

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)

1951

Signature of the San Francisco Peace Treaty

1950

Start of the Korean War

1945

End of the World War II

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.

Achievements of Japan's Development Cooperation in Figures*1

Countries and regions supported



190

Gross disbursements by 2023*2



\$638.4 billion
(approx. ¥78 trillion)

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) dispatched



56,000 people
to 99 countries

Participants in training programs



699,000 people
from 187 countries and regions

Experts dispatched



215,000 people
to 183 countries and regions

*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.

1992

Formulated Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter.

1993

Held the First Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD1).

1997

Held the 1st Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM1).

1990
Japan as a Top Donor



Supporting Thailand's first subway and mass transit network, contributing to ease traffic congestion in central Bangkok and improving environmental issues, such as air pollution. (Photo: JICA)

2000
Addressing New Development Challenges in the 21st Century

2000

Hosted the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit.

2008

Hosted the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit.

2016

Hosted the G7 Ise-Shima Summit.

2019

Hosted the G20 Osaka Summit.

2023

Hosted the G7 Hiroshima Summit. (Japan as the Presidency for the seventh time)

2008

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

2015

Formulated the Development Cooperation Charter. *The name changed from ODA Charter

2017

Announced the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.

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.)

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

1989

End of the Cold War

2000

Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1997

Asian financial crisis

2008

Global Financial Crisis 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

<Key Events in Japan>

<Key Events in the World>