

# Part V

## Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation

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A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) conducting an experiment with local staff at a pharmaceutical storage facility in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)



# Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation

The Development Cooperation Charter sets forth the basic policy of “co-creation” whereby various actors, such as the private sector and public financial institutions, bring their respective strengths and create new social values through dialogue and collaboration in relation to various development challenges for which there are as yet no defined solutions.

## (1) Partnership with the Private Sector

In recent years, private sector investment activities have been playing an increasingly important role in the economic growth of developing countries. Various business activities conducted by the private sector contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of developing countries through job creation, human resources development, and technological advancement. The Government of Japan promotes effective and strategic development cooperation through such partnerships with the private sector.

Since 2012, JICA has been partnering with private companies to dispatch their employees as JICA Volunteers (see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 144 for details on the JOCV (Partnership Program)). Through their assignments, these volunteers are expected to draw on their professional experiences to contribute to the growth of developing countries, while learning unique business practices and identifying market needs in the countries of their assignment, and to apply such knowledge to their business activities in Japan upon their return.

### ■ SDGs Business Supporting Survey

Japanese companies’ refined products, technologies, and know-how have the potential to contribute to solving challenges in developing countries. The SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz)\* is a program that examines the compatibility of Japanese companies’ products, technologies, and know-how with the development needs of developing countries, and supports overseas business development by such companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Through this type of public-private partnership, Japanese companies’

business contributes to the socio-economic development of developing countries (see JICA’s website 1 for the overview of the program and its benefits). In FY2024, a total of 57 businesses were selected to receive support for their operations in 21 developing countries (see Chart V-1 on page 129, “Stories from the Field” on page 40, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 58 and 131 as well).



A demonstration experiment in Mexico by a Japanese company on enhancing ecosystem function by submerging a “Shell Nurse” artificial reef (Photo: Ocean Construction Co., Ltd./SDGs Business Supporting Survey)

### ■ Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

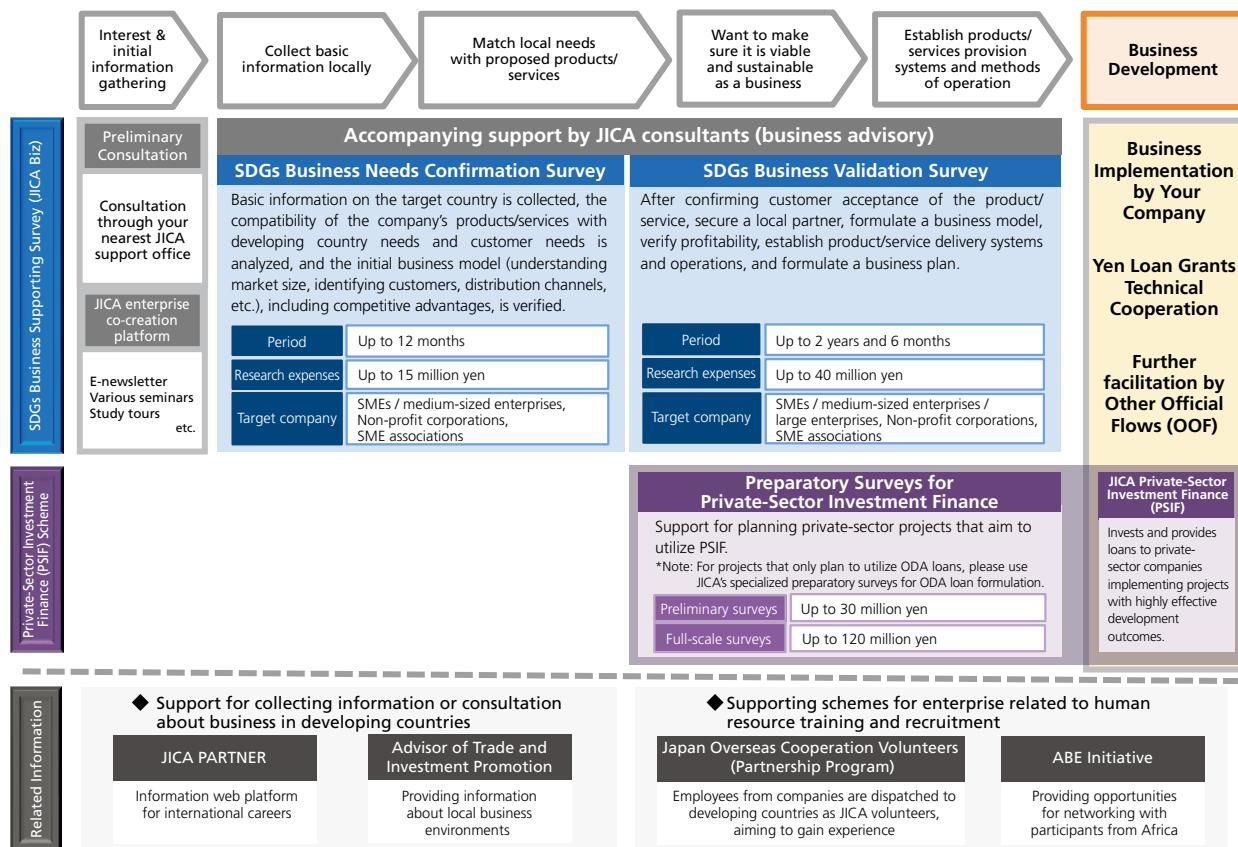
Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)\* refers to a type of ODA financing scheme in which JICA provides investments and loans to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries that are considered highly effective from a development perspective but not able to attract sufficient funding from private financial institutions. As of the end of FY2023, the cumulative amount of commitments since FY2011 has reached approximately 985.5 billion yen, with many Japanese companies participating (see JICA’s website 2 for more information about the program’s framework, target areas, conditions, and other details). Recent examples of successful PSIF projects include the Export-Oriented Industry Support Project for Ukraine and Moldova, and the Agricultural Sector Support Project in Brazil, both signed in 2024. The former was signed in February 2024 in conjunction with the Japan-Ukraine Economic Recovery Promotion Conference, and aims to promote foreign currency acquisition and job creation in both countries through investments in export-oriented ICT

1 SDGs Business Supporting Surveys (JICA Biz) [https://www.jica.go.jp/priv\\_partner/activities/sme/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/sme/index.html) (in Japanese only)

2 Private-Sector Investment Finance [https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance\\_co/loan/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance_co/loan/index.html) (in Japanese only)

Chart V-1

## ODA Facilities to Support Public-Private Partnership



companies in Ukraine and Moldova. This project is expected to contribute to the reconstruction and socio-economic development of both countries. Additionally, investment destinations of at least 30% of the fund are to be companies owned by female managers and entrepreneurs, thereby adding the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment to the project's agenda. The latter aims to improve financial access for Brazil's agricultural sector and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises through support for lending operations conducted by Brazil's largest credit union, with the goal of expanding agricultural production and increasing farmers' income.

At the side-event on the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) held during the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, then Prime Minister Kishida expressed Japan's commitment to contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries through public and private infrastructure investment. Based on this commitment, Japan newly established three financing facilities: the Facility for Accelerating Climate Change Resilient and Sustainable Society (ACCESS), the Facility for Supporting Agricultural supply chain and Food security Enhancement (SAFE), and the Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion (FAFI). New projects under these facilities were signed recently,

including the Climate Change Action Support Project in Nigeria (in November 2023) under ACCESS and the Project for Rural Financial Access Improvement in India (in December 2023) under FAFI.

### ■ Preparatory Survey for Private-Sector Investment Finance

Recent years have seen a growing trend of infrastructure development through public-private partnerships in developing countries and of socio-economic development through private-sector projects. JICA conducts Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) to formulate projects that utilize private-sector funds on the premise that public support is provided. JICA supports feasibility studies for the formulation of business plans and calls for proposals widely from the companies that explore the possibility of participating in projects in developing countries (see JICA's website for more information about the program's framework, target areas and countries, and other details). <sup>3</sup> The total number of projects adopted from 2010 to 2024 has reached 92, and in 2024, three projects were adopted in Asia.

<sup>3</sup> Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance [https://www.jica.go.jp/priv\\_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html) (in Japanese only)

## ■ Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights

The Government of Japan provides grants for public works projects in which Japanese companies are expected to be involved in facility development, as well as subsequent operation and maintenance. The Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights is designed to support Japanese companies in leveraging their technologies and know-how in the socio-economic development efforts of developing countries through the acquisition of business and management rights in infrastructure projects under public-private partnerships (PPP) in developing countries. In February 2024, an Exchange of Notes was signed in Tunisia for a grant project to construct an advanced wastewater treatment plant that enables the reuse of wastewater as industrial water, utilizing Japanese companies' technologies.

## ■ Collaboration with Public Financial Institutions

Japan's development cooperation takes place in partnership with diverse actors. In implementing development cooperation, it is important for the Government to strengthen collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for handling other official flows (OOF) 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), the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT), and the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) and to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing and assembling a wide range of resources, including private sector ones.



## Glossary

### **SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz)**

One of the private-sector partnership programs implemented by JICA that supports Japanese companies in expanding their businesses overseas to contribute to solving challenges in developing countries. The program offers two types of support: "SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey" and "SDGs Business Validation Survey." Applications from Japanese companies are accepted once a year.

### **Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)**

A type of ODA financing scheme implemented by JICA that provides the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries with necessary financing in the form of investments and loans. Projects in developing countries entail various risks, and high returns cannot often be expected. Thus, private financial institutions are often reluctant to provide these companies with sufficient financing. By providing investments and loans through PSIF to private-sector projects that, despite risks, have the potential to create jobs and revitalize the economy, JICA contributes to promoting economic and social development in developing regions. PSIF assists in the fields of (1) infrastructure development and growth acceleration and (2) SDGs including poverty reduction and climate change actions.

### **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**

A policy-based financial institution wholly owned by the Japanese government. While its primary purpose is to supplement the services of general financial institutions, its goal is to contribute to the sound development of Japan and the international economy and society. To this end, JBIC operates in the fields of (1) promoting the overseas development and securement of resources that are important for Japan, (2) maintaining and improving the international competitiveness of Japanese industries, (3) promoting overseas businesses that also work to preserve the global environment, such as preventing global warming, and (4) preventing disruptions to international financial order or taking appropriate measures with respect to damages caused by such disruptions.

## (2) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations

### ■ Partnership in the G7 and G20

The G7 Apulia Summit was held in June 2024 under the Italian Presidency. Then Prime Minister Kishida represented Japan and attended the session on "Africa, Climate Change, and Development," to discuss critical issues facing the international community, including climate change, development, and gender, with a

focus on cooperation with Africa. Then Prime Minister Kishida stated that the G7 countries should try to attain synergy among their respective efforts while further promoting initiatives such as the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) that meet Africa's needs. He also emphasized the importance of continuing to focus on achieving the SDGs while respecting human dignity and human security. In addition, he expressed Japan's intention to demonstrate tangible outcomes, through progress in the reform of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs),<sup>4</sup> such as effectively allocating highly concessional development funds to developing countries.<sup>5</sup> During the session on

<sup>4</sup> See the glossary on page 36.

<sup>5</sup> See the beginning of Part II, Section 2 on page 22.

# MASTER TECHNIQUES 3

from  
Japan to  
the World

## Supporting Renewable Energy Projects in Tonga with "Made in Okinawa" Knowledge and Technology – Introduction of Disaster-Resistant Wind Power Generation (Tilttable Wind Turbines) –



Tonga, an island country in the South Pacific, has limited energy resources and a large portion of the power supply is generated by imported diesel. As an island country, transportation costs are relatively high, resulting in high electricity prices. Tonga is also vulnerable to fluctuations in international energy prices, which in turn affect both national finances and the daily lives of its citizens. In response to the two challenges that it faces—ensuring energy security and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions—Tonga has been actively promoting the adoption of renewable energy since 2010 through the implementation of the "Tonga Energy Road Map (TERM)."

In this context, Progressive Energy Corporation (PEC), a member of the Okinawa Electric Power Company Group, worked with Tonga to introduce tilttable wind turbines, as Tonga and Okinawa face similar weather challenges, such as typhoons. Since 2009, PEC has been constructing, maintaining, and managing such turbines in the remote islands in Okinawa, taking advantage of the unique features of these turbines, which can be tilted nearly 90 degrees to the ground to prevent damage or collapse from strong typhoon winds, and enable easier maintenance compared to the conventional models. After exploring the possibility of expanding their technology to the global market as part of solutions to help countries facing similar disaster-related issues to Okinawa, PEC proposed a plan to introduce tilttable wind turbines in Tonga through JICA's Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology. With the support from Japan's grant, in 2019, they completed installing five tilttable wind turbines in Tongatapu Island where the capital, Nuku'alofa, is located.

Mr. GIBO Minoru, Managing Director of PEC, reflects, "To foster a better understanding of tilttable wind turbines, we invited engineers from Tonga Power Limited to Okinawa to have them experience maintenance operations firsthand. This stimulated their interest in introducing the turbines in Tonga." Mr. CHINA Shunei, who was dispatched to Tonga as a technical staff member during the project, recalls the challenges he faced: "In addition to the language and cultural barriers I had,



A study tour of the tilttable wind turbines for Tongan students (Photo: Progressive Energy Corporation)



Assembling wind turbines together with Tongan engineers  
(Photo: Progressive Energy Corporation)

there were significant differences in safety awareness upon construction work in comparison to Japan. We took extra care and started from providing guidance on basic safety practices commonly observed in Japan, such as using harnesses when working at heights." PEC not only provided such technical guidance on safety but also conducted training on equipment operation and maintenance. Mr. China added, "I would be happy to see the people of Tonga take ownership and apply the techniques they learned from Japan, rather than relying entirely on the technical expertise of Japanese people."

Tonga's wind power generation facilities were completed after eight years since PEC first started exploring the business overseas in 2012. Mr. Gibo recalls, "I was impressed when Tongan students from secondary school and local residents came to visit the site. They cheered as they saw the wind turbines completed. They also expected lower electricity costs."

Mr. WAKUTA Morito, Manager of the Electric Section of the Engineering and Sales Department, says, "To my understanding, this Tonga case was Japan's first grant project of installing the wind power plants. It is an honor for a small Okinawa-based company like ours to be part of such a major project. We would love to work with other countries facing similar challenges by making the best use of the experience and know-how we obtained through this project."

Responding to such enthusiasm, five companies in the Okinawa Electric Power Group established a joint company "SeED Okinawa LLC" in 2021. It will serve as a one-stop facility to support a wider range of businesses introducing renewable energy worldwide, including not only wind power but also solar power generation. It is expected that the renewable energy technologies developed in Okinawa will be widely introduced overseas.

The Government of Tonga has set an ambitious target to achieve 100% renewable energy for its national electricity supply by 2035. By introducing clean energy solutions with less environmental impact, Japan remains committed to enhancing energy security in countries including Pacific Island countries, and working for the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Africa, Climate Change, and Development," the G7 leaders confirmed that the G7 would coordinate more closely in addressing various issues, including climate change and development, while staying attuned to the African voices.

In October, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuge attended the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting held in Pescara. Discussions were held on the G7's response to food security, which has been severely affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, as well as conflicts, climate change, and natural disasters; the importance of advancing cooperation under PGII to fill the investment gap for infrastructure around the world; and measures to build and strengthen the Global Health Architecture (GHA) and achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In the PGII session, then State Minister Tsuge shared the prospect that the G7's ongoing efforts related to PGII would serve as a catalyst for new growth for partner countries and regions, and reiterated the importance of promoting fair and transparent development finance while complying with international rules and standards, such as the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment." He also reaffirmed Japan's resolve to continue strongly supporting each country's autonomous growth through the promotion of quality infrastructure investment, in cooperation with the G7 and various partners (see Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 43 for quality infrastructure). Furthermore, in the margins of the meeting, a humanitarian conference on the Middle East was held with the participation of relevant countries, regions, and international organizations in addition to the G7, and the participants discussed the importance of avoiding escalation of the situation in the Middle East and improving the humanitarian situation.

At the G20, the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting and the Ministerial Meeting on the Establishment of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty <sup>6</sup> were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July, with then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka representing



Then Prime Minister Ishiba speaking at the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Japan. During the Development Ministers' Meeting, the participants discussed ensuring access to safe water and sanitation services, addressing inequality in a wide range of areas including climate change, digital technologies, and gender, as well as triangular cooperation. <sup>7</sup> Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister Hosaka presented Japan's efforts with specific examples, in which Japan—one of the world's leading donors in the water and sanitation sector—has provided a wide range of support, including the development of quality infrastructure and human resources, and, in so doing, fostered learning and co-creation of solutions with various partners for the overall improvement of access to water and sanitation. Regarding the challenges of inequality, he explained how Japan has consistently taken action toward investment in people, including the provision of quality education, over the seven decades of its history of ODA provision, and stated that accelerating collaboration among partners in the international community, including through triangular cooperation, is essential.

Then Prime Minister Ishiba represented Japan at the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November. In Session 1, "Fight against Hunger and Poverty," development issues were discussed with a focus on measures against hunger and poverty. Prior to this session, Japan also expressed its will to participate in the "Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty," which was launched on that occasion. Then Prime Minister Ishiba explained that Japan espouses the philosophy of human security and aims to eradicate hunger and poverty for the realization of a prosperous society where everyone can live happily with human dignity. Then Prime Minister Ishiba went on to state that, to that end, and in recognition of the importance of establishing food security and developing sustainable and resilient food systems, Japan is determined to actively contribute to the "Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty." Furthermore, regarding disaster risk reduction, he stated that Japan would continue to steadily



Then Prime Minister Kishida speaking at the G7 Apulia Summit  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

<sup>6</sup> A platform to support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. It was established at the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November 2024. As of January 2025, 90 countries, including Japan, and 76 organizations are participating.

<sup>7</sup> See the glossary on page 104.

implement the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” and strengthen disaster prevention measures together with G20 members. In Session 2, “Reform of the Global Governance Institutions,” having emphasized the importance of MDB evolution, then Prime Minister Ishiba addressed developing countries’ debt issues, stating that it is necessary to expedite the debt restructuring process under the G20 “Common Framework” and further improve debt transparency. He also explained that Japan has led the debt restructuring process of Sri Lanka—the first case of coordination with emerging creditor countries in the debt restructuring of a middle-income country—and expressed Japan’s intention to continue to provide necessary support for solving challenges that developing countries face (see Part III, Section 1 (4) on page 45 for efforts to address debt issues). Noting how the G20’s roles are increasingly important in leading international cooperation in many areas, then Prime Minister Ishiba also called for the development of a global governance regime where all countries go beyond confrontation and share responsibilities.

### ■ Partnership with Major Donor Countries and Others

In 2024, which marked the 60th anniversary of Japan’s accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan chaired the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting for the first time in 10 years. Then Prime Minister Kishida delivered the keynote speech as the chair, and Japan led discussions on multiple topics including sustainable development under the theme “Co-creating the Flow of Change: Leading Global Discussions with Objective and Reliable Approaches towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.” In the breakout session on sustainable development, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa pointed out the importance of mobilizing private finance catalyzed by ODA to meet the development financing needs of developing countries, and stated that Japan is actively contributing to reforming MDBs to ensure stable and sustainable financing necessary for development. In addition, she emphasized that OECD should mobilize technical expertise and human resources for sustainable development under the concept of “co-creation.”

In addition, Japan holds dialogues with major donors to exchange views on priority issues and policies. Following the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2024, the Japan-U.S. Strategic Diplomacy and Development Dialogue (at the Vice-Ministerial level) was held in May, where wide-ranging discussions were held from a strategic perspective on Japan-U.S. cooperation in addressing various challenges for the international community and strengthening engagement with countries of the Global South through diplomatic and development efforts.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the G7 Development Ministers’ Meeting, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Tsuge held separate meetings with Mr. Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic; Ms. Isobel Coleman, then Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and Mr. Thani Mohamed Soilihi, Minister of State for Francophonie and International Partnerships of the French Republic, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and confirmed that Japan would further deepen cooperation in international arenas including the G7. In addition, on the occasion of the G20 Development Ministers’ Meeting, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka held meetings with Mr. Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Mr. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development of Canada; and Mr. Seiso Joel Mohai, Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Republic of South Africa, and exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in the G20 in the field of development.

The member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD are traditionally engaged in development cooperation. However, emerging countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Brazil, and South Africa, have become active in providing assistance to developing countries in recent years. Through such assistance, these emerging countries have come to exercise considerable influence over development challenges. Japan coordinates with other countries, including emerging countries, and supports emerging countries’ effective provision of assistance to developing countries. At the 16th Japan-India Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue, held in March 2024, Japan and India concurred on establishing a forum for discussing bilateral development cooperation in third countries.

The “Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)” is a multi-stakeholder platform for driving the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation, bringing together not only donor countries but also a wide range of stakeholders, including developing countries, international organizations, private sectors, civil society, and local public entities for discussions. Japan has been serving as a Steering Committee member of GPEDC since January 2024, and continues to cooperate with various countries to ensure that the four principles of GPEDC—country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability—are practiced in development cooperation.

### ■ Partnership with International Organizations

To address various developmental and humanitarian issues as well as global challenges, Japan promotes collaboration with international organizations. Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa held meetings with Ms. Amy Pope, Director General of the International Organization

for Migration (IOM), who visited Japan in February, as well as with Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who visited Japan in March, and with Mr. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), who visited Japan in June. Then Foreign Minister Iwaya held a meeting with Mr. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who visited Japan in November.

In addition, in order to facilitate Japan's assistance implemented by international organizations, Japan also holds dialogues with major international organizations, including UN agencies. In 2024, Japan engaged in regular policy dialogues with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and others (see "Stories from the Field" on page 151 for a Japanese officer who works for IOM).

## ■ Partnership with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)<sup>8</sup> is a collective term for international organizations that support the poverty reduction and sustainable socio-economic development of developing countries. As poverty worsens and inequality widens due to cross-border challenges such as the pandemic and climate change, the World Bank and other MDBs promote initiatives, including MDB evolution, toward strengthening their response to global issues and the use of existing capital to respond to increasing development financing needs (CAF Review).\*

The importance of MDB evolution for enhancing their functions was also addressed at the G7 Apulia Summit in June 2024 and the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November, following the G7 Hiroshima Summit under Japan's Presidency in 2023, where the leaders of each country expressed their support for advancing MDB evolution. The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration endorsed the "G20 Roadmap towards Better, Bigger and More Effective MDBs," which is expected to accelerate MDBs' progress toward the SDGs and enhance their capacity to address global challenges.



## Glossary

### Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF) Review

An independent review of the CAF of MDBs, a G20 initiative, which explores measures to maximize the use of MDBs' existing capital. A roadmap featuring the progress and other information of the CAF review was formulated at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in July 2023, and the importance of the continuous implementation of the review was recognized at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in April 2024.

## (3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs implement development cooperation activities that directly benefit local communities in various fields in developing countries and regions. In addition, in places affected by natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, or conflicts, they provide prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance. Being close to different local populations in developing countries, NGOs are capable of carefully responding to the needs of local communities. They implement assistance at the grassroots level, which can be hard to reach through the support of governments and international organizations. The Government of Japan positions Japanese NGOs that engage in "visible development cooperation" as strategic partners in development cooperation, and its

collaboration with NGOs is centered around three pillars: financial cooperation for NGO development cooperation projects, support to enhance NGO capabilities, and dialogues with NGOs (see the MOFA website on international cooperation and NGOs<sup>9</sup>).

## ■ Financial Cooperation for NGOs' Projects

The Government of Japan cooperates with Japanese NGOs in various ways and helps them smoothly and effectively carry out projects in development cooperation and emergency humanitarian assistance in developing countries and regions.

### (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects)

The Government of Japan, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, provides financial support to socio-economic development projects that Japanese NGOs implement in developing countries. The projects

<sup>8</sup> See the glossary on page 36.

<sup>9</sup> Cooperation with NGOs [https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page\\_000025.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000025.html)

cover a wide range of fields, such as health, medical care and sanitation, rural development, assistance for persons with disabilities, education, disaster risk reduction, and landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal. In FY2023, 62 Japanese NGOs received grants under this scheme to implement 109 projects in 39 countries and one region, amounting to approximately ¥7 billion (see "Featured Projects" on pages 112 and 136).

#### (Japan Platform (JPF))

Japan Platform (JPF)\* supports and coordinates emergency humanitarian activities of NGOs in cooperation with Japanese NGOs, the business community, and the government. As of December 2024, 47 NGOs are registered with JPF. In FY2023, JPF implemented 145 projects under 20 emergency humanitarian assistance programs in response to disasters and conflicts in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Gaza, Türkiye, Pakistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Mozambique, and other locations (see "Featured Project" on page 110).



Indigenous women selling chili peppers harvested with support from Japan in Guatemala (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) (Photo: Plan International Japan)



Japanese NGO staff working in Moldova to provide opportunities for children from Ukrainian refugee families and host communities to interact and deepen mutual understanding (Japan's emergency humanitarian assistance through JPF) (Photo: Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan))

#### (NGO Project Subsidies)

NGO Project Subsidies is another form of financial support from the Government of Japan available to Japanese NGOs. The scheme supports three types of projects: "research projects" that identify and formulate development cooperation projects and conduct post-project evaluations, "international cooperation-related projects in Japan" and "international cooperation-related projects based overseas," which support the organization of and participation in training sessions and lectures in Japan and abroad with the aim of helping applicant NGOs expand and strengthen their international cooperation operations. In FY2023, the Government of Japan provided NGO Project Subsidies to four Japanese NGOs, supporting project formulation studies, and organization of seminars and workshops, including those held online, in Japan or abroad.

#### (JICA Partnership Program (JPP))

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is an effort in international cooperation where interested entities such as Japanese NGO/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other private organizations, local public entities, or universities assist local citizens in developing countries in getting involved in the economic and social development or reconstruction in their own areas. Leveraging their own technologies, knowledge, and experience, applicant organizations propose projects to JICA. Then, upon the approval of JICA, the organizations are contracted to implement the projects (see the JICA website <sup>10</sup> for information on program details among others). Through JPP, approximately 200 projects are implemented every year. The number of the countries where JPP operates has reached a cumulative total of approximately 80.



A beekeeper from Marumori Town teaching beekeeping techniques to small-scale farmers in Zambia (JICA Partnership Program) (Photo: Marumori Town and Kouya Development Association)

<sup>10</sup> JICA Partnership Program <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/partner/partner.html>

## Featured Project 13

### Project for Improvement of Nutrition among Under-5 Children in Atsimondrano District

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2023 – March 2024)

Public nomination



#### Aiming to Improve Nutrition in Newborns, Infants and Young Children

In Madagascar, a significant number of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition, primarily due to poverty, lack of knowledge among caregivers, and unsanitary living conditions. Chronic malnutrition severely impairs both physical and cognitive development, raising concerns about its long-term effects on health as well as its economic impacts.

AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS), a Japanese NGO, has been working since 2022 to improve the nutritional status of children in the Atsimondrano District of the Analamanga Region, where chronic malnutrition has caused serious growth and development disorders among children. In order to improve child nutrition, the organization implemented training for caregivers and developed over 700 trainers. It also conducted more than 10,000 training sessions over the course of one year for local residents on knowledge related to child nutrition improvement, including nutrition, health, water and sanitation, as



Trainers conducting a session for local residents  
(Photo: AMDA-MINDS)



A boy receiving agricultural tools for home gardening  
(Photo: AMDA-MINDS)

well as livelihood enhancement. In addition, it provided necessary tools and seeds for home gardens to 1,000 households, installed over 400 sanitary latrines, and broadcasted more than 400 radio programs on the importance of nutrition, implementing a multifaceted approach.

These efforts helped caregivers become more aware of the importance of child nutrition, and many reported improved household finances through home gardening. One trainer commented, "Mothers who used to feed their babies solid food from as early as three months now exclusively breastfeed until six months. By making their own insecticides and compost, and managing household finances, they learned to save money." AMDA-MINDS will continue to support community-led efforts to ensure the healthy growth of children.

#### ■ NGO Support to Improve the Enabling Environment for NGOs

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 throughout Japan as "NGO Consultants" who are tasked to address inquiries and respond to requests for consultation from citizens and NGOs on such topics as international cooperation activities by NGOs, procedures to establish an NGO, organizational management and operation, and approaches for providing development education. In FY2023, MOFA commissioned 10 organizations that handled more than 5,600 questions and inquiries and provided approximately 70 on-site services.<sup>11</sup>

##### (NGO Internship Program/NGO Study Program)

MOFA implements the NGO Internship Program

and NGO Study Program in support of organizational development through human resources development. The NGO Internship Program is designed to train younger generations who can play a leading role in Japanese NGOs in international cooperation in the future. A total of seven interns were accepted by NGOs through this program in FY2023.

Under the NGO Study Program, mid-career staff from Japanese NGOs in international cooperation undergo domestic and overseas training. Upon completion of training, they are expected to share their experience and learning widely within their organization and with other NGOs, and contribute to enhancing the capacity of Japanese NGOs as a whole. In FY2023, nine people received training.

##### (NGO Study Group)

MOFA supports research activities conducted by NGOs to improve their own project implementation capacity and expertise. The NGO Study Group hosted by MOFA aims to strengthen the organization and capacity of NGOs. Under specific themes facing the NGO community, each study group is organized to undertake a range of

<sup>11</sup> Consultation and lecture services at events related to international cooperation, provided in cooperation with local governments and partner organizations.

activities, including joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, etc., and produce reports and make specific recommendations for performance improvement. In FY2023, the NGO Study Group focused on two themes: (i) "Analysis on Development Cooperation issues in the G7 / C7 and Ideal Roles of Japanese NGOs based on the Discussions at the G7 Hiroshima Summit" and (ii) "Past achievements in strengthening the foundation of NGOs (strengthening measures taken by NGOs themselves, governments, companies, etc.) and the methods and measures required in the new era." The reports and outputs of these activities are available on the MOFA website <sup>12</sup> (in Japanese only).

### ■ Dialogue with NGOs (NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings and NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting)

In FY2023, the Plenary of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting\* was held in August. The meeting of a subcommittee, namely the "Partnership Promotion Committee," took place in July and December 2023 and March 2024, and the "ODA Policy Council" met in July and November 2023 and March 2024, featuring lively exchanges of views (see the MOFA website <sup>13</sup> for more information on the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

JICA holds the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting to engage in dialogue and collaboration with NGOs. Two meetings took place in FY2023, with 93 participants in the first meeting and 73 participants in the second meeting (see the JICA website <sup>14</sup> for more information on the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

## Glossary

### Japan Platform (JPF)

An emergency humanitarian aid organization established in 2000 in partnership with NGOs, the business community, and the government. JPF aims to support and coordinate with Japanese NGOs to ensure their rapid and effective emergency humanitarian aid activities in the event of a large-scale natural disaster or conflict that causes a vast number of refugees or displaced persons, etc. JPF utilizes ODA funds from the Government of Japan, as well as donations from companies and citizens to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including the distribution of food/non-food items, and support to rebuild lives, in the situation of a large-scale natural disaster or a vast number of refugees or displaced persons fleeing from conflicts.

### NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting

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 1996 for sharing information on ODA and regularly exchanging opinions on measures for improving partnerships with NGOs. It comprises the Plenary and two subcommittees: the "ODA Policy Council" and the "Partnership Promotion Committee."

## (4) Collaboration with Local Governments

Japanese local governments have accumulated extensive expertise and human resources in areas such as water supply and sewerage systems, waste disposal, healthcare and maternal and child health, social welfare, agricultural extension, primary and secondary education, vocational training, environmental conservation, and public transportation, based on their experiences in providing public services to local residents. The Government of Japan engages in development cooperation that leverages the technology and know-how of such local governments by dispatching local government officials as experts and ensuring their involvement in grant projects for developing countries facing similar development challenges. For example, in

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, water supply facilities, which had been devastated by civil war, achieved the "Miracle of Phnom Penh"—providing potable tap water 24 hours a day—through technical cooperation by the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau since 1999. Kitakyushu City's cooperation extended to other Cambodian cities, and has currently expanded to water utility planning for the whole country.

Moreover, the Government of Japan proactively promotes overseas outreach of local governments, including industries within their jurisdiction, in order to revitalize and internationalize the regional communities of Japan. MOFA and JICA now accept local governments' application for the JICA Partnership Program (JPP) under the "regional revitalization" category, and implement technology transfers to developing countries in collaboration with those local governments.

In addition, 15 JICA offices across Japan function as a "nexus between Japanese local communities and

<sup>12</sup> The reports of NGO Study Group [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda\\_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>13</sup> NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda\\_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>14</sup> Regular meetings with NGOs [https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo\\_meeting/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo_meeting/index.html) (in Japanese only)

developing countries” by providing information on international cooperation to various local actors such as citizens, NGOs, local governments, and the private sector, and undertake a variety of projects based on the strengths of those localities. Furthermore, JICA has assigned coordinators for international cooperation to relevant local government bodies, where they serve as liaison officers for local governments and regional NGOs and promote various international cooperation activities in 44 prefectures.

## **(5) Partnership with Universities and Research Institutions, etc.**

The Government of Japan strives to collaborate with universities on a broad range of intellectual aspects of the overall socio-economic development of developing countries, namely theorizing and transmitting unique Japanese philosophies of development cooperation, practicing such development cooperation philosophies, teaching the lessons learned from the development field to the Japanese community, and developing human resources for international cooperation. In addition, as part of these efforts, the Government of Japan facilitates “international brain circulation” through exchanges and joint research among students and researchers from developing countries and those from Japan. In fact, the Government of Japan successfully promotes projects under technical cooperation, yen loans, the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), and so forth in collaboration with various universities.

To give an example, for the purpose of training highly competent professionals who can play a central role in the socio-economic development of their home countries, the Government of Japan accepts junior government officers from developing countries as international students at Japanese universities through the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS). To date, the number of universities accepting those international students has reached a cumulative total of 41. In FY2023, Japan accepted more than 300 students from 19 countries, and the cumulative number of JDS Fellows enrolled in the master’s or doctoral programs in Japan has exceeded 6,000. Furthermore, Japan supports the development of advanced engineering professionals

from ASEAN countries whose industrial structures and business activities continue to advance, through strengthening the network among Japanese and ASEAN-based universities, promoting collaboration between universities and the industrial sector, and supporting joint research and joint education within the region and in Japan under the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project.\* Currently, to ensure the future sustainability of the network, Japan is also focusing on collaboration with other institutions and securing external funding.

In addition, MOFA and JICA implement the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program,”<sup>15</sup> in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). Under the SATREPS program, international joint studies between universities and research institutions in Japan and those in developing countries are being conducted (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 42 for the results, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 139 for assistance in Argentina).

JICA collaborates with Japanese universities to implement the “JICA Development Studies Program,” which provides master’s and doctoral students from developing countries with an opportunity to learn about the development, history, and modernization experiences of Japan and various regions in the country. In order to scale similar efforts overseas, JICA also implements the “JICA Chair” program to support the establishment of “Japanese Studies” courses at top universities in developing countries. Additionally, working with the Open University of Japan, JICA has launched online lecture initiatives, such as the production of the “Japanese Modernization Lecture Series” program, which systematically presents the history of Japanese modernization and the importance of international cooperation.

These partnerships with universities contribute to enhancing the capacity of developing countries’ academia to provide solutions to development challenges and to promoting international understanding toward Japan. They also support the internationalization of Japanese universities by providing opportunities for international scholars’ training and research activities.



### **Glossary**

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

Established in 2001 as a university network comprising 19 top-ranking engineering universities in 10 ASEAN member countries and 11 partner universities from Japan (currently 26 ASEAN countries’ and 18 Japanese universities). Japan has supported this network from its planning phase, and through JICA, has implemented initiatives related to degree acquisition, joint education and research, collaboration between industry and academia, and network development in support of training highly qualified professionals in the engineering sector.

<sup>15</sup> See the glossary on page 43.

# MASTER TECHNIQUES 4

## from Japan to the World Safeguarding Lives and Property in Argentina through the Application of Japan's World-Class Weather Forecasting System

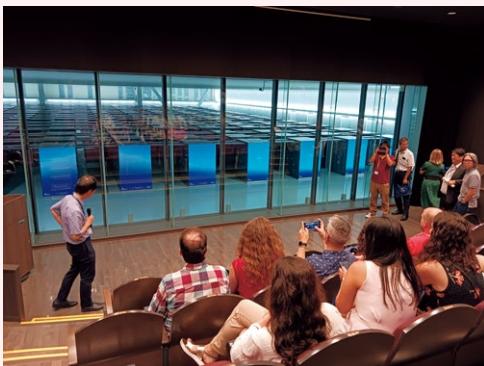


Argentina grapples with flood damage due to heavy rainfall, exacerbated by climate change and other factors. Particularly in major urban areas such as Buenos Aires Province and Córdoba Province, rapid population growth and urbanization have caused the expansion of densely populated areas, increasing the country's vulnerability to disasters. To mitigate disaster damage, it is essential to swiftly convey accurate information about when and where to evacuate, based on reliable weather data and forecasts. The development of accurate weather forecasting and disaster information systems is thus an urgent priority.

To address this situation through "the power of science," RIKEN has been working since 2022 under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)\*1 program, in collaboration with research institutions, including the national meteorological agencies of Japan and Argentina, to develop a comprehensive solution package for observation, prediction, warning, and communication, aimed at reducing meteorological and flood risks.

Several decades ago, Japan, like Argentina today, relied on forecasters making weather predictions based on their experience and knowledge, using limited observation tools. Japan now issues warnings and evacuation information with world-leading accuracy, enabled by cutting-edge equipment and forecasting technology, including the geostationary meteorological satellite "Himawari" and observation data from the Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System (AMeDAS). This SATREPS project aims to tackle challenges by researching and developing forecasting technologies tailored to Argentina's current circumstances. Dr. MIYOSHI Takemasa, Chief Scientist at RIKEN and leader of this project, reflects on its progress: "Although Argentina, like other developing countries, lacked sufficient equipment and technical resources, efforts were already underway to modernize its weather radar. By focusing on flood control measures in Buenos Aires Province and Córdoba Province, we strive to enhance weather forecasting accuracy through the integration of Argentina's existing infrastructure and observation data with Japan's technological expertise. Installation and operation of observational equipment and large-scale computing systems have already begun, laying the foundation for generating higher-quality information, including high-precision simulations."

Preventing disaster damage requires not only delivering collected information to residents in a timely and accurate



Argentine researchers visiting the "Fugaku" supercomputer (Photo: PREVENIR Project)



Disaster risk reduction education in a suburban area of Córdoba (Photo: PREVENIR Project)

manner but also ensuring their understanding. As part of this project, smartphone applications and websites are being developed to communicate flood forecasts and warnings. In parallel, initiatives to raise disaster awareness among the public, who are the recipients of disaster-related information, are ongoing, such as special classes at local schools and workshops for community members. For example, educational materials on flood preparedness were created and distributed to schools to support disaster education. Training sessions are also being held for primary school students, teachers, and disaster management officials of local governments in the target areas. These sessions introduce the project and offer opportunities to explore flood control measures from an educational perspective. Feedback from participants, such as their impressions of the applications and websites, is gathered to support the development of more user-friendly systems.

Regarding the significance of the SATREPS project, Dr. Miyoshi explains, "This project allows us to study whether the systems we have developed can be applied in environments different from Japan, such as on a continental scale or within a Southern Hemisphere climate. Damage caused by disasters is inherently unjust, and economically vulnerable regions often bear the brunt of their impacts. The system being developed in Argentina does not require state-of-the-art facilities or vast amounts of high-quality data, making it suitable for deployment in other developing countries facing similar challenges. In this way, we can give back to society by helping to minimize disaster damage through the development of weather forecasting and disaster information systems."

Additionally, drawing on his own research journey—sparked by an encounter with an Argentine mentor during his graduate studies—Dr. Miyoshi highlights the deeper personal and professional rewards of the project that go beyond its academic and social significance, "By allowing young Japanese researchers to spend extended periods working on-site, the project enables fostering connections with their international counterparts. These relationships lay the groundwork for continued research collaboration even after the project ends. SATREPS also plays a vital role in bridging generations of researchers."

Dr. Miyoshi also shares his hopes for the future: "Forecasting severe weather is directly tied to saving lives. I hope this project will bear fruit and help protect as many people as possible. I want to contribute to ensuring that the power of science can serve to mitigate the devastating impact of these unjust disasters, even if only to a small extent."

\*1 See the glossary on page 43.

## (6) Collaboration with People with a Deep Interest in and Understanding of Japan, Japanese Descendants (Nikkei) Living Abroad, and Others

Foreign nationals who have participated in training programs or studied in Japan through Japan's ODA are important human assets with an understanding of Japanese culture and values. There are also cases where these people form alumni associations and engage in activities to promote exchanges with and understanding of Japan after returning to their home countries. Through our overseas diplomatic missions, MOFA facilitates collaboration with these people, who have a deep interest in and understanding of Japan.

In ASEAN countries, after returning to their home countries, participants of JICA's Training Program for Young Leaders (the former Youth Invitation Program) have established alumni associations in their own countries. In 1988, the alumni associations in each ASEAN country were integrated into the newly launched "ASEAN-Japan Friendships Association for the 21st Century (AJAFA-21)." Since then, AJAFA-21 has continued to conduct exchange activities within the ASEAN region and with Japan. In March 2024, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Training Program for Young Leaders, 28 AJAFA-21 members from nine countries visited Japan for a commemorative ceremony. During the ceremony, each country reported on the history of building trust between ASEAN countries and Japan through this program and shared future prospects. They confirmed that ASEAN countries and Japan will continue to work together as true equal partners to solve common global challenges. In March 2025, the Executive Council Meeting of AJAFA-21 national alumni association representatives for FY2024 is scheduled to be held in Laos.

Japan strives to increase follow-up support for participants of the ABE Initiative <sup>16</sup> after they complete the program. Using online methods and other means, Japan provides networking opportunities with Japanese company representatives and information to participants who wish to work for Japanese companies. To strengthen networking among ABE Initiative participants, a social media network was launched in April 2020. As of October 2024, the network had more than 1,200 people, including current participants and graduates, as well as Japanese corporate representatives and former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), disseminating business information related to Japanese companies in Africa and facilitating mutual exchange. The ABE Initiative also offers annual online networking opportunities for all graduates to connect with each

other. Furthermore, a group of volunteer participants established an organization called Kakehashi Africa, which aims to become a business partner with Japanese companies. While maintaining a network that stretches across the African continent, it is active in over 48 African countries. The organization is engaged in activities such as conducting business surveys, providing business information, and matching the needs of Japanese companies and local resources. It has also collaborated with JICA, including on entrepreneurship training (see also "Stories from the Field" on page 141 for the activities of the alumni association of trainees returning from Japan).



ABE Initiative participants interacting with Japanese companies and other students (Photo: JICA)

In many cases, Japanese descendants (Nikkei people) form Nikkei communities in the countries of their residence and play a role as the foundation of strong ties between Japan and those countries. Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, which account for approximately 60% of the world's Nikkei people, support regional development and contribute greatly to the economic growth of their countries through the transfer of technology, etc., while also playing an important role as a "bridge" and "partner" with Japan. As part of its technical cooperation with these communities, JICA implements training programs for Nikkei community members, as well as the Education Program for Next-Generation Nikkei for Nikkei youth (junior high school, high school, and university students), who assume a leading role in collaboration between Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan. In FY2023, 142 Nikkei people from 11 Latin American and the Caribbean countries participated in the Training for Nikkei communities. In addition, JICA dispatches JOCVs to Nikkei communities who are motivated to apply their skills and experience to the communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. In FY2023, 43 JOCVs were sent to four countries in support of development in the region while living and working alongside Nikkei people and members of Nikkei communities.

<sup>16</sup> See the glossary on page 121.

## Stories from the Field 5

# Trainees Returning from Japan Advancing National Development and Japan-Nepal Relations – The Network and Contributions of JICA Alumni in Nepal –

Nepal, a traditionally pro-Japan country, has the lowest income level in Southwest Asia. Its main industry, agriculture, struggles with low productivity. The country also faces a number of challenges, including its landlocked geography, natural disasters, underdeveloped social infrastructure, and governance issues.

Japan has long accepted many government officials and engineers from Nepal through JICA's training programs, supporting them in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to address national challenges. The JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), whose members include former JICA trainees who have returned after completing their training or studies in Japan, not only applies what they have learnt in Japan in developing their home country, but also contributes to strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Nepal.

JAAN was established in 1973 and currently has nearly 1,100 members. Many members hold key positions in the government as well as in major public and private institutions, forming an extensive network. While working to strengthen connections among alumni, members leverage their experiences in Japan to support Nepal's development in a wide range of areas from various positions.

For example, in the energy sector, under the leadership of Mr. Kul Man Ghising, now Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority, the country has achieved a stable electricity supply for its citizens, resolving the long-standing issue of scheduled power outages. In the field of education, Ms. Biva Kalika Malla Shrestha, who serves as vice-principal at a Nepali high school, is making notable contributions.

"I visited Japan in 1996 and 2018. Having received an education centered on blackboard-based, one-way instruction, I was impressed by Japan's primary education methods, which emphasize learning through practice. It made me realize that education drives national development. As an educator, I'm working to integrate Japanese teaching methods in Nepal, working with relevant institutions to enhance children's learning," she says with enthusiasm.



JAAN executive committee members paying a courtesy call on President Paudel of Nepal (Ms. Shrestha, fourth from the left; Dr. Bhusal, seventh from the left) (Photo: JAAN)



JAAN providing food assistance in areas affected by flooding that occurred in September 2024 (Dr. Bhusal at the center) (Photo: JAAN)

The current president of JAAN, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, came to Japan in 1997 as a JICA trainee, where he received training in agriculture. As his desire to continue learning in Japan grew following his training, he made his way back, and over the course of seven years, earned his doctoral degree from the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences at Ehime University. After returning to Nepal, he made full use of the expertise he gained in Japan by working on agricultural research and development projects at international NGOs and major donor agencies. He is dedicated to improving the lives of the poor by increasing farmers' income through new agricultural technologies and production of high-value crops. Dr. Bhusal reflects on his experience and says, "I learned the importance of considering human health and plant health as one, and that management, not just agricultural technology, is crucial."

One of the characteristics of JAAN's activities, Dr. Bhusal explains, is that "JAAN always carries out its work flexibly, adapting to the needs and circumstances of the times." For example, in 2024, JAAN redirected funds typically allocated for their annual event during Nepal's traditional "Dashain" festival to provide relief supplies to flood victims, contributing to the country's recovery. In recent years, JAAN has also expanded its network beyond national borders, organizing international seminars with participation from South Asian countries, in addition to hosting domestic seminars focused on human resource development.

Furthermore, JAAN contributes to the development of friendly bilateral relations between Japan and Nepal by strengthening cooperation and fellowship with the Embassy of Japan in Nepal, JICA Nepal Office, JICA experts dispatched from Japan, and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, as well as by regularly engaging in discussions. A relationship of mutual cooperation has been established, with the Government of Nepal and JAAN offering support to Japan during the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the Government of Japan and JICA providing aid to Nepal following the major earthquake in 2015.

JAAN is expected to continue playing a vital role in Nepal's development while serving as a bridge between Nepal, Japan, and other countries.