initiative is implemented with mainly the support from the Government of Japan through JICA, in cooperation with the governments and universities of Southeast Asia and Japan.

(6) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations

A. Dialogue with Major Donors

Japan holds dialogues with major donors to exchange views on priority issues and policies.

In February 2021, the Seventh Japan-EU High-level Development Policy Dialogue was held and both sides exchanged views on issues including emerging donors, the COVID-19 response, and climate change. In April, the Japan-UK Development Policy Dialogue was held, and both sides exchanged views on agendas such as the G7-related meetings in 2021, emerging donors, the COVID-19 response, the environment and climate change, and education.

In June, the second Japan-China International Development Cooperation Policy Consultation was held. At the beginning of the meeting, the Japanese side stated that China’s foreign aid has drawn increased attention since the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the Japanese side would like to exchange candid views on various development issues. Both sides then exchanged views on topics such as the COVID-19 response, cooperation under multilateral frameworks, statistics, and evaluation.

In December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki holding a teleconference with USAID Administrator Power (December 2021)

held a video teleconference meeting with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power. State Minister Suzuki explained the priority issues of Japan’s development cooperation policy and stated that Japan would like to collaborate with the United States on development challenges faced by the international community. In response, Administrator Power expressed her

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from Japan to the World

Building a Forest Resources Management Model that Reconciles Tropical Rainforest Conservation with the Lives of Indigenous Peoples**—Improving the lives of people living in the forest through joint research with Cameroon—**

Southeast Cameroon is covered by tropical rainforests with high biodiversity. However, sustaining these rainforest ecosystems has been increasingly difficult since the 1990s due to deforestation for timber exports and overhunting of ivory and bushmeat. Therefore, the Government of Cameroon has established several natural reserves where hunting and timber exploitation are prohibited. Meanwhile, in this region, an ethnic group called the Baka has practiced hunting and gathering, coexisting with nature since long ago. Ironically, the government's conservation policy has deemed Baka's hunting activities for subsistence illegal, making it difficult for them to sustain their traditional lifestyle.

Against this backdrop, researchers from Japan, led by Dr. YASUOKA Hirokazu, Associate Professor at the Center for African Area Studies of Kyoto University, formed an international joint research team with Cameroonian researchers from the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) and other institutes. Dr. Yasuoka has long conducted interdisciplinary research on the ecology of people in the Congo Basin. The team commenced the "Project of Co-creation of Innovative Forest Resources Management Combining Ecological Methods and Indigenous Knowledge (COMECA)" based on the framework of the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program.

Under this project, the team conducts ecological surveys of wildlife in and around the national parks of southeastern Cameroon. Moreover, the researchers combine the scientific results with the indigenous knowledge of local people (experience-based knowledge, skills and practice related to their land and flora and fauna, which are often inappropriate to generalize in a scientific manner). In this way, the team will prepare proposals and a roadmap for the government to sustainably use wildlife and non-timber forest products



A Peters's duiker, one of the main hunting targets in the project site, captured by a camera trap placed in the forest (Photo: COMECA Project)

(NTFP).^{*1} It also plans to cooperate with IRAD, local peoples and others to develop processing methods for Irvingia nuts and other NTFPs to promote alternative means for income.

"To build relationships of trust and to work together for forest conservation, it is necessary to create a system where residents are proactively involved in the use and management of forest resources," said Dr. Yasuoka. "We aim to establish a management model that integrates indigenous and scientific knowledge to build a bridge between conservation authorities and local people. This model will enable the residents to continue their livelihood customs with wild meat while maintaining biodiversity."

Dr. HONGO Shun, a Program-specific Researcher of the COMECA Project, has been conducting fieldwork since 2018. Using motion-triggered camera traps to record wild animals, he estimates the population density of hunted animals and develops a system for monitoring their abundance. "Together with local people," Dr. Hongo said, "we will explore a method where they can monitor faunal resources by themselves employing their indigenous knowledge." He also supervises researchers and students at counterpart institutions in Cameroon.

"The Congo Basin has the world's second-largest tropical rainforests after the Amazon, and a variety of people live in the area besides hunter-gatherers. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the project's progress, we intend to make steady advances to improve the lives of the people in the forest and the biodiversity conservation," said Dr. Yasuoka.

Combining science and indigenous knowledge, the research team of Japan and Cameroon is now building a forest resource management model for sustainable use of the Congo Basin tropical rainforests, together with local people.



Placing a camera trap for a wildlife survey while camping together with local assistants in the tropical rainforest (Photo: COMECA Project)

^{*1} A variety of products other than timber that are harvested in forest regions, such as nuts, mushrooms, and berries.



Prime Minister Kishida attending the G20 Rome Summit (October 2021)
(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

gratitude for Japan's contributions including initiatives for improving nutrition such as the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021, as well as cooperation through COVAX, and stated that she would like to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. The two sides also concurred to continue cooperation between Japan and the United States in response to COVID-19 and in the development field.

B. Partnership for the G7 and G20 development issues

In May 2021, the first G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting was held in London, and various matters in the development field were discussed. From Japan, then Foreign Minister Motegi attended. The G7 shared the view that it is vitally important to achieve equitable access to vaccines, treatment, and diagnosis throughout the world, including developing countries, under the concept of universal health coverage (UHC) in order to overcome the crisis caused by COVID-19. The G7 also agreed on the importance of supporting girls' education that was especially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and on addressing humanitarian crises such as famine that are increasingly more serious due to COVID-19. Furthermore, on climate change, the G7 reaffirmed its commitment to mobilizing \$100 billion per year in climate finance by developed countries through 2025, and to achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation.

Then Prime Minister Suga attended the G7 Cornwall Summit held in June. During the Summit, there were discussions on gender equality as an indispensable factor to achieve "building back better" from COVID-19, as well as collective approaches to non-market policies and practices that undermine the fairness and transparency of the global economy as measures for "building back resilient." The G7 also committed to providing support through finance and in-kind contributions equivalent to one billion vaccine doses to end the COVID-19 pandemic. In regard to climate change, Japan expressed its intention to provide assistance which amounts to ¥6.5 trillion to developing countries over the next five years from 2021 to 2025, including further enhancement of



Foreign Minister Hayashi meeting with Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Truss during his visit to the United Kingdom, which was his first overseas visit since assuming his position, in order to attend the Second Meeting of G7 Foreign and Development Ministers (December 2021)

assistance for adaptation.

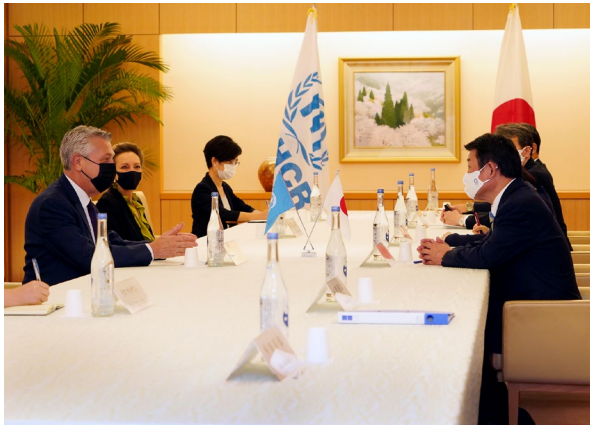
In addition, the second G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting was held in December in Liverpool, and Foreign Minister Hayashi attended. In regard to economic partnership, based on the G7 Leaders' Statement issued on December 3, the G7 reaffirmed the common principles on sustainable and resilient quality infrastructure investment and development finance. The ministers also discussed the new threat of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The G7 reaffirmed their commitment to contribute towards vaccinating the world in 2022 and on working together to expand regional vaccine manufacturing and regulatory capacity, reinforcing health systems, and delivering quality vaccines and other services.

In regard to the G20, the first G20 Development Ministers' Meeting was held in Matera, Italy in June, and was attended by then Foreign Minister Motegi. During the meeting, given that the \$2.5 trillion annual financing gap to achieve the SDGs has been exacerbated by COVID-19, G20 Ministers discussed the need to diversify financing sources. Ministers also discussed regional development and promotion of the SDGs in rural areas in developing countries, taking into consideration that COVID-19 has made it even more difficult to achieve the SDGs in rural areas.

In addition, Prime Minister Kishida attended the G20 Rome Summit in October. At the Summit, the G20 reaffirmed its commitment to a global response to support a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery across the world, able to promote equity and accelerate progress on all SDGs. The G20 also recognized the critical role of quality infrastructure investments in the recovery phase.

C. Partnership with International Organizations

In order to address various development issues and facilitate assistance through partnerships with international organizations, Japan holds dialogues



Then Foreign Minister Motegi meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi

with United Nations agencies and major international organizations. In 2021, Japan held regular policy dialogues with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), and others. In addition, in July 2021, then Prime Minister Suga and then Foreign Minister Motegi respectively held meetings with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi and Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros (see "Stories from the Field" on page 141 for Japanese personnel who work at IOM, and page 12 in Part I for Japanese personnel who work at international organizations).