

India

Project on Champions for Societal Manufacturing Technical Cooperation Project (April 2013 – ongoing)

The Government of India is focusing on strengthening its manufacturing sector for further economic growth of the country. One of the challenges is the shortage of human resources who can serve as senior managers in the manufacturing sector. In recent years, new social needs such as responses to environmental pollution and resource conservation as well as business development targeted at the poor have emerged, and thus it is important to train senior managers who can respond to these new changes for the sustainable and comprehensive development of the industry.



Training participants presenting their business plans and exchanging opinions for waste management in India based on what they learned during their training in Japan (Photo: JICA)

This project is based on the framework of the Visionary Leaders For Manufacturing (VLFM) Program*, which was established under the "VLFM Project" conducted by Japan from 2007 to 2013. Up until now, leveraging Japan's manufacturing experience, the project has developed human resources with the skills to lead the manufacturing sector by providing human resource development assistance to more than 1,000 companies and training more than 1,200 senior and middle managers across India.

In addition to dispatching experts from Japan to provide technical knowledge and skills regarding how to improve cooperation between vendors of product parts and their subcontractors, there are also training courses that include environmental friendliness and focus on growth where no one will be left behind. Furthermore, the project offers training programs in Japan in order to convey the spirit of Japanese-style manufacturing and management methods and contributes to transforming the awareness of the participating senior management candidates through visits to manufacturing sites and research and presentations on Japanese society and culture.

This project has received extremely high praise from the Government of India, and it is expected to strengthen the foundation for India's manufacturing sector through promoting Japanese-style management methods.

*The program consists of the Senior Managers Course targeting senior and middle managers, the Middle Managers Course targeting middle manager candidates with manufacturing sector experience (degree-accredited program at graduate schools), and the VSME Course targeting subcontracting SMEs.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*¹, which has been undergoing remarkable economic growth in recent years, has been promoting regional integration since the establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015. However, this has also brought to light some challenges. To further bolster the ASEAN integration process, in May 2019, Japan created a mechanism for human resources development across the entire ASEAN region by signing the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement to provide technical cooperation to ASEAN as a community, in addition to Technical Cooperation Agreements with individual ASEAN member states.

In January 2020, as the first project under the Agreement, training was conducted in Japan to build up capacity to formulate policy to enhance cybersecurity measures in the ASEAN region. A total of 17 officials in charge of cybersecurity policymaking, including officials from ODA graduate countries*² such as Singapore and Brunei participated in this training, with the attendance of officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)*³ for the first time.



The training program (Photo: JICA)



The online seminar (Photo: JICA)

In order to promote the planning and implementation of appropriate cybersecurity policies in ASEAN countries, this training provided an opportunity to learn about Japan's cybersecurity initiatives and information security management in government agencies through lectures and visits to related facilities in Japan. In addition, the participants exchanged information and opinions on the situation in each ASEAN country through active discussions.

Furthermore, as a new attempt for the training program during the COVID-19 pandemic, an online seminar was held in September 2020 for the participants in the training program in Japan. Eleven out of the 17 participants attended the seminar, during which they shared the current situation in their respective countries and engaged in active discussions on topics including the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on cybersecurity.

Through implementing such training programs, Japan will contribute to the regional integration of the ASEAN, and implement beneficial cooperation for both Japan and ASEAN to promote the realization of the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)," which shares fundamental principles with the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" advocated by Japan.

*1 See ① on page 100 for the ASEAN member states.

*2 Countries that are no longer listed in Annex 1 to the ODA Reporting Directives, that defines ODA recipient countries, due to higher income levels, and have thus "graduated" from ODA recipient countries.

*3 See page 56 for details.

Timor-Leste

Project for Strengthening Primary Health Care Service Delivery through Community Participation (Phase 1 and 2)

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (February 2019 – (ongoing))

"I lost my first child a week after the birth and had a miscarriage with my second baby. It takes me over one hour to walk to the nearest medical facility, and I received prenatal care only once or twice." This is the reality faced by most mothers and their children living in remote areas of Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste. In Dili, there are areas where access to roads, electricity, and primary healthcare services is still limited, putting both the vaccination rate and prenatal care rate at 50% or below, lower than the country's average.

In order to improve this situation, Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE), a Japanese NGO involved in international cooperation, constructed a public health clinic (health post)* and provided a small boat to deliver health and medical services to the people living in Metinaro administrative post, Dili, as well as Atauro Island, a remote island off the coast of the capital. Moreover, SHARE has been working to improve the capacity of local medical personnel and provide health education to local residents.



Mothers and children waiting to be seen at a health post on a remote island, one of the target communities of the project (Photo: SHARE)

Thanks to this project, a total of approximately 1,200 people were able to receive healthcare between November 2019 and October 2020 in Manleuana village, Metinaro administrative post, where there is a population of 2,000

people and no doctor. In addition, on Atauro Island, health center personnel and local residents have been working to conduct mobile health checkups using the small boat provided by this project.



Transporting medicines and vaccines to coastal villages using the small boat provided by the project (Photo: SHARE)

As a result, the overall vaccination rate in Dili improved by nearly 20%. Even in 2020, when the domestic consultation rate declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the health center continued to provide healthcare services through a trial-and-error process. Consequently, 2,324 people in the targeted communities have been vaccinated by August, which is 380 more people than the same period in the previous year.

Furthermore, through this project, a total of 97 people, including doctors, midwives, and healthcare volunteers, have received training aimed at improving their healthcare skills and knowledge. They will continue to apply the skills and knowledge that they have acquired in providing healthcare services and health education for local residents.

*In Timor-Leste, there is one health bureau for each of the 13 municipalities to oversee municipality healthcare under the Ministry of Health, and health centers and public health clinics (health posts) have been established in the districts.

Nigeria

(1) Polio Eradication Project, (2) Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis/Project for Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children (1) ODA Loan, (2) Grant Aid ((1) May 2014 – (ongoing), (2) 2000 - 2013^{*1})

Nigeria used to be the last wild poliovirus endemic country in Africa and one of the three countries^{*2} in the world where the cases of wild polio were still being identified. As of 2012, Nigeria accounted for approximately half of the world's polio cases.

In response to this situation, Japan has provided Nigeria with a wide range of support, from procurement of vaccines to development of human resources, in order to strengthen measures for polio eradication.

For example, through the grant aid "Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis" and the "Project for Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children" through UNICEF, in addition to procurement of vaccines, Japan worked on the development of cold chains^{*3}, including solar-powered refrigerators that enable the transportation and storage of vaccines to remote areas. Japan also provided assistance to improve the testing technology and related equipment of national polio laboratories in Nigeria and support for human resources development for researchers of polio through JICA training.



Administering an oral polio vaccine to a child
(Photo: JICA)

Furthermore, in 2014, Japan implemented an ODA loan project to

procure polio vaccines. In Nigeria, the vaccines procured through the ODA loan were used to conduct a thorough immunization campaign to eradicate polio. This ODA loan adopted an innovative financing approach (loan conversion mechanism)^{*4}, under which the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation agreed to repay the loan debt in place of the Nigerian government on the condition that the predetermined goals were successfully achieved.

Thanks to the contributions by Japan and the international community, Africa was declared polio-free on August 25, 2020^{*5}. Mr. ISONO Mitsuo, a JICA senior advisor who has been engaged in the fight against infectious diseases in Nigeria for many years, shared the following thoughts on the polio-free declaration.

"Nigeria is a vast country with many hard-to-reach areas and complex security challenges. I believe that the government's leadership, as well as the efforts of many staff who have been engaged in the most difficult countermeasures against polio on the front lines, contributed to the eradication of polio."

Japan will continue to contribute to the prevention and control of the spread of infectious diseases in Africa together with the international community.

^{*1} Grant aid was provided every year from 2000 to 2013.

^{*2} The three countries are Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

^{*3} See 27 on page 62.

^{*4} In December 2017, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation took over the ODA loan obligations after it was recognized that the vaccination rate and other project targets that had been set in advance were achieved.

^{*5} WHO has certified that Nigeria has zero cases of the wild polio (polio-free) for the past three years.

Bolivia

Mother and Child Health Network Improvement Project in Oruro Technical Cooperation Project (February 2016 – February 2020)

The department of Oruro is located in the highlands of the western part of Bolivia at an altitude of approximately 3,700 meters above sea level, and it is home to many indigenous people. Bolivia has the second highest maternal mortality rate*¹ and under-five mortality rate*² in Latin America and the Caribbean after Haiti, which shows the poor condition of maternal and child health.

This project was conducted to improve maternal and child health services as well as the health of pregnant women and children under five years old in Oruro department. In this project, a total of 21 experts from Japan were dispatched to three health districts in Oruro department, encompassing a total of 16 cities, to provide training and other support to healthcare workers, health administration staff, and expectant and nursing mothers. Educational activities were also conducted to raise awareness of the importance of improving lifestyle



"Educational team for healthy life," established as part of the project, providing guidance on nutrition improvement to pregnant women in target communities (Photo: JICA)

habits and other aspects related to maternal and child health.

These efforts have resulted in the improvement of maternal and child health services through community participation. For example, the project increased the percentage of prenatal care in target communities to nearly 70% and doubled the number of educational teams for healthy life that comprise local healthcare workers. In addition, the Guide for Information Analysis on Child Development was developed in the project and approved by the Ministry of Health. The Guide is utilized not only in Oruro department but also throughout Bolivia.

Japan has been cooperating with Bolivia in the field of maternal and child health for approximately 20 years and has always placed importance on providing assistance that gives careful consideration to the situation of the Government of Bolivia. Likewise, this project was carried out while placing emphasis on the concept of the multicultural healthcare system*³ that is promoted by the Government of Bolivia, in which families and communities consider their own health risks and take necessary preventive measures themselves. As a result, maternal and child health in Bolivia has been improved in a way that is in line with the culture and thought of the people in the country.

*1 206 maternal deaths according to the WHO estimate in 2015 (death rate per 100,000 births).

*2 38 under-five deaths according to the WHO estimate in 2015 (number of deaths per 1,000 births).

*3 Different cultures have different ideas about health, and living a healthy life should be emphasized over dealing with illnesses" (see also: <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/bolivia/008/outline/index.html><https://www.jica.go.jp/project/bolivia/008/outline/index.html> (in Japanese only)).

The Kyrgyz Republic, a mountainous landlocked country located in the northeastern part of Central Asia, is prone to various natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides, and the situation has worsened due to climate change in recent years. According to a survey conducted in 2014, approximately 85% of educational facilities were considered to be unsafe and could be affected by natural disasters. Thus, the safety of schools, which is directly linked to safety of children, has been a major issue for people in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In partnership with UNICEF, Japan supported a project to ensure school safety and strengthen disaster risk reduction systems, which would raise awareness of disaster risk reduction among teachers and children. Specifically, a survey was conducted regarding the safety of ten model schools for disaster risk reduction, and alarm systems, emergency exit signs, and anti-fire metal fire doors were installed in schools that had previously been ill-equipped with disaster risk reduction equipment. In addition, evacuation drills and disaster risk reduction education were conducted for 65,000 students



Children in the Kyrgyz Republic presenting drawings on the theme of disaster risk reduction (Photo: UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office)

and 3,000 teachers in 121 schools, as well as for local government officials, to enable them to take actions to save their lives in the event of disasters.

The principal of one of the model

schools said, "We utilize what we have learned to conduct evacuation drills twice a year. Thanks to the support, the children's awareness of disaster risk reduction has increased." Moreover, the project has contributed significantly to raising awareness of disaster risk reduction

nationwide by creating a training video for teachers on disaster risk reduction in schools, as well as five educational animations on climate change and disaster risk reduction using popular Kyrgyz characters which are widely broadcast on national television.

In implementing the project, the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office emphasized the importance of utilizing Japan's knowledge and experience on disaster risk reduction. In addition, through cooperation and collaboration with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, it promoted the use of disaster risk analysis at the local government level and institutionalization of child-sensitive disaster risk reduction initiatives to enhance disaster risk reduction systems in schools. Furthermore, a study tour was conducted in Japan to learn about disaster risk reduction education policies and initiatives for government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction, which contributed to the capacity development of these officials.



Children at a model school participating in an evacuation drill assuming an earthquake (Photo: UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office)

Zimbabwe

Emergency Grant Aid for Three Countries in Southern Africa Affected by Cyclone Idai (Capacity Building on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Menstrual Hygiene Management in Cyclone Idai Affected Districts in Zimbabwe) Emergency Grant Aid (April – October 2019)

In Manicaland Province in the eastern part of Zimbabwe, a cyclone that hit the area in March 2019 caused landslides and flooding, affecting approximately 270,000 people. While emergency disaster response measures were taken in the region, including the establishment of campsites as temporary shelters, there were concerns over an increased risk of abuse and violence against women and children and the deterioration of the hygienic environment.

In light of these concerns, Japan provided \$600,000 in emergency grant aid to Zimbabwe, of which \$150,000 was allocated to a UNICEF project to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation and improve menstrual hygiene management in cyclone-affected districts.

As part of this project, UNICEF Zimbabwe focused on women's menstrual hygiene management which was often overlooked in past emergency disaster relief efforts, conducted activities for local residents to acquire knowledge and deepen understanding of hygiene management, and distributed 4,000



Students receiving menstrual hygiene management kits distributed in cyclone-affected districts of Manicaland Province (Photo: UNICEF)

menstrual hygiene management kits. Each kit contained three pieces of underwear, one comb, one toothbrush, one tube of toothpaste, one kilogram of soap, 30 disposable sanitary napkins, and five reusable sanitary napkins. Educational activities were also conducted to prevent abuse and violence and protect children from these risks.

As 2019 was also the year when the Government of Zimbabwe conducted a nationwide survey on menstrual hygiene management, Japan's contribution came to be widely known to the Government of Zimbabwe, NGOs, and international organizations. In addition, based on the experience of the project, UNICEF Zimbabwe is considering incorporating support for improved women's hygiene management in future emergency assistance projects through distribution of menstrual hygiene management kits and is working with relevant local organizations to enable domestic procurement of the contents of the kits within Zimbabwe.



Students attending a class on menstrual hygiene management (Photo: UNICEF)

Nicaragua, Saint Lucia

Self-reliance Support for Visually Impaired Persons by Other Visually Impaired Persons, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Passing on Correct Oriental Medicine Techniques from Hand to Hand

(1)(2) Senior Volunteers (Nicaragua), (3) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Saint Lucia)
(1) 2010 – 2012, (2) 2013 – 2015, (3) On standby in Japan (3rd batch in 2019)

Mr. TSUNAKAWA Akira, an acupuncture and moxibustion massage practitioner, is a visually impaired person who has taught at a school for visually impaired persons in Japan. Mr. Tsunakawa has been dispatched twice to Managua, the capital of Nicaragua in Central America, as a Senior Volunteer.

Oriental medicine, which does not rely on drugs to treat conditions such as back pain and stiff shoulders, was attracting attention in Nicaragua. However, there was a lack of human resources who could teach correct treatment methods of the medicine. To address this gap, Mr. Tsunakawa has produced 20 Shiatsu (Japanese acupressure therapy) and Anma (Japanese massage therapy) practitioners by giving them a total of approximately 500 hours of lectures of basic medicine, Shiatsu and Anma techniques, as well as clinical practice at the University of Oriental Medicine Japan-Nicaragua in Managua, Nicaragua.



Mr. Tsunakawa passing on Shiatsu techniques to his visually impaired students from hand to hand at the University of Oriental Medicine Japan-Nicaragua in Managua, Nicaragua

Nicaragua.

In particular, he taught practical skills to students so that each of them could obtain a job and become self-reliant, while considering factors such as the degree of each student's disability. In addition, he has produced two instructors with

total blindness, acknowledging the importance of Nicaraguan instructors.

"At times, it made me feel sad to know that there were disabled people begging on the streets in between traffic.

However, I was so impressed to see that my students, who had cheerfully walked to the lectures with white canes on roads without manhole covers, eventually became Shiatsu practitioners and were supporting their families and households," Mr. Tsunakawa said about his activities in Nicaragua.

From his experience in Nicaragua, Mr. Tsunakawa realized that support for visually impaired persons by other visually impaired persons not only gives them hope for the future by demonstrating the goal of self-reliance directly and concretely, but also has a significant impact on raising awareness of people toward issues regarding disabilities. Hoping to utilize his experience and skills again in a new location, he applied for post for a JOCV in Saint Lucia, an island in the Caribbean, and secured it. He is currently preparing for dispatch to the country in Japan.



At a lecture on Anma attended by students who completed the Shiatsu course at the University of Oriental Medicine Japan-Nicaragua

Solomon

Project for Capacity Development for Sustainable Forest Resource Management in Solomon Islands Technical Cooperation Project (September 2017 – August 2022)

Approximately 90% of the national land of Solomon is covered by forest (as of 2020). The forestry industry is one of the major industries, and revenues from the export of timber (mainly logs) account for approximately 65% of foreign currency earnings. In recent years, export volume has also been increasing in response to growing demand for timber in the Asian region.

This has raised concerns about the depletion of forest resources and forest degradation caused by large-scale commercial logging. For example, in the 10 years from 2000 to 2010, it is said that the canopy cover, which is the area of branches and leaves of the upper parts of trees, decreased by more than 20% on approximately 160,000 hectares of forests. In addition, since the majority of the forests are privately owned, it is important to promote the sustainable use of forest resources and raise the awareness of local residents about the danger of forest degradation.



A project meeting led by officials of the Ministry of Forestry and Research (Photo: JICA)

Under these circumstances, this project is supporting the strengthening of the capacity of the Ministry of Forestry and Research for sustainable forestry.

Project experts are working closely with the Ministry of Forestry and

Research to provide technical support for forest policy and forestry information management promoted by the ministry, as well as support to improve the coordination and leadership capabilities of the ministry's officials. In addition, through pilot activities with the participation of local residents, their awareness and ownership regarding the sustainable use of forests and forest lands have improved, and as a result, a way of life that is not too dependent on forest resources is gradually being realized.

Furthermore, in cooperation with the Ministry of Forestry and Research, the project is playing a central role in coordinating with supporting organizations working in the forest sector by operating the Secretariat of the Forest Sector Technical Working Group. In this way, Japan's cooperation is contributing to the forestry policy in Solomon and is having significant inputs on the sustainable use of forest resources.



As a part of the pilot activities, a JICA expert instructing a local resident on community boundary demarcation (Photo: JICA)

Nepal

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project in Chitwan District (Phase 1 and 2) Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (November 2017 – November 2019)

Public
nomination

In Madi, Chitwan District, located on the plains of southern Nepal, there are several large and small rivers flowing from south to north that would frequently overflow every year during the rainy season, causing flood damage to fields and houses. In response, SHAPLA NEER = Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support, a Japanese non-profit organization, implemented a project to reduce the disaster risk of entire rivers based on the concept of "One River One Community," broad-area watershed management that works on flood countermeasures spanning from upstream to downstream. Started as a self-funded project in 2016 covering eight villages near the Bandarmudhe River in Madi, SHAPLA NEER has been implementing the disaster risk reduction project for three years from 2017 through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects.

As a direct measure to reduce flood risk, infrastructure construction works were carried out based on surveys and technical guidance by Japanese experts in landslide and flood prevention techniques, such as widening the river to build earthen embankments and constructing revetments with gabions, boxes, or cages filled with rocks, in dangerous areas with flood risk. In addition, in the Bandarmudhe River Basin, the project encouraged local people to form community disaster risk reduction committees, and through regular meetings of these committees, developed disaster risk reduction maps (hazard maps) for each village. Moreover, the project worked to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction among local residents by providing them with hand crank sirens to warn their communities in case of heavy rain.

As a result, no floods have been reported in the target area even after three rainy seasons since the project started. In addition, local residents are now able to act in advance to prevent disasters, for instance by using sirens to warn downstream communities of danger from upstream communities. Prior to this, they used to evacuate just before or even after the river had overflowed. Furthermore, Madi City Council highly praised these initiatives and allocated a budget for flood prevention measures. This shows that the SHAPLA NEER initiative has become sustainable, promoting self-reliant growth in line with the basic principle of Japan's ODA.



Local residents drawing a map on the ground to identify flood-prone areas and safe areas in the community in order to make a hazard map (Photo: SHAPLA NEER = Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support)

Viet Nam

Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for National Nutritionist Qualification System JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Surveys*¹ (Collaboration with the "Vietnam Nutrition System Establishment Project (VINEP)" by Ajinomoto Co., Inc.) (April 2014 – June 2016)

Public nomination

While Viet Nam has experienced remarkable growth in recent years and is becoming more affluent, health problems such as overnutrition (obesity, etc.) and a rapid increase in non-communicable diseases are beginning to appear. For this reason, there is a growing need to train dietitians who can provide accurate nutritional knowledge to the public.

In response to this situation, in 2011, Ajinomoto Co., Inc. launched the "Vietnam Nutrition System Establishment Project"*² with the National Institute of Nutrition of Viet Nam, and a four-year dietitians training course was started at Hanoi Medical University in 2013. The Japan Dietetic Association, Jomonji University, Kanagawa University of Human Services, and others cooperated in the project, and the first 43 dietitians were fostered in Viet Nam in 2017.

In addition, through JICA's SDG Business Supporting Surveys, the company invited officials from the government, universities, and hospitals involved in systems related to nutrition, as well as dietitian training course instructors and students, to Japan for training. Moreover, based on the knowledge learned in Japan and what they experienced during site visits, the participants held a



Vietnamese dietitians as interns learning from dietitians at Kyoto University Hospital (Photo: The Ajinomoto Foundation)

"Nutrition Symposium" in Viet Nam to convey the importance of nutrition management and national nutrition policy. Thanks to such efforts,

dietitians were legally recognized as a civil service profession in 2015, laying the groundwork for a system to further develop the discipline.

The company continued to support the project, providing internship programs and local workshops in the field of clinical nutrition*³.

Furthermore, the Ajinomoto Foundation has been continuing this project since 2017, and the number of universities training dietitians has now been increased to nine. The Minister of Health of Viet Nam mentioned at the workshop that "500 dietitians in five years" would be trained, and various forms of support are being provided to achieve this goal.

In order for the newly fostered dietitians to play an active role in improving the health of people in Viet Nam, the education system still needs to be improved. The Ajinomoto Foundation is supporting the creation of a sustainable education system that will enable dietitians to play an active role.



Healthcare workers studying nutrition and project experts at the Nutrition Training Center of the National Institute of Nutrition of Viet Nam (Photo: The Ajinomoto Foundation)

*¹ Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for the Social and Economic Development (currently: SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector (SDGs Business Support Type))

*² Vietnam Nutrition system Establishment Project (VINEP)

*³ Projects of Global Extension of Medical Technologies (2015, 2017)

Japan and Morocco have a long history of cooperation in the development of the fisheries sector, dating back 40 years. Japan has provided multifaceted support including the development of fisheries infrastructure, promotion of coastal fisheries, fisheries education, and research on fisheries resources. Today, Morocco's fisheries sector has come to boast one of the largest catches in Africa, with fisheries products accounting for about 10% of the country's total export value. The sector, including related industries, also provides employment to as many as approximately 660,000 people. On the other hand, there are still many small-scale fishers who are in a socially and economically vulnerable position.

In response to this, JICA expert Mr. SUGIYAMA Shunji was dispatched as a fisheries development expert to the Moroccan Department of Marine Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests in May 2017.

In order to understand the reality of small-scale fisheries, Mr. Sugiyama and his colleagues from the Department spent several months visiting approximately 23 fishing villages scattered along the coast. They listened to the fish workers explaining their severe conditions and held on-site discussions with them on various possibilities such as the development of local products, cooperation



Mr. Sugiyama visiting a fishing village to observe their situation through conversations with fish workers (Photo: JICA)

between the tourism and fishery sectors, and the participation of women's groups. They compiled the results into a proposal and submitted it to the Government of Morocco. The proposal included plans to improve income opportunities for small-scale fishers through the

production of bottled sardines or cultivation of mussels, as well as initiatives for the cooperation among the fishing ports, fisheries cooperative-run restaurants, direct sales stands for fisheries products, etc., in order to attract tourists from Western countries. They also provided technical training for direct sale of fisheries products.

In addition, Morocco is utilizing the experience in developing fisheries infrastructure, etc., learned from Japan to advance South-South cooperation*¹ with Sub-Saharan African countries. Mr. Sugiyama is also encouraging such activities in Morocco to promote cooperation for the development of the fisheries sector across the entire Africa region.

The proposal was compiled as a framework for the concrete implementation of a "Blue Economy (BE)"*² designed for the sustainable development of Morocco's fisheries sector, and through this project, Japan gained an experience in providing support in the new field of the BE. In this way, Japan and Morocco are steadily advancing a new initiative that is beneficial to both countries.

*1 See the glossary on page 118.

*2 The blue economy aims both for the conservation of marine resources and economic development through the sustainable use of resources in the sea, rivers, lakes, and other water areas. This concept involves diverse stakeholders in the goal of economic development through the effective use of local marine and fishery resources. It has come into the spotlight in recent years, and there are high hopes for the initiative not only in Morocco but in other African countries. Japan's experience in fisheries product processing and product development can be utilized.



Mr. Sugiyama exchanging ideas about local products with a women's union (Photo: JICA)

Azerbaijan

(1) Severnaya* Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant Project, (2) Shimal Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant Project (Second Unit) Loan Aid (ODA Loan) ((1) February 1998 – October 2003, (2) May 2005 – September 2019)

Azerbaijan, which faces the Caspian Sea, is blessed with abundant natural resources such as oil and natural gas. However, after gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the surge in demand for electricity for general household use as well as industrial use by the country's rapid economic growth meant that the deteriorating power generation facilities constructed in the Soviet era could not meet electricity demand. In particular, aging power generation facilities and power lines that had been in continuous use since the 1980s were a serious problem.

To overcome this situation, through the implementation of this project, Japan has supported the construction of first and second generator units at the Shimal Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant in the eastern region of Azerbaijan, where electricity demand is concentrated. The combined output of these two units accounts for approximately 10% of Azerbaijan's power generation capacity. By introducing the country's first advanced power generation facilities with high thermal efficiency, this project has made a significant contribution to alleviating power shortages and achieving sustainable economic growth. In addition, it has also been contributing to the sustained and stable supply of electricity across the country's entire power network.



The Shimal Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant's second unit (Photo: JICA)

The completion of these two power

generation facilities was made possible by the dedicated efforts of Mr. SATO Mitsuyuki of Tokyo Electric Power Services Co., Ltd., who worked on the project from design to completion for over 25 years. Although it was uncertain at times as to whether the project would be completed due to financial difficulties and other problems on the Azerbaijani side, Mr. Sato worked hard to complete the project, negotiating with the staff of the implementing organization and discussing ways on how to proceed with the construction. As a result, it was possible to hold the opening ceremony for the second unit in September 2019. Mr. Sato's achievements were highly praised by the Government of Azerbaijan, and in December 2019, he was awarded the Progress Medal by the President of the country, which is presented to those who have made distinguished contributions in the energy sector.

The effort and dedication shown by the Japanese staff, including Mr. Sato, exemplify the significant contribution that Japan has made to Azerbaijan's development, as well as to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Azerbaijan.



Mr. Sato, who was awarded the Progress Medal by the President of Azerbaijan (Photo: JICA)

*The power plant is currently called "Shimal" in Azerbaijani, not "Severnaya."

Georgia

Project for Establishment of Bio-Briquettes Workshop Facility for Two Villages in Tsalka Municipality

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (February 2019 – February 2020)

Tsalka Municipality in Georgia is located approximately 100 kilometers west of the capital of Tbilisi. This municipality is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the country, where Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Greek ethnic groups live, including people forced to migrate from the mountainous part of western Georgia due to natural disasters and internally displaced persons due to conflicts. It is also known for its harsh, cold winters, and is sometimes called the “Siberia of Georgia”. Since only a limited variety of crops can be produced in the area, many of the people there are living in poverty.

In Tsalka Municipality, firewood stoves are still used because gas supply is not widely available. It is said that a single household



The bio-briquette production facility constructed through this project

uses as much as approximately 1 to 1.5 tons of firewood per year in order to survive the long and harsh winter. However, many poor households in the municipality cannot afford the cost of firewood, and

illegal cases of logging have been reported. Concerns have also been raised about the negative impact of logging on disaster prevention, as the trees in the area were originally planted as windbreak forests.

In response to this situation, Japan supported the construction of facilities to produce processed firewood, called bio-briquettes, in two villages in the municipality through the local NGO “BRIDGE – Innovation and Development”. Bio-briquettes are cheaper than firewood because they are made from existing scrap wood residue from local peoples’ living spaces, such as chips from forest thinning and sawdust. These facilities will enable approximately 200 households (approximately 1,000 people) to use bio-briquettes, which is expected to curb logging by the local people and protect the environment in surrounding areas.



Producing bio-briquettes

In order to meet the enormous demand for development funds in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*¹ region, “a center of growth open to the world,” it is becoming increasingly important to mobilize private sector funds in addition to public funds such as grants and loans from donors and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). In this context, Japan launched the “Initiative on Overseas Loans and Investment for ASEAN” at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held in November 2019.

Under the Initiative, Japan has announced that JICA is ready to provide \$1.2 billion through Private Sector Investment Finance in three fields, namely quality infrastructure, improving financial access and empowering women, and facilitating green investment*², in collaboration with other MDBs and private financial institutions, with the aim of mobilizing a total of \$3 billion from public and private sectors over the three-year period from 2020 to 2022.

As a specific effort of the Initiative, in November 2020, JICA decided to invest up to \$35 million in a fund established by Blue Orchard Finance Ltd.*³, which is working to improve financial access for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) mainly in ASEAN countries. While the spread of COVID-19 has dealt a severe economic blow to ASEAN countries, this support is expected to meet the pressing financial needs of women-owned businesses and MSMEs, improve their financial standing, and ultimately contribute to the economic development of ASEAN countries.

The Initiative is an effective framework for promoting Japan-ASEAN cooperation in a concrete manner in line with the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).” Going forward, Japan will continue to contribute to sustainable development



A female business owner supported by the investment in Blue Orchard Finance Ltd. (Photo: JICA)

in the ASEAN region and promote the realization of the AOIP, which shares fundamental principles with the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” while making use of the Initiative and other tools for mobilizing private sector funds.

*1 See [1](#) on page 100 for the ASEAN member states.

*2 Investing in solar and hydroelectric power generation, energy conservation projects, and other initiatives, as a part of climate change measures.

*3 A Swiss fund management company with expertise in managing funds that invest in and provide loans to microfinance institutions.

In Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, recent economic development and rapid urbanization have resulted in the serious deterioration of the urban environment, which is mainly caused by worsening traffic congestion. There are growing concerns among citizens in Phnom Penh about the increasing number of private vehicles due to population and income growth, as well as the growing number of fatalities due to traffic accidents. Therefore, in order to provide an alternative means of transportation for citizens to private cars, the Phnom Penh Capital Administration established the City Bus Authority in September 2014. However, when the bus service was first launched, ridership remained stagnant due to lack of public recognition and low user satisfaction as there were no timetables or bus stops. In addition, bus crews did not have sufficient driving skills or safety training, and all routes were operated by second-hand buses, resulting in frequent vehicle

breakdowns and accidents.

In order to improve the situation, this project was launched in January 2017. A team of experts from a joint venture led by the International Development Center of Japan set out to improve the operations of the City Bus Authority.

They first worked on improving the bus service. Activities were implemented to lead to improve service, such as creating route maps, developing bus location applications and providing real time location information, improving bus stop design, and pilot testing bus priority



COVID-19 prevention training. A Japanese expert is remotely instructing the bus crew on how to disinfect and clean the interior of a bus. (Photo: International Development Center of Japan)



A public awareness poster inside a bus. This was created based on COVID-19 prevention posters used in public transportation in Japan and is now displayed in all buses in Phnom Penh. (Photo: International Development Center of Japan)

signals. The expert team also provided driving skills training and safety education to drivers, and inspection and maintenance guidance to mechanics. Furthermore, Japan provided 80 new buses through grant aid, and the City Bus Authority has now expanded its service to 181 buses covering 13 service routes. With this improved operational service, bus ridership has increased from 6,000 passengers to 30,000 passengers per day in the two years since July 2017.

As of December 2020, the bus service has been suspended to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, the expert team is working remotely from Japan to provide guidance on regular cleaning and disinfection of bus vehicles and equipment and thorough infection prevention measures for the bus crew in order to resume operations. In Phnom Penh, it is a hope that this safe and reliable means of transportation for citizens will be available again as soon as possible.

Bangladesh

Project for Construction of the Primary Health Care Clinic in the Camp of Displaced People from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (March 2019 – March 2020)

In August 2017, a large-scale armed attack broke out in the northern part of Rakhine State in Myanmar. At that time, many displaced people moved across the border into Bangladesh, and approximately 850,000 people* are currently still living in the Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh.

One of the camps for displaced persons located in the Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar frequently experienced floods during the rainy season and cyclones due to its topography, and the steep sloping area to the north of the camp was at high risk of landslides. The damage from these floods degraded the sanitary conditions in the camp and increased the risk of diseases such as cholera and dengue fever.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society conducted simple surgical operations, prenatal care including mental healthcare,



Healthcare staff members working at the newly constructed primary health care clinic (Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society)

and awareness-raising activities to promote good health in the camps. However, each healthcare service, such as treatment and surgery, was offered in a different tent, so patients were forced to move from one tent to another in the

middle of treatment, which placed a heavy physical burden on them. In addition, parts of the facilities became unusable when it rained and soil flowed in.

In order to improve this situation, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

constructed a new primary health care clinic that is resistant to floods through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects. This has not only made it possible to provide healthcare services in one centralized location, but has also improved the safety of the healthcare facilities, enabling as many as 2,600 patients per month to receive proper healthcare when necessary.

Japan will continue to provide small-scale, yet community-based humanitarian assistance to promote human security.



The primary health care clinic constructed through this project

*Source: UNHCR (October 2020)
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar_refugees

Mauritius

Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Teams in Response to the Oil Leakage Incident off the Coast of Mauritius (1st to 3rd Batches) and JICA Data Collection Survey Missions

(1) JDR Expert Teams, (2) JICA survey mission ((1) August 12-21, 2020 (first batch), August 21 – September 11, 2020 (second batch), September 14-18, 2020 (third batch), (2) October 24 – December 22, 2020 (environment and fisheries) and November 22 – December 21, 2020 / January – February 2021 (oil spill response and maritime safety))

On July 25, 2020, a bulk carrier “WAKASHIO” got stranded off the southeastern coast of Mauritius, causing an oil spill beginning on August 6. Upon the request of the Government of Mauritius, the Government of Japan immediately decided to dispatch a Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Team to Mauritius, sending a total of three teams from August to September.

The first JDR Expert Team worked with the Government of Mauritius and relevant countries and organizations to survey the sea and coastline around the stranded ship and provided guidance and advice on oil spill response, including offering training to the National Coast Guard of Mauritius. Subsequent second and third teams conducted ecological surveys on the coral reefs around the incident site, inspection of mangrove forests growth and remaining oil, as well as review of the impact on birds.

The activities of JDR Expert Teams resulted in a wide range of positive achievements. In particular, their support to develop a long-term monitoring system to survey the impact of oil pollution on the coral reef and mangroves was highly appreciated by the country's government officials and others. In addition, the experts' recommendations on methods for removing oil from mangrove forests were not only recognized as useful, but were also adopted by



An offshore survey conducted in cooperation with the Government of Mauritius (August 13, 2020) (Photo: JICA)

those involved in the clean-up operations in the field, thereby contributing significantly to the conservation of the mangrove forests.

On September 7, Foreign Minister Motegi held a telephone talk with Prime Minister Jugnauth of Mauritius. Minister Motegi explained that the

Government of Japan took the accident very seriously and would carry out cooperation of an unprecedented scale. In response, Prime Minister Jugnauth expressed his appreciation for the immediate dispatch of the JDR Expert Teams and the proposal of future cooperation, as well as his expectation to receive continuous support from Japan.

Furthermore, JICA survey missions were sent in October and November to collect information needed to formulate concrete future assistance plans based on the results of the JDR Expert Teams' activities. The missions focused on recovering the environment/restoring the livelihoods of the people engaged in fishery, and oil spill response/maritime safety, respectively.

On December 13, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Mauritius to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Jugnauth and held a Japan-Mauritius Foreign Ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Bodha, where he presented the progress of Japan's cooperation. In the afternoon of the same day, Foreign Minister Motegi inspected the extent of damages from the oil spill and the status of recovery while receiving a briefing from Mr. Maudhoo, Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping of Mauritius.

Japan will continue to closely cooperate with the Government of Mauritius as well as relevant countries and organizations towards the restoration of the natural environment in the affected area and the recovery of economic activities of Mauritius from medium to long-term perspectives in a swift manner.



Work towards the implementation of long-term monitoring of corals (September 14, 2020) (Photo: JICA)

Honduras

Project for Promoting Home Gardening toward Nutrition Improvement in the Municipality of Vado Ancho in the department of El Paraiso JICA Partnership Program (JPP) (Partner Type) (August 2017 – December 2019)

The Municipality of Vado Ancho in the department of El Paraiso, located in the arid zone of Honduras, is one of the poorest municipalities in the country. Most local people make a living by growing corn and beans. However, since 2014, droughts have been getting longer year after year, resulting in crop failure. This then led to local people being provided with food aid from the government and international organizations. In addition, because of the limited variety of vegetables available for purchase, the local people have been living on a nutritionally unbalanced diet.

In order to resolve these problems, JICA and AMDA Multisectoral



An AMDA-MINDS project coordinator checking the vegetables grown by a local resident in a home garden (Photo: AMDA-MINDS)

and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS), a Japanese NGO, promoted home gardening in the Municipality of Vado Ancho through the JICA Partnership Program, which aimed to increase food production that considers the nutritional value of the foods consumed by local people. Specifically, they

worked with local NGOs to provide the local people with hands-on training and technical education on home gardening using as little chemical fertilizer as possible, as well as cooking classes using the harvested crops.



A cooking class using vegetables harvested from home gardens (Photo: AMDA-MINDS)

As a result of these efforts, 182 households are now practicing home gardening, which is higher than the original target of 120 households, and the number of crop varieties grown by each household has increased by 24 on average compared to when the project started. Furthermore, other results, such as holding open-air markets to sell harvested crops locally, have been seen. The number of home gardens are still growing, even after the completion of the project.