

Trajectory of Japan's ODA

– 70 Years of Dedicated Efforts from the Post-war Period to Today –

- ...History of Japan's International Cooperation
- ...History of Japan Receiving Foreign Aid
- ...Japan's Participation and Contribution to the International Community

1954
Joined the Colombo Plan and began Technical Cooperation.

1958
Launched ODA Loans. (India is the first recipient.)

1946–
Received assistance from the United States through the Government Appropriations for Relief in Occupied Area Fund (GARIOA) and the Economic Rehabilitation in Occupied Area Fund (EROA).

1953–1966
Borrowed from the World Bank.

1956
Joined the United Nations.

1954
Beginning of Japan's ODA



The Tokaido Shinkansen (bullet train) constructed with financial assistance from the World Bank. (Photo: The World Bank)

<Key Events in Japan>

<Key Events in the World>

1965
Founded Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program).

1968
Introduced Grants (food aid).

1974
Established Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

1978
Announced the First Medium-Term Target of ODA (doubling of ODA over three years). (Shift from Asia-centric to global expansion)

1987
Enacted the Act on Dispatchment of the Japan Disaster Relief Team.

1989
Launched Small-Scale Grant Assistance (currently Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects).



Improving access to safe water in Ethiopia through the installation of water supply facilities (Photo: HOPE International Development Agency Japan (HOPE Japan))

1960
Expansion and Diversification of Japan's ODA

1960
Joined the International Development Association (IDA) (World Bank's fund for the poorest countries) as a donor country.

1964
Accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1979
Hosted the G7 Tokyo Summit (Japan as the Presidency for the first time).

1989
Became the top donor, surpassing the United States.

1967
Graduated from borrower status.

1990
Repaid World Bank loan.

1964
Summer Olympic Games Tokyo 1964

1961
Establishment of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1973
First oil crisis

1979
Second oil crisis

1975
First G7 Summit

1989
From the Showa era to the Heisei era

1992
Enactment of the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations

1995
Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

1990
Start of the Gulf War

1997
Asian financial crisis

1989
End of the Cold War

2000
Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

2008
Global Financial Crisis

2008
First G20 Summit (Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy)

2015
Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2016
Entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change

2011
Great East Japan Earthquake

2020
Global spread of COVID-19

2022
Russia's aggression against Ukraine

2019
From the Heisei era to the Reiwa era

2021
Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

2024
Summit of the Future

Achievements of Japan's Development Cooperation in Figures*1



*1 Gross disbursements represent the cumulative total from 1960 to 2023 (Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024). The figures for JOCVs dispatched, people trained, and experts dispatched covers the period from 1954 to the end of March 2024.

*2 The figure does not exclude repaid amount of government loans, etc.

2000

Addressing New Development Challenges in the 21st Century

2008
Merged JICA and the overseas economic cooperation operations of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

2015
Formulated the Development Cooperation Charter.

2023
Revised the Development Cooperation Charter.

2024
70th anniversary of Japan's ODA; Held the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10).

2025
60th anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs); The Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9)



Private-Sector Investment Finance supporting large-scale wind power plants in Viet Nam, promoting renewable energy and contributing to the local economy. (Photo: RENOVA, Inc.)

2019
From the Heisei era to the Reiwa era

2021
Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

2024
Summit of the Future

Japan's International Cooperation