

Part V

Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation



JICA experts conducting training on atmospheric particulate matter analysis for staff of the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute

1	Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation	142
2	Institutional Design for Development Cooperation that Aptly Reflects Enhanced Strategic Values	156
3	Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation	162
4	Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation, and Spreading Awareness.....	164

1

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.

In this context, a law partially amending the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) entered into force in April 2025 with three main objectives: promoting the mobilization of private financial resources, strengthening partnerships with domestic and international entities capable of addressing diverse development challenges, and increasing the flexibility and efficiency of JICA’s finances.

(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.

In 2023, the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative (see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 160) was launched, and dialogue and co-creation among various stakeholders, including developing countries, relevant Japanese government ministries and agencies, and other stakeholders have been promoted, thereby enhancing collaboration with private companies. Taking into account recent changes in the international situation and diplomatic challenges, the strategy document for the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative was revised in August 2025, adding “Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)” so that the strategic area became “Climate Change Response, Green Transformation (GX), and DRR,” as well as introducing “Health” as a strategic area. Through expanding and establishing cooperation utilizes Japan’s knowledge and technology, Japan aims to address the challenges developing countries face while

simultaneously solving its own challenges and achieving economic growth.

■ SDGs Business Supporting Survey

Japanese companies’ refined products, technologies, and services include many that can contribute to solving challenges in developing countries. The SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz)* supports the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), thereby contributing to addressing the diverse challenges faced by developing countries through the overseas business activities of Japanese companies. Under JICA’s credibility and network, Japanese companies can receive accompanying support from consultants well-versed in business in developing countries for their on-site surveys for overseas expansion (see JICA’s website ¹ for the overview of the program and the benefits of leveraging corporate technologies). In FY2025, a total of 62 businesses were selected to receive support for their operations in 31 developing countries (see Chart V-1 on page 144, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 73 and 78 as well).



Conducting SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Integrated Cocoa Seedling Production and Sales Model in Guinea (Photo: Tachibana & 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 the necessary financing (loans, debt guarantees, bond subscriptions, and equity investments) to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries that

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

are considered highly effective from a development perspective but not able to attract sufficient funding from private financial institutions. As of the end of FY2024, the cumulative amount of commitments since FY2011 has reached approximately ¥1,400.4 billion, with many Japanese companies participating (see JICA's website ² for more information about the program's framework, target areas, conditions, and other details). As a recent example of a successful PSIF project, an equity investment agreement was signed in August 2025 with a major venture capital fund in Africa. Through this investment, it is expected that capital will be provided to startups that develop projects with high development impact, promoting the empowerment of the people of Africa and sustainable economic activities including climate change measures, thereby contributing to economic development, and addressing social challenges in the African region. In addition, in March 2025, a loan agreement was signed with a financial institution in Viet Nam. By providing co-financing with Japanese financial institutions and others, the project aims to improve financial access in Viet Nam's agricultural sector, thereby contributing to the expansion of agricultural production and the improvement of farmers' income in the country.

At the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) held in August 2025, under the theme of "co-create innovative solutions with Africa," discussions were organized around three pillars: economy, society, and peace and stability. Among the cross-cutting priorities, particular emphasis was placed on private sector-led sustainable growth. At the conference, then Prime Minister Ishiba announced that, as part of efforts to mobilize private finance, Japan would catalyze a total of \$1.5 billion in impact investment through JICA's PSIF.

Under the JICA Act amended in April 2025, new financial instruments were introduced: bond acquisition, which supports enterprises in developing countries in issuing bonds and attracts investors by subscribing to bonds at an early stage; credit guarantees, which encourage lending by local banks and other institutions to local SMEs and other enterprises by having JICA assume part of the business risk; and results-based PSIF, which applies interest rates according to the level of achievement of business plans that contribute to improving sustainability.

■ 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 ³ for more information about the program's framework, target areas and countries, and other details). The total number of projects adopted from 2010 to 2024 has reached 92, and in 2024, three projects were adopted in Asia.

■ Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights

The Government of Japan provides grants intended to advance investment, under which Japanese companies are expected to be consistently involved from facility development through subsequent operation and maintenance, with the aim of acquiring business and management rights. 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.

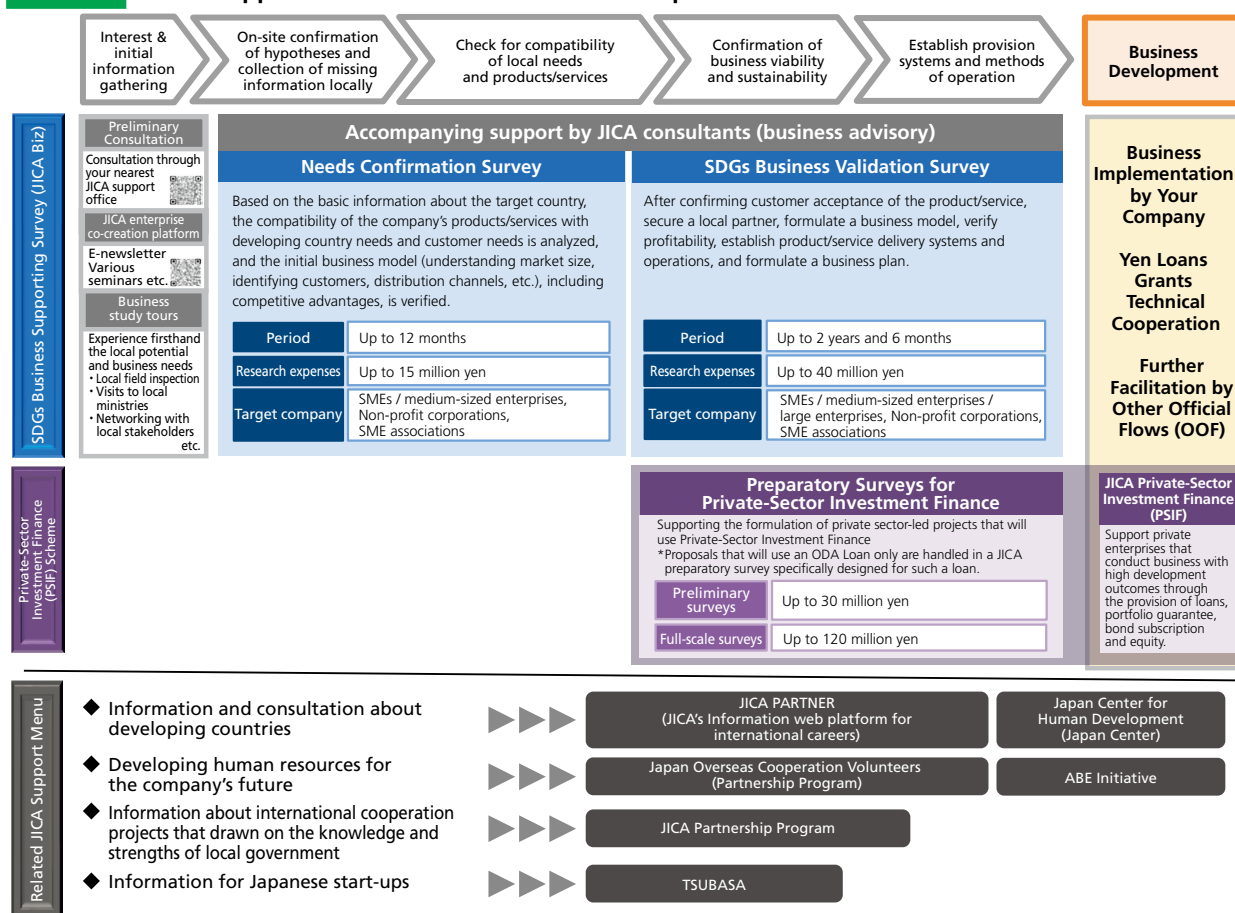
■ Collaboration with Public Financial Institutions

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.

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

³ Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html (in Japanese only)

Chart V-1 JICA Support Menu for Overseas Business Expansion



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 financial support to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries. 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 financial support 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 Kananaskis Summit was held in June 2025 under the Canadian Presidency. Then Prime Minister Ishiba attended from Japan. In the session on “A strong and sovereign Ukraine,” then Prime Minister Ishiba stated that Japan would further promote public-private partnership assistance for recovery and reconstruction, including industrial development in Ukraine. In the session on “Energy Security,” then Prime Minister Ishiba pointed out the essential role of quality infrastructure investment, which Japan has taken initiative in advocating, and noted the need to support grassroots efforts to improve the living standards of developing countries, such as providing electricity to rural areas and ensuring access to drinking water, in addition to large-scale infrastructure. Moreover, noting the significance of mobilizing private financial resources, he introduced the amendment to the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-Japan International Cooperation Agency (the JICA Act) enacted in April 2025, which expanded JICA’s financial instruments to enable guarantees and bond subscriptions for companies in developing countries. He also emphasized the need to improve implementation of the G20 “Common Framework” and enhance debt transparency to ensure debt sustainability. He also stated that Japan will take its responsibility to continue to support the growth of developing countries, with an eye on the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) to be hosted by Japan.



Then Prime Minister Ishiba speaking at the G7 Kananaskis Summit (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

In October, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji attended the G7 Development Ministers’ Meeting held in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Building on the outcomes of the June Summit, discussions were held under the theme of “Fostering Partnerships for Economic Prosperity.” In Session 1, “G7 Priorities for Development Cooperation,”

Japan emphasized the growing need for the G7 to take a coordinated lead in addressing global challenges, underscoring the importance of the “co-creation” approach in collaboration with diverse actors. Japan also stressed the continued need for the G7 to work toward ensuring that all providers of development cooperation practice transparent and fair development finance aligned with international rules and standards. Furthermore, Japan advocated the significance of domestic resource mobilization, expanding the donor base, and mobilizing private financial resources to address development financing needs. In Session 2, “Opportunities for Economic Transformation and Mutual Growth,” then State Minister Miyaji emphasized the importance of promoting quality infrastructure investment in line with the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” and expressed expectations for synergies between the Japan-led Nacala Corridor development initiative and the Lobito Corridor development under the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). Regarding enhancing the resilience and diversification of critical mineral supply chains, he stressed that, from the perspective of responsible mineral development, not only the development of new supply sources but also the promotion of sustainable resource projects and human resources development are indispensable (see Part III, Section 1 (1) on page 28 for Enhancing Resilience and Diversifying Supply Chains, and Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 45 for Quality Infrastructure).

At the G20, the G20 Development Ministers’ Meeting was held in South Africa in July. Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto attended from Japan and stated that, precisely because we live in an era of deepening division and confrontation, the G20 must identify common ground and points of agreement, co-create solutions toward sustainable development, and ensure that all members share responsibility. With regard to development financing needs, he emphasized the importance of expanding the donor base, domestic resource mobilization in developing countries, including measures against illicit financial flows, and private financial resource mobilization, and introduced Japan’s concrete initiatives, including the expansion of JICA’s financial instruments through legislative amendment. He further called on the G20 to continue ensuring that all providers of development cooperation practice transparent and fair development finance aligned with international rules and standards. He also emphasized the essential role of promoting quality infrastructure investment in line with the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” led by Japan, and noted that Japan’s distinctively fine-tuned assistance, grounded in a long-term perspective, including its more than 70-year commitment to “investment in people,” has contributed to the transformation of emerging countries in Southeast Asia and elsewhere from aid recipients to development cooperation partners. He expressed Japan’s intention to

extend such partnerships that transcend the traditional donor-recipient relationship to Africa and beyond.

Prime Minister Takaichi represented Japan at the G20 Johannesburg Summit in November. In Session 1, “Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth that Leaves No One Behind,” she emphasized that, amidst the multiple crises the international community is facing, all G20 members must address challenges and build global governance in a way that all members share responsibility. Regarding global economy and trade, she noted the importance of developing a rules-based, free, and fair international economic order, including reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and linking it to global economic growth as well as the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). On international development finance, including debt issues, she outlined efforts such as further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of support provided by multilateral development banks (MDBs), the promotion of quality infrastructure investment led by Japan within the G20, and enhancing the implementation of debt restructuring under the G20 “Common Framework.” In Session 2, “A Resilient World – G20’s Contribution,” she stated that Japan, leveraging its expertise and experience as a nation at the forefront of addressing challenges, has consistently led efforts to address global challenges such as disasters, infectious diseases, and climate change, by putting its words into action and standing by other nations. Building on this, she introduced Japan’s concrete initiatives, including international cooperation in disaster risk reduction through the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and capacity building at the UHC Knowledge Hub and the hosting of the UHC High-Level Forum toward achieving universal health coverage (UHC). In Session 3, “A Fair and a Just Future for All,” she noted the need for countries to work together to build resilient and reliable critical mineral supply chains, promote sustainable resource projects and high-value-added processing in resource-rich countries, and stated Japan’s commitment to continuing its efforts to achieve a safe, secure, and trustworthy AI ecosystem (see Part III, Section 1 (4) on page 47 for efforts on debt issues).



Prime Minister Takaichi speaking at the G20 Johannesburg Summit
(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

■ Partnership with Major Donor Countries and Others

According to United Nations estimates, the demand for development financing has been growing year by year, now exceeding \$4 trillion annually. This figure represents a significant increase compared to \$2.5 trillion before the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations has convened summit-level meetings to discuss concrete measures and challenges for securing development financing for developing countries. From June 30 to July 3, 2025, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) was held in Sevilla, Spain, attended by then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto from Japan. At the conference, Vice-Minister Matsumoto stated that, as the world faces unprecedented multifaceted crises, international solidarity and swift action are indispensable, and emphasized the importance, based on the principle of “human security,” of national self-reliance supported by international solidarity, the strengthening of domestic and private financial resource mobilization, and the promotion of development finance guided by transparent and equitable rules. At FfD4, in light of recent changes in the environment surrounding international assistance, a process for reviewing the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) was also announced and discussed.

In addition, Japan holds dialogues with major donors to exchange views on priority issues and policies. In March 2025, Japan held the Japan-UK Development Policy Dialogue, and in May, the Japan-EU Development Policy Dialogue, where wide-ranging discussions were held on the development policies being implemented by both sides and international trends in the field of development.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the G20 Development Ministers’ Meeting, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto held meetings with Ms. Ramokgopa, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Republic of South Africa; Baroness Chapman of Darlington, Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom; Ms. Alabali-Radovan, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany; and Mr. Sarai, Secretary of State for International Development of Canada, and exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in the G20 in the field of development.

The member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) 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 the resolution of development challenges. Japan coordinates with other countries, including emerging countries, and supports emerging countries' in effectively providing assistance to developing countries. At the Japan-Brazil Summit Meeting in March 2025, it was announced that JICA and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC for its acronym in Portuguese) would hold a strategic meeting on development cooperation in 2025. Between JICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the "Trust Fund Achieving Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (TADAC)" has also been established to address development challenges through the mobilization of private financial resources. Furthermore, in July 2025, Japan, together with Palestine and Malaysia, held the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) ⁴ in Malaysia, and adopted the "CEAPAD IV Kuala Lumpur Action Plan" as guidelines for future cooperation between East Asian countries and Palestine in supporting the Palestinian people's nation-state building efforts (see Part IV, Section 7 on page 121 for CEAPAD IV).

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 Iwaya held meetings with Mr. Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who visited Japan in May, and with Ms. McDonnough, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), who visited Japan in August. In addition, he held meetings with the World Bank Group (WBG) representatives, led by Mr.

Diop, Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), who visited Japan to attend TICAD 9 held in August 2025, as well as with Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Under-Secretary-General, Acting Administrator and Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ms. Pope, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); Ms. Russell, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Ms. Rossbach, UN Under-Secretary-General Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Dr. Nishtar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Mr. Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund); and Ms. McCain, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

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 2025, Japan held the Second Japan-OCHA Policy Consultation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in January; the Third Japan-IOM Policy Consultation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in February; the 17th Japan-WFP Policy Consultation with WFP in March; the Japan-UNHCR Policy Dialogue with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in April; the 14th Japan-UNDP Strategic Dialogue with UNDP in May; and the 36th Japan-UNICEF Policy Consultation with UNICEF in June.

■ Partnership with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) ⁵ 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 the reforms of MDBs, toward strengthening their response to global issues and the use of existing capital to respond to increasing development financing needs (CAF Review),* as well as the promotion of private financial resource mobilization.

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

⁴ Abbreviation of Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development.

⁵ See the glossary on page 38.

endorsed the “G20 Roadmap towards Better, Bigger, and More Effective MDBs,” which is expected to accelerate MDBs’ progress toward the Sustainable Development

Goals (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 reports have been submitted periodically. At the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in July 2025, there was further recognition of the potential of the CAF to serve as a guide for utilizing new instruments to expand lending capacity over the next decade.

(3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs, building on their good relationships with local stakeholders developed through years of on-the-ground experience in developing countries and regions, deliver fine-tuned assistance that responds to the needs of local residents while leveraging the expertise of each organization. NGOs also possess the capacity to promptly mobilize in the event of emergencies such as natural disasters.

The Government of Japan positions Japanese NGOs that engage in “visible 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 [6](#)).

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 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 FY2024, 53 Japanese NGOs received grants under this

scheme to implement 102 projects in 36 countries and one region, amounting to approximately ¥6.7 billion (see “Featured Projects” on page 125 for initiatives in Iraq and on page 150 for initiatives in Uganda).



Children in South Africa with a secondhand mobile library vehicle donated from Japan (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) (Photo: SAPHES-Japan, a nonprofit organization (NPO))

(Japan Platform (JPF))

Japan Platform (JPF)* is a collaborative framework through which Japanese NGOs, the business community,



A parent and child receiving distributed food at a shelter in the Gaza Strip (Japan Platform (JPF))

6 Cooperation with NGOs https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000025.html

and the government cooperate to support and coordinate emergency humanitarian activities of NGOs. As of December 2025, 47 NGOs are registered with JPF. In FY2024, JPF implemented 106 projects under 16 emergency humanitarian assistance programs in response to disasters and conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Yemen, Myanmar, Thailand, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Mozambique, and other locations.



Staff of Peace Winds Japan, provincial health officials, and a construction company conducting a final inspection of a health facility in Mozambique damaged by a cyclone, upon completion of repairs (Japan's emergency humanitarian assistance through JPF) (Photo: Peace Winds 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 FY2024, the Government of Japan provided NGO Project Subsidies to six 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 a technical cooperation program implemented by JICA in collaboration with Japanese partners, including NGOs/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other private organizations, local public entities, incorporated administrative agencies, or schools, with the aim of contributing to economic and social development or reconstruction in developing countries by supporting activities for local populations. Activities proposed by these organizations, utilizing

their technologies, knowledge, and experience, are commissioned by JICA and implemented in cooperation with the proposing organizations as joint undertakings (see the JICA website ⁷ for information on program details among others). Through JPP, approximately 180 projects are implemented annually in about 80 countries.



A Japanese expert explaining disaster risk management and community-based volcanic disaster prevention at Poás Volcano in Costa Rica



Establishing a new onion brand through varietal improvement and building a food value chain in Mongolia (JICA Partnership Program) (Photo: JICA)

■ 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 FY2024, MOFA commissioned 10 organizations that

⁷ JICA Partnership Program <https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/kusanone/index.html>



Bridging Humanitarian Action and Development: Building Sustainable Systems to Protect Children from Violence

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2023 – June 2026)

The Child Protection System Strengthening Project (CPSSP) in Arua District

Uganda



Northwestern Uganda, affected by internal conflict that lasted for more than 20 years from 1986, continues to face challenges in basic infrastructure and public services. Children face high risks of abuse, neglect,^{*1} exploitation, and violence, yet systems to protect them from such forms of harm are still insufficiently developed.

In response to these challenges, Save the Children, drawing on its experience in providing emergency humanitarian assistance in the region, is working to strengthen child protection systems as an initiative that bridges humanitarian action and development. “Child protection” refers to efforts to prevent children from being exposed to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence, and to ensure that those who have suffered such harm can safely access support and care. This project places importance on building sustainable systems in collaboration with local communities and government authorities. For example, training and technical guidance have been provided to 13 social welfare officers and 726 para-social workers^{*2} of the region to enhance their capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children. A temporary shelter established within the Arua City Police has, over the course of a



A children's group in Arua District discussing the environment surrounding children (Photo: Save the Children)



Japanese staff of Save the Children and staff of the Arua City Police Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU), which operates the temporary shelter (Photo: Save the Children)

year, provided protection to 98 children and handled 859 cases, offering support to affected children and their families. Across the community, awareness-raising activities on violence prevention and gender equality have reached more than 10,600 residents in total. The project has established children's groups to help ensure that children's voices are reflected in policymaking.

A child participating in the group shared, “I never thought I could express my opinions to adults before, but I learned that I, too, have the right to speak up, and now I know who to turn to when I need help.” Japan will continue to cooperate with NGOs that have a proven track record and expertise in humanitarian assistance, supporting efforts to build systems in which government authorities and communities work together to ensure that children can grow up safely and securely.

^{*1} The failure to provide the care necessary for a child's normal physical and emotional development.

^{*2} A supervised para professional staff person or volunteer – often community based who serves the needs of vulnerable individuals including children and families, particularly where social welfare systems are underdeveloped or severely stretched. “Guidelines to strengthen the social service workforce for child protection” p. 9 <https://www.unicef.org/media/53851/file/Guidelines%20to%20strengthen%20social%20service%20for%20child%20protection%202019.pdf>

handled more than 5,500 questions and inquiries and provided 69 on-site services. ⁸

(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 FY2024.

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 FY2024, 11 people received training.

(NGO Study Group)

MOFA supports research activities conducted by NGOs to improve their own project implementation capacity

⁸ Consultation and lecture services at events related to international cooperation, provided in cooperation with local governments and partner organizations.

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 activities, including joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, etc., and produce reports and make specific recommendations for performance improvement. In FY2024, the NGO Study Group focused on two themes: “NGO-Corporate Partnerships: Examining Their Origins, Current State and Future Directions in Light of the New Development Cooperation Charter”; and “Strengthening the Fundraising Capabilities of NGOs in International Cooperation and Strategies for Expanding the Ecosystem Surrounding Such NGOs, Based on the New Development Cooperation Charter.” The reports and outputs of these activities are available on the MOFA website ⁹ (in Japanese only).

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

In FY2024, the Plenary of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting* was held in June. The meetings of the committees, namely the “Partnership Promotion Committee,” took place in July and December 2024 and March 2025, and the “ODA Policy Council” met in July and December 2024 and March 2025, featuring lively exchanges of views (see the MOFA website ¹⁰ 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. In FY2024, two meetings were held, with 80 participants at the first meeting, and 75 at the second. (see the JICA website ¹¹ for details, including information on the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting and meeting minutes.)



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 committees: 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 such public service areas 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 its local governments to help address such challenges by dispatching Japanese local government

officials as experts and enhancing their involvement in grant projects for developing countries facing similar development challenges. For example, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, improvement of water supply facilities, which had been devastated by civil war, is known as the “Miracle of Phnom Penh” providing access to clean tap water 24 hours a day, through 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. In addition, in order to share the city’s experience in overcoming pollution with cities in developing countries facing similar challenges, Kitakyushu City implemented a domestic wastewater management project in Surabaya, Indonesia.

⁹ The reports of NGO Study Group https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html (in Japanese only)

¹⁰ NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/taiva/kyougikai.html (in Japanese only)

¹¹ Regular meetings with NGOs https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo_meeting/index.html (in Japanese only)

Moreover, the Government of Japan proactively promotes overseas outreach of local governments, including local industries within their jurisdiction, in order to promote regional revitalization and internationalization. JICA has established a “regional revitalization” category under the JICA Partnership Program (JPP) and implements technology transfers in diverse fields to developing countries in collaboration with those proactive local governments. In the field of waste management, the activities of Osaki Town, Kagoshima Prefecture, supported efforts in Indonesia to reduce waste through waste separation, collection, and processing. In the health sector, the activities of Komagane City, Nagano Prefecture, fostered human resource development in Nepal aimed at strengthening collaboration between healthcare workers and community health volunteers utilizing Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbooks, and at enhancing capacities for prenatal and postnatal care. Currently, local governments, including Hamamatsu City and Saitama City, are implementing technical cooperation on water supply management in Indonesia and Laos.

In addition, 15 JICA domestic offices across Japan function as a “nexus between Japanese local communities and developing countries” by providing information on international cooperation to various local actors such as citizens, NGOs, local governments, and the private sector, and undertaking a variety of projects based on the strengths of those localities. Furthermore, JICA has assigned Coordinators for International Cooperation to local government-related organizations. These coordinators serve as liaison officers for JICA and local governments, related organizations, and regional NGOs promoting various international cooperation activities in 47 prefectures, as of September 2025.

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

The Government of Japan collaborates with universities across the broad intellectual spectrum of development cooperation, leveraging their role in the socio-economic development of developing countries. This collaboration ranges from organizing, exploring, and disseminating unique Japanese philosophies and theories of development cooperation, to the practical implementation of development cooperation, providing educational insights back to the public, and fostering human resources for international cooperation. As part of these efforts, the Government of Japan promotes “international brain circulation” through exchanges and joint research between students and researchers from developing countries and Japan. Indeed, it advances

projects in technical cooperation, yen loans, the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), and others, in collaboration with various universities.

For example, Kyushu Institute of Technology, which advances small satellite development projects, accepts international students from countries engaged in space technology development and has built a network with its alumni. Through cooperation with trainees from Paraguay hosted by the university, Paraguay’s first satellite was successfully launched (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 111 for details).

In addition, through the “Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS),” an initiative funded with Grants, the Government of Japan aims to cultivate highly competent professionals crucial for the socio-economic development of their home countries. To this end, Japan has accepted junior government officers expected to exercise leadership in policy-making as international students at a cumulative total of 55 Japanese universities (master’s and doctoral programs). In FY2025, Japan accepted 365 students from 25 countries, bringing the cumulative number of students who have come to Japan to over 6,700. Furthermore, to support the development of advanced engineering professionals from ASEAN countries whose industrial structures and business activities continue to evolve, Japan has supported strengthening the network among Japanese and ASEAN-based universities, promoting collaboration between universities and the industrial sector, and facilitating 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.*

In addition, as part of “science and technology diplomacy,” MOFA and JICA implement the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program,”¹² 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 research between universities and research institutions in Japan and those in developing countries are being conducted in order to solve global issues (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 42 for the results, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 44 for assistance in Kazakhstan and on page 120 for assistance in Tajikistan).

JICA also 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

¹² See the glossary on page 43.

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 universities from 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.

(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 individuals form alumni associations and engage in activities to promote exchanges with and understanding of Japan after returning to their home countries. Through Japan’s overseas diplomatic missions, MOFA facilitates collaboration with individuals who have a deep interest in and understanding of Japan.

In ASEAN countries, upon returning to their home countries, participants of JICA’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) for Young Leaders (the former Youth Invitation Program) have established alumni associations in their respective countries. In 1988, the alumni associations in each ASEAN country were integrated to form 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 2025, the 37th AJAFA-21 Executive Council Meeting was held in Laos, where participants from ASEAN countries and Japan gathered to deepen their collaboration and ties.

Japan strives to expand follow-up support for

participants of the ABE Initiative ¹³ after they complete the program. For example, JICA’s local offices in African countries organize annual networking events attended by recent graduates and alumni, and also utilize online platforms to create networking opportunities with representatives from Japanese companies, creating openings for employment at and partnerships with Japanese companies. To strengthen networking among ABE Initiative participants, a social media network was launched in April 2020, and as of September 2025, the network had more than 1,300 members, including current participants and graduates, as well as representatives of Japanese companies and former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), sharing business information related to Japanese companies operating in Africa and engaging in mutual exchange. The ABE Initiative also offers annual online networking opportunities for graduates to connect with each



ABE Initiative participants engaged in a workshop (Photo: JICA)

¹³ See the glossary on page 132.

other. As a result, cases have emerged of ABE Initiative alumni working to attract Japanese companies, and genuine examples are emerging of graduates serving as bridges between Japan and African countries, thereby, contributing to the enhancement of mutual understanding and trust between them.

In many cases, Japanese descendants (Nikkei people) form Nikkei communities in the countries where they reside and serve 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 population, serve as hubs for regional development and contribute greatly to the economic development of their host countries through the transfer of technology and other means, while also playing an important role as a "bridge" and "partner" with Japan in various fields. 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 play a leading role in fostering collaboration between Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan. As part of the Training for Nikkei Communities program, a "Nikkei Supporter" program was also established in 2020, under which participants receive training at educational institutions, local governments, and other institutions, and aim to contribute to addressing challenges in areas such as education and social welfare within the Nikkei communities in Japan. In FY2024, 183 participants from Nikkei Communities across 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean took part in the Training for Nikkei Communities program. In addition, JICA dispatches motivated Japanese professionals as JOCVs to Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean to make use of their skills and experience. In FY2024, 46 such JOCVs for Nikkei Communities were dispatched to four countries, working toward regional development while living and working alongside Nikkei people and members of Nikkei communities.

MASTER TECHNIQUES 5

from Japan to the World

A Forest in the Gobi Desert – A New Sustainable Greening Method Originating from Mongolia and Environmental Education Initiatives for Children –



Desertification is advancing in Mongolia due to the effects of climate change and overgrazing. The country's government has been conducting tree-planting activities with the cooperation of other nations; however, in the extremely arid southern regions where annual precipitation is as low as approximately 100 mm, most planted trees die without irrigation (watering), and irrigation management has long been unable to keep pace.

In order to break through this situation, in 2009, the governor of Dornogovi province, located in the eastern Gobi Desert, drew on his experience of studying in Japan and reached out to Japanese organizations engaged in greening activities. Among them, the NPO Foreign Technological Interrelation Association In Niigata (hereinafter, the Association), a specified non-profit organization that has been sharing outstanding technological expertise both domestically and internationally for more than 35 years, responded to the governor's request and established the industry-academia-government joint "Niigata Prefectural Mongolia Greening Promotion Technical Cooperation Executive Committee." Although the Association had no prior experience in greening work in desert regions like Mongolia, it conducted baseline surveys on local flora and soils during the three years following the start of activities. Based on these results, the Association focused on wild trees such as the Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) that grow naturally even in the harsh desert environment, and devised a new planting method called the "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting Method." Utilizing the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), preliminary trials were conducted from 2013, followed by verification trials of the method beginning in 2021.



Trees surviving at a 100% rate for three years after planting with no irrigation (Photo: NPO Foreign Technological Interrelation Association In Niigata)

The "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting Method" is a technique in which a deep hole is dug and the soil is pulverized, after which more than half of the excavated soil is backfilled, and a generous amount of water is applied before planting. This induces the roots of subsequently planted seedlings to grow deeper in search of this subsurface moisture. Its defining feature is that a large amount of water is poured into the deep layer before planting, and after planting, absolutely no surface irrigation is carried out. In practice, not a single seedling planted using this method died over a three-year period without any irrigation. Mr. MEGURO Shuji, a Director of the Association, reflects: "This result, which we have now confirmed, can be called an innovation in desert greening, one



Children's greening training at the verification site (Photo: NPO Foreign Technological Interrelation Association In Niigata)

that fundamentally overturns the planting methods that have been used in the Gobi Desert up to this point. It is a first for Mongolia and a rare achievement even globally."

Compiling the technical achievements of this project, the Association prepared a draft "Greening Manual" for desert regions, and through distribution to provincial staff in Dornogovi province, practical training, and workshops for local citizens, it is working in cooperation with local government to promote and establish the new greening technology. These initiatives have also attracted attention from greening stakeholders outside the province, with requests for information arriving from various parts of Mongolia and an increasing number of visitors to the verification site.

Because achieving greening in desert regions requires a long timeframe measured in centuries, the Association also devotes significant effort to environmental education for children. Targeting Mongolian children from a culture with deep nomadic roots where the habit of tree-planting has not taken hold, the Association has implemented lessons on "creating a school forest" as part of environmental education, with the aim of sparking their interest in the desert ecosystem and encouraging them to participate in greening activities with a sense of ownership. Specifically, in addition to visits to the "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting" verification site, children designed their vision of a forest and carried out deep-hole planting at their schools. Some children have shared that "I taught my family what I learned, and we started planting fruit trees at home," and by creating a "School Forest" with their own hands, an interest in greening is taking root. Director Meguro shares: "Local teachers have told me that the eyes of students who are involved with plants are shining. I would be delighted if the children take the purpose and significance of greening to heart and go on to contribute to spreading it in the future." The Association is currently working to expand this same initiative to all schools in the province.

Furthermore, an NGO called "Green Mother Land," composed of local staff who worked on this project, was established in 2024, and continues to carry out monitoring and awareness-raising activities together with the Association in order to spread the "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting Method."

Mongolia has set an ambitious target of planting one billion trees across the country by 2030. Japan will continue to work in collaboration across industry, academia, and government to provide support that helps reduce tree mortality as much as possible.