

Part V

Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) teaching Judo to children in Tunisia with a colleague at the Tunisian Judo Federation Kalaat Andalous branch (Photo: Ahmed Souayed/JICA)

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Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation

1

Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation

The new Development Cooperation Charter sets forth “co-creation” as the basic policy of ODA whereby various actors, such as the private sector and public financial institutions, bring their respective strengths in relation to various development challenges without established solutions, and engage in dialogue and collaboration to create new social values.

(1) Partnership with Private Sector

The Government of Japan strives to effectively leverage the collective strengths of the Japanese private sector in ODA projects implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA through effective mobilization of their advanced technologies, knowledge, experiences, and financial resources. The government also promotes and strengthens partnerships with the private sector in investment projects, with the intention of implementing effective, efficient projects and enhancing development outcomes, through incorporating private-sector knowledge and expertise when formulating ODA projects, and assigning different roles to the public and private actors, with ODA covering basic infrastructure development and the private sector undertaking investment, operation, and maintenance, for instance.

A. Proposal-Based Public-Private Partnership Support Facilities

In order to proactively solicit views and incorporate proposals from the Japanese private sector in ODA projects, the Government of Japan and JICA facilitate support for private sector proposals for public-private partnerships, such as “SDGs Business Supporting Surveys” and “Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance.”

■ SDGs Business Supporting Surveys

SDGs Business Supporting Surveys* is a program that promotes collaboration with a variety of partners with the aim to incorporate uninhibited ideas from the private sector in development cooperation, and to provide solutions to local development challenges with a business mindset by tapping into private-sector products and technologies. JICA calls for submissions on its website, and screens the proposals of companies based on their project plans.

The cumulative number of projects adopted under the SDGs Business Supporting Survey between 2010 and 2023 amounted to 1,516. In FY2023, a total of 68 projects in 29 countries were adopted; 32 projects for the Needs Confirmation Survey, 23 projects for the SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector, 12 projects for the “SME Support Type,” and 1 project for the “SDGs Business Support Type” (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 27 and 135. For more information about the program’s framework, project fields and countries, and other details, see JICA’s website ¹).



Experiment of drone transportation of blood products in Mongolia (Aeronext Inc./SDGs Business Supporting Surveys)

■ Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance

Recent years have seen a growing trend of infrastructure development through public-private partnerships in developing countries and of economic and social development through private-sector projects. JICA implements its 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 private sector that explore the possibility of participating in projects in developing countries (for more information about the program’s framework, target areas and countries, and other details, see the JICA website). ² The total number of projects adopted from 2010 to FY2022 has reached 86, and in 2023, one project was adopted in Asia.

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

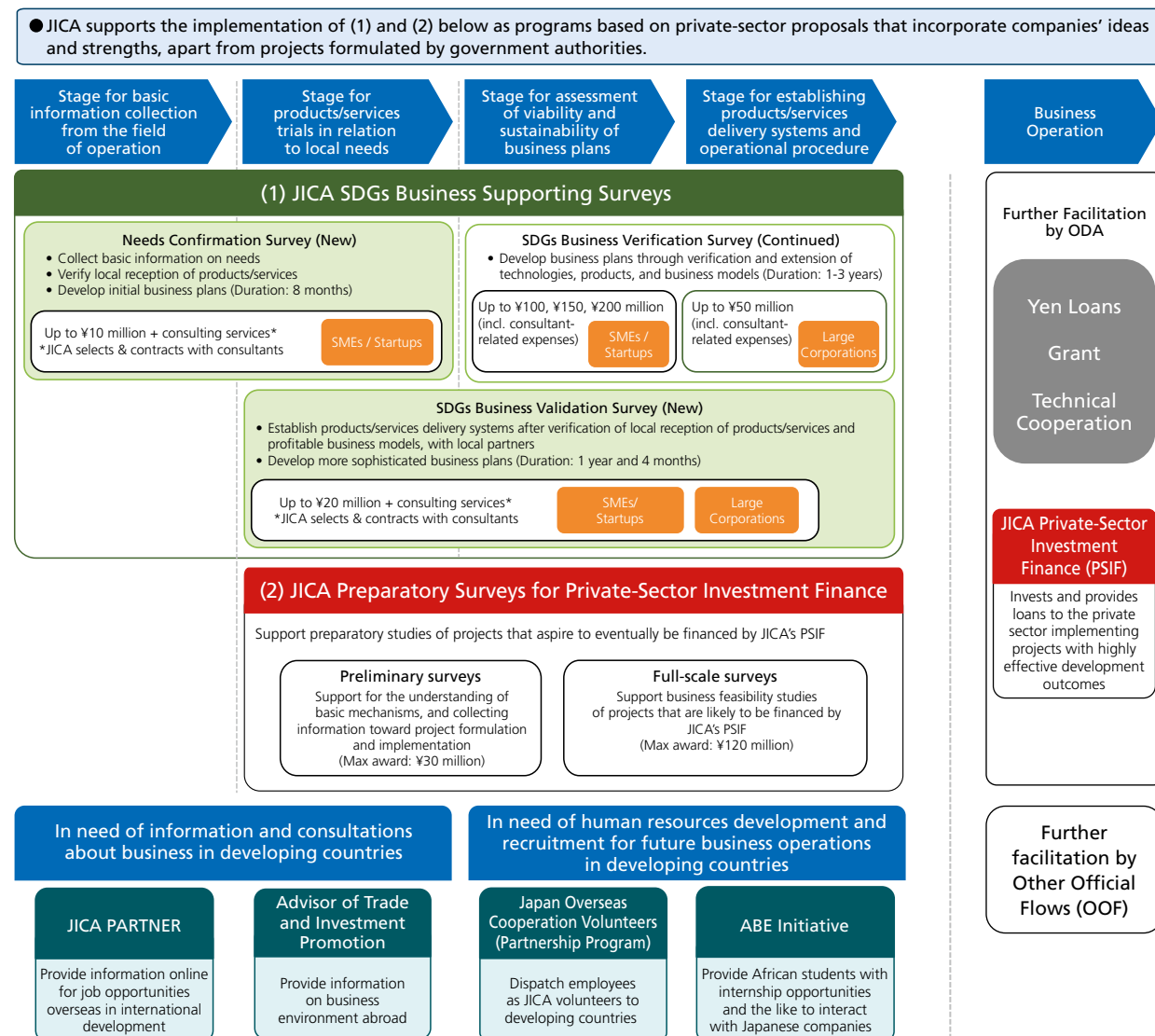
² Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html (in Japanese only)

■ JICA Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program

Under the “JICA Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program,” established in 2012, 129 volunteers have been dispatched to 38 countries by March 2023 and JICA has actively supported the overseas expansion of companies through this program. Through their activities, volunteers are expected to learn unique business practices and identify the market needs in the

countries of their assignment, and then to apply such understanding to their business activities in Japan upon their return. In April 2023, together with other facilities for the university partnership volunteer program and the local government partnership volunteer program, this program was integrated into the “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Partnership Program)” (see also “Featured Project” on page 146).

Chart V-1 ODA Facilities to Support Public-Private Partnership



B. Private-Sector Investment Finance

Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)* refers to a type of ODA financing scheme in which JICA provides investments and loans to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries that are considered highly effective from a development perspective but not able to attract sufficient funding from private financial institutions. As JICA signed a total of 114 investment and loan contracts from 2011 to the end

of FY2022, many Japanese companies are engaged (for more information about the program's framework, target areas, conditions, and other details, see the JICA website).³ Recent examples of successful PSIF projects include a wind power project in Laos (loan project) and a project designed to support start-up companies in Africa (investment in funds), both of which were signed in 2023. The former is the first wind power generation project in Laos, and the power will be sold cross-border to

³ Private-Sector Investment Finance https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance_co/loan/index.html (in Japanese only)

Vietnam Electricity (EVN), contributing to strengthening the connectivity in the Mekong region. This project will help increase the power supply from renewable energy sources in Laos, where a wind farm will be constructed, while addressing climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Viet Nam. The latter aims to help boost sustainable economic growth in Africa through investments in venture capital funds for start-up companies that create innovative solutions to social challenges in areas such as financial inclusion, healthcare, and climate change. While Japan has supported entrepreneurs in Africa through “Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan)”⁴ and other programs, this project will expand the scope of Japan’s support to include financial assistance for early-stage start-ups. Furthermore, it is expected to enhance the collaboration between Japanese companies and start-ups in Africa.

At the side-event on the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) held during the G7 Hiroshima Summit on May 20, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida made a commitment that Japan will contribute to sustainable development in partner countries through public and private infrastructure investment. Based on this commitment, Japan established financing facilities in three areas – climate change actions, food security, and financial inclusion (see Part I, Section 2 on page 9 for details).

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.

In addition, utilizing the organizations’ extensive experience and expertise in developing countries, international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), assist Japanese companies in practicing inclusive businesses.^{*}

C. Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights

Since FY2014, the Government of Japan has made available Grants for Supporting Business and Management Rights, with which Japanese companies are engaged at all stages of public works projects in developing countries, from facility development to operation, maintenance, and management of those facilities. This grant 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 such public-private partnership projects.



Glossary

SDGs Business Supporting Surveys

The program builds on proposals from the private sector to assist in matching the needs of developing countries with the advanced products and technologies, etc., possessed by the Japanese private sector, and facilitates the development of businesses that help solve problems in these countries. The program is expected to not only support Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in expanding their businesses abroad, but also stimulate the domestic economy and local communities in Japan (see also Chart V-1 on page 129).

Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

A type of ODA financing scheme implemented by JICA that provides the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries with necessary financing in the form of investments and loans. Although projects in developing countries create jobs and revitalize the economy of hosting countries, they entail various risks, and high returns cannot often be expected. Thus, private financial institutions are often reluctant to provide these companies with sufficient financing. PSIF provides investments and loans to projects in developing countries in a way to support their development. 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.

Inclusive business

Inclusive business is a generic term for business models advocated by the UN and the World Bank Group as an effective way to achieve inclusive market growth and development. It includes sustainable Base of the Economic Pyramid (BOP) businesses (businesses expected to help solve social issues through the engagement of low-income groups (Base of the Economic Pyramid) in developing countries and regions).

⁴ See 23 on page 144.

(2) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations

A. Partnership in the G7 and G20

In 2023, as the holder of the G7 Presidency, Japan led discussions on how to address critical issues facing the international community, including development (see Part I, Section 2 for details). In addition, as part of the G7's development-related efforts, it held the G7 Senior Development Officials (SDOs) Meeting in Tokyo in February, and reaffirmed the importance of solidarity with developing countries by issuing the Chair's Summary of the discussions in March. Furthermore, in preparation for the Hiroshima Summit, Japan expressed its intention to accelerate progress on priority issues in development cooperation, including development finance, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), food security, nutrition, humanitarian assistance, climate change, health, disaster risk reduction, and education.

As for the G20, the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting took place in Varanasi, India, in June 2023. From Japan, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei attended the meeting and called on the G20 members to reaffirm their strong commitment to achieving the SDGs amid the widening financing gap. He also held a separate talk with the attendees of each G20 member and reassured collaboration with them in the field of development.

As for the G20 New Delhi Summit in September, Prime Minister Kishida attended from Japan. With the intention of linking the outcomes of the G7 Hiroshima Summit to the G20, Prime Minister Kishida actively laid out Japan's positions and efforts on critical issues facing the international community. The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, which was issued at the end of the Summit, featured the outcomes of the G7 in areas such as food security, environment, and health.

In Session 1 "One Earth," Prime Minister Kishida pointed out that Russia's aggression against Ukraine is exacerbating the difficulties facing the global economy, including on food and energy, and that the G20 needs to address them. Regarding food issues, Prime Minister Kishida noted that a concrete action plan was formulated at the G7 Hiroshima Summit with the participation of invited countries, which confirmed the value of such initiatives as the "Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)," launched by the G20 to enhance data gathering, and the "Millet and Other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI)," promoted by India. He also expressed his willingness to work on building sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems. On climate and energy, Prime Minister Kishida stated that it is imperative to transform into a decarbonized economy through inclusive investments without compromising economic growth and energy security. Highlighting the need to aim to achieve the common goal of net zero

through various pathways in accordance with national circumstances, he also underscored Japan's intention to utilize all technologies and energy sources to promote innovation and support efforts in each country.

In Session 3 "One Future," Prime Minister Kishida noted that in order to overcome the challenges facing the international community and realize a better future, it is necessary to reform multilateral systems. He pointed out that as the future of the world depends on the future of developing countries, it is essential to support their sustainable growth, and stated that Japan would work on the evolution of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in order to meet the development needs of developing countries. He went on to state that it is necessary for more creditor and debtor countries to share the importance of transparent and fair development finance in compliance with international rules and standards, and that such efforts should also be promoted at the G20. Prime Minister Kishida emphasized that in order to respond to the debt problem of developing countries, which is becoming serious, it is essential to promptly carry out debt restructuring under the "Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)" and through official creditor committees for Sri Lanka and other debtor countries. Furthermore, Prime Minister Kishida stated that when investing in infrastructure, the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" should be respected. He also highlighted that Japan has pledged in its new plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" announced in March 2023 more than \$75 billion in public and private funds for the infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region by 2030, and that Japan intends to grow together with each country. Regarding health, Prime Minister Kishida stated that his priorities are achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and strengthening prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) for a possible next health crisis, including the provision of prompt and efficient funding in times of crisis. In particular, he stated that the G20 has confirmed the importance of strengthening the delivery of medical countermeasures (MCMs), which was advocated at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, and that



Prime Minister Kishida attending Session 1 and the working lunch of the G20 New Delhi Summit (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Japan looks forwards to working with G20 members, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and other partners.

B. Dialogue with Major Donors

Japan holds dialogues with major donors to exchange views on priority issues and policies. Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei exchanged views online with Mr. Mitchell, Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom in January 2023 and with Mr. Sajjan, then Minister of International Development of Canada in February 2023, and concurred respectively to cooperate toward the G7 Summit. In addition, the Japan-UK Development Policy Dialogue (at the Director-General level) was held in London in February.

In October 2023, based on the Japan-U.S.-ROK Summit in August 2023, the Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Development and Humanitarian Assistance Policy Dialogue (at the Director-General level) took place. The three countries reaffirmed their commitments to a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” through the promotion of trilateral development cooperation. Japan also held the Japan-U.S. Development Policy Dialogue and Japan-ROK Development Policy Dialogue (both at the Director-General level) on this occasion.

The members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are traditionally engaged in development cooperation. However, emerging countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, 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 gain considerable influence over development issues. In cooperation with other countries, including emerging countries, Japan supports emerging countries in providing developing countries with assistance in an effective manner.

With regard to Japan-China relations, the Second Japan-China International Development Cooperation Policy Consultation was held in June 2021. Both countries exchanged views on various development issues and foreign aid from China.

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. In conjunction with the partnership, the Busan Global Partnership Forum took place in December 2023, and reaffirmed the importance

of GPEDC’s four principles: country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability.

C. Partnership with International Organizations

To address various developmental and humanitarian issues as well as global challenges, Japan promotes collaboration with international organizations.

Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei received a courtesy call from Mr. Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund in March 2023, and from Dr. Avafia, Deputy Executive Director of Unitaid, and Mr. Gore, Executive Director of Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) in June. Foreign Minister Kamikawa held meetings with Mr. Lazzarini, Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and Mr. Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who both visited Japan in October.

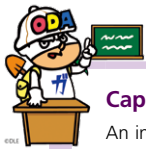
In addition, in order to facilitate assistance through partnerships with international organizations, Japan also holds dialogues with major international organizations, including UN agencies. In 2023, Japan engaged in regular policy dialogues with the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and others (see “Stories from the Field” on page 150 for Japanese personnel who work at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and page 50 for Japanese personnel who work at international organizations).

D. Partnership with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)⁵ is a generic term for international organizations that support poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development in 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 MDBs evolution, toward strengthening the response to global issues and the use of existing capital to respond to increasing development financing needs (CAF Review).*

The importance of MDBs evolution for enhancing their functions was also discussed at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May and the G20 New Delhi Summit in September, where the leaders of each country endorsed the MDB evolution agenda. Japan has led the discussions as a holder of the G7 Presidency, and it is expected that the support of the G7 will help increase the lending capacity of the World Bank by more than \$35 billion.

⁵ See the glossary on page 32.



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 reported at the G20 New Delhi Summit in September.

Featured Project

Delivering Medical Assistance to Refugee Children

Medical, Health, and Psychosocial Support in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon
Japan Platform (JPF) (September 2022 – June 2023)
Lebanon



Due to the political and social turmoil in the Middle East since 2011, there are many displaced persons staying in Lebanon. This includes double refugees, such as Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave their first host country, Syria, due to its crisis. The majority of displaced persons in Lebanon are forced to live in poor conditions. Meanwhile, the host communities also bear heavy social and economic burdens. In particular, children, women, and persons with disabilities need more support as they are put in particularly vulnerable positions.

In response to this situation, the Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP Japan), one of the member organizations of the Japan Platform (JPF),*1 focuses on the fact that there is a significant lack of medical care, especially dental and psychiatric support



A Japanese staff conducting an interview with one of the guardians of the children receiving medical support (Photo: CCP Japan)



A child in a refugee camp receiving dental treatment (Photo: CCP Japan)

for children, in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. With the support of the Government of Japan, CCP Japan provided dental care, hygiene education, child psychiatry treatment, and psychosocial support to approximately 6,000 people in seven refugee camps. In addition, CCP Japan conducted human resources development for social workers and those involved in volunteering activities.

Japan will continue to stand by and provide attentive support to vulnerable persons through JPF and its member NGOs.

*1 See the glossary on page 137.

(3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs implement development cooperation activities that directly benefit residents in accordance with their needs in various fields in developing countries and regions. Even in places affected by conflict or natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, they provide prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance. Being close to different local populations in developing countries, NGOs are capable of carefully tailoring responses to the needs of the local people. Accordingly, NGOs are well placed to provide assistance at the grassroots level, which can be hard-to-reach through the support of the government and international organizations. As the Government of Japan newly positions Japanese NGOs that engage in “visible development cooperation” as strategic partners in development cooperation, its collaboration with the NGOs is centered around the three pillars of assistance:

financial cooperation for NGO projects, support to capacity building of NGOs, and dialogues with NGOs (see also the MOFA website 6 for more information on international cooperation and NGOs).

A. 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 the socio-economic development projects that Japanese NGOs implement in developing countries. The grant covers a wide range of fields, such as health, medical care and sanitation, rural development, assistance for persons

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



Local residents participating in training provided by a Japanese NGO as part of efforts to address the risk of children dropping out of school (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) (Photo: AAR Japan [Association for Aid and Relief, Japan])

with disabilities, education, disaster risk reduction, and landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal. In FY2022, 57 Japanese NGOs received grants under the scheme, to implement 117 projects in 41 countries and 1 region, amounting to approximately ¥7 billion (see also “Featured Project” on page 122).

■ Japan Platform (JPF)

Japan Platform (JPF)* supports and coordinates emergency humanitarian activities of NGOs in cooperation with Japanese NGOs, the business community, and the government. In FY2022, JPF implemented 142 projects under 18 programs, including Response to Iraq and Syria Humanitarian Crisis, Response to Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis, Myanmar Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Humanitarian Assistance for Palestine/Gaza, Humanitarian Response to South Sudan Conflict, Humanitarian Response to Ethiopia Conflict, Response to Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis, Emergency Response to Pakistan Floods, Emergency Response to Southeast Türkiye Earthquake, and Response to Food Crisis (see also “Japan’s Efforts in Ukraine and Its Neighboring Countries” on page 110 and “Featured



Japanese NGO staff conducting an emergency initial assessment in the affected area two days after the earthquake occurred in central Morocco (Japan’s emergency humanitarian assistance through JPF) (Photo: Peace Winds Japan)

Project” on page 133). As of December 2023, 47 NGOs are registered with JPF.

■ 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 FY2022, the Government of Japan provided NGO Project Subsidies to six Japanese NGOs, and supported project formulation studies, post-project evaluations, and organization/participation in seminars and workshops including those held online, in Japan or abroad.

■ JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is an effort in international cooperation where interested entities such as Japanese NGO/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other private organizations, local public entities, or universities assist local citizens in developing countries in getting involved in the economic and social development or reconstruction in their own areas. Leveraging their own technologies, knowledge, and experience, applicant organizations propose projects to JICA. Then, upon the approval of JICA, the organizations are contracted to implement the projects (see the JICA website ⁷ for information on program details among others). Through JPP, approximately 200 projects are implemented every year. The number of the countries where JPP operates has reached a cumulative total of approximately 80.



An NPO, Mirai Future of Kenya, and community volunteers conducting early pregnancy preventive activities at a community meeting in Machakos County, Kenya (JICA Partnership Program)

⁷ JICA Partnership Program <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/partner/partner.html>

MASTER TECHNIQUES

from Japan
to the World

4

Japanese Company's Effort to Disseminate Cultivation and Processing Techniques for "Washi" Paper Raw Material "Mitsumata" (Oriental Paperbush) in Its Country of Origin, Nepal



Approximately 80% of the land in Nepal is mountainous, and combined with its geographical constraints as a landlocked country, basic infrastructure is not adequately developed. Agriculture is a major industry in which 60% of the population is engaged, but productivity is low due to a lack of infrastructure and production technology, which is a major cause of poverty in rural areas.

Kanpou Inc. is a Japanese company based in Osaka and engaged in the sale of government publications as well as Mitsumata (*Edgeworthia Chrysantha*, commonly known as Paperbush and called Argeli in Nepal), a raw material for Japanese traditional paper called "washi." Faced with this situation in Nepal, the company utilizes JICA SDGs Business Supporting Surveys and transfers technology for the cultivation and processing of Mitsumata in Nepal, aiming to revitalize Nepal's agriculture and forestry industries and resolve the development challenges.

In Japan, Mitsumata is used as part of the raw material for banknotes since the Meiji era, but domestic production has been decreasing year by year. Kanpou's first involvement with Nepal was through its corporate social responsibility activity to donate wells, and in 1990, the company began conducting research on Mitsumata in Nepal, where the plant originated. With the aim of revitalizing villages in areas where Mitsumata grows wild, Kanpou started teaching cultivation and processing techniques, and replanting Mitsumata in areas cleared for forest conservation. It then established a local subsidiary and trained Nepali staff, through whom it continued providing technical assistance to contracted farmers.



Staff of Kanpou-Nepal giving work instructions to village women (Photo: Kanpou Inc.)

Mr. MATSUBARA Tadashi, the company's President and CEO who took over the Mitsumata business in Nepal in 2013, looks back on the earlier days of the project and says, "I will never forget the words of a village elder who said, 'Thanks to Mitsumata, children in our village are no longer trafficked due to poverty. I myself was able to raise my daughter to become a respectable person.' When I heard these words, I vowed that I would surely get this project off the ground and eliminate poverty."

While considering how to continue this business, Kanpou consulted the Embassy of Japan in Nepal, which then referred the company to a JICA project. In 2016, the company began the SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector to study its feasibility, and since 2019, it implements the "Pilot Project for Establishment of Dissemination Model of High-Quality Mitsumata (Argeli) Production in Nepal."

Talking about the advantage of utilizing JICA's public-private



Mr. Matsubara (on the left) holding a meeting with producers (Photo: Kanpou Inc.)

partnership support scheme, Mr. Matsubara says, "Poor landless farmers grow Mitsumata on state-owned land with permission from the government. Previously there were many obstacles to continuing their business, such as by having to apply for permission every time the government changed. However, after starting as a JICA project, the permit and approval process was expedited thanks to the network and trust that JICA has cultivated in Nepal. Moreover, we were able to expand the geographical coverage of our activities to regions far away from the capital. Currently, we produce approximately 150 tons of Mitsumata per year at approximately 30 production sites, which is approximately three times the amount produced 10 years ago." Mitsumata from Nepal is imported to Japan and becomes the raw material for banknotes manufactured by the National Printing Bureau.

This project creates employment opportunities and contributes to women's participation in society. Regarding the results of the project, Mr. Matsubara explains, "Mitsumata processing does not require large facilities or electric power and can also be easily carried out by women, so it can create jobs for the entire village, encouraging social participation of women. This project also provides employment opportunities to migrant workers who returned home from the capital due to the spread of COVID-19. In addition, it has led to the autonomous operation of the village, as the villagers began to utilize profits from the Mitsumata business for the village, such as for building a school."



Flowering Mitsumata shrub with the Himalayas in the background (Photo: Kanpou Inc.)

In order to create new jobs and further revitalize the agriculture and forestry industries in Nepal, Kanpou intends to make Mitsumata a specialty of Nepal and considers using the network cultivated through the Mitsumata business to develop new agricultural products. It is expected that this will further create employment for people living in the mountainous regions of Nepal and lead to poverty reduction.

Part V

1 Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation

B. Support to Improve the Enabling Environment for NGOs

In response to the growing importance of activities by non-governmental actors and the use of private funding 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 FY2022, MOFA commissioned 15 organizations that handled more than 10,000 questions and inquiries and provided 120 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 FY2022.

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 FY2022, eight people received training under this program.

■ NGO Study Group

MOFA supports research activities conducted by multiple NGOs to improve their own project implementation capacity and expertise. The NGO Study Group hosted by MOFA aims to strengthen the organization and capacity of NGOs. Under specific themes facing the NGO community, each study group is organized to undertake a range of activities, including joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, etc., and produce reports and make specific recommendations for performance improvement. In FY2022, the NGO Study Group focused on two themes: (i) “Issues and Practice Toward Gender Mainstreaming in International Cooperation,” and (ii) “Redesigning Fund Raising Methods and Financial Standing of Japanese NGOs.” The reports and outputs of these activities are available on the MOFA website ⁹ (in Japanese only).

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

In FY2022, the Plenary of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting* was held in November. The meeting of a subcommittee, namely the “Partnership Promotion Committee,” took place in July and December 2022 and March 2023, and the “ODA Policy Council” met in July and November 2022 and March 2023. The number of these meetings was the same as before the spread of COVID-19. An extraordinary general meeting on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter was also organized in September 2022, 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. Two meetings took place online in FY2022, with participation of 40 organizations in the first meeting and 25 organizations in the second meeting (see the JICA website ¹¹ for more information on the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

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

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/taiwa/kyougikai.html (in Japanese only)

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



Glossary

Japan Platform (JPF)

An emergency humanitarian aid organization established in 2000 in partnership with NGOs, the government, and the business community. 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 FY1996 for sharing information on ODA and regularly exchanging opinions on measures for improving partnerships with NGOs. It comprises the Plenary and two subcommittees: the “ODA Policy Council” and the “Partnership Promotion Committee.”

(4) Collaboration with Local Governments, etc.

There is an increasing need to respond to problems arising from urbanization as a result of rapid economic development in developing countries, not only in metropolitan areas but also in regional cities, concerning water, energy, waste disposal, urban transportation, and anti-pollution, among others. Against this backdrop, Japanese local governments with a track record of various public service experiences can play a most valuable role in international development efforts and respond to the various needs of developing countries in a highly tailored manner. The involvement of Japanese local governments will also contribute to the development of future professionals in international cooperation and talents of global services. For this reason, the Government of Japan promotes the participation of Japanese local governments in ODA projects. Moreover, the local governments are proactively committed to scaling up their Japanese initiatives overseas, including on behalf of businesses in their localities, in order to revitalize their economy and to support their internationalization (see the MOFA website ¹² “support for overseas cooperation of local public entities through ODA,” and “Stories from the Field” on page 138 for specific examples).

In addition, 15 JICA 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 undertake a variety of projects based on the strengths of those localities.

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

The Government of Japan strives to collaborate with universities on a broad range of intellectual aspects of the overall socio-economic development of developing countries, namely theorizing and transmitting unique

Japanese philosophies of development cooperation, practicing such development cooperation philosophies, teaching the lessons learned from the development field to the Japanese community, and developing human resources for international cooperation. In addition, as part of these efforts, the Government of Japan facilitates “International brain circulation” through exchanges and joint research of students and researchers from developing countries and Japan. In fact, the Government of Japan successfully promotes projects under technical cooperation, yen loans, the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), and so forth in collaboration with various universities.

To give an example, for the purpose of training highly competent professionals who can play a central role in the socio-economic development of their home countries, the Government of Japan accepts junior government officers from developing countries as international students at Japanese universities through the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS). To date, the number of universities accepting students has reached a cumulative total of 41. In FY2022, Japan accepted more than 300 students from 19 countries, and the cumulative number of JDS Fellows enrolled in the master’s or doctoral programs in Japan has exceeded 5,700 (see “Stories from the Field” on page 140 for networking among JDS Fellows and their activities in Mongolia). Furthermore, Japan supports the socio-economic development of advanced engineering professionals from ASEAN countries whose industrial structures and business activities continue to advance, through strengthening the network among Japanese and ASEAN-based universities, promoting collaboration between universities and the industrial sector, and supporting joint research within the region and in Japan under the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project* as well as with the dispatch of experts.

In addition, MOFA and JICA implement the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable

¹² Support for overseas cooperation of local public entities through ODA https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/page23_000707.html (in Japanese only)

Contributing to Safe Water Supply in Cambodia with Kitakyushu City's Know-How on "Water Distribution Block Technology"



Public nomination

The civil war of Cambodia, which continued until the signing of the Peace Agreements in 1991, left its water supply facilities in ruins. In addition to water leakage due to deterioration, illegal connections of water pipes were also frequent, pushing the non-revenue water (NRW) rate, which indicates the percentage of unbilled fees due to water leakage and water theft, up to 70% in 1993. In response to a request from the Government of Cambodia, Japan began rebuilding water infrastructure in 1993 in collaboration with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and other partners. In 1999, a Kitakyushu City official was dispatched as an individual expert, which led to the launch of a JICA technical cooperation project. Kitakyushu City personnel were dispatched to provide technical guidance on water leakage prevention, passing on the knowledge they had cultivated in water administration. Through this cooperation, Phnom Penh's NRW rate improved to 8%, on par with developed countries. As of 2006, on completion of the "Project on Capacity Building for Urban Water Supply System in Cambodia (Phase 1)", water services had dramatically improved and tap water had reached a potable level. This success became hailed as the "Miracle of Phnom Penh."

Mr. SASADA Kazuhiro, Deputy Director of the International Project Division of the Water and Sewer Bureau, Kitakyushu City, describes the effort at the time: "The know-how of 'water distribution block technology,' implemented in the water supply service in Kitakyushu City, brought great results in reducing the NRW rate in Cambodia. This method consists of dividing a water distribution area into several blocks and then investigating the water leakage rate in each block to identify the cause, thereby reducing water leakage and water theft. This led to improving the revenue of the water supply business of the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority, which enabled them to implement measures to improve water quality, leading to the 'miracle.'"

Meanwhile, water services in regional cities other than Phnom Penh were inadequate, and there was an urgent



Mr. Sasada explaining the situation of water administration in Cambodia to water administration officials at a local seminar (Photo: Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau)

need to improve facilities and management capacity. For this reason, Japan provided grant aid to help build local water treatment plants, and implemented technical cooperation projects in the second phase from 2007 and the third phase from 2012. Accordingly, to support the sustainable water supply business in local cities in Cambodia, Kitakyushu City continued to dispatch its personnel as cooperation experts and provide technical cooperation to enhance the operation and maintenance capacities of water supply facilities at eight provincial waterworks, including Siem Reap Province. Looking back on Kitakyushu City's long-standing support, Mr. Sasada says, "At the beginning of the project, waterworks in seven of the eight cities were in a severe financial situation, with single fiscal years ending in deficit. By the end of the third phase in 2017, however, all eight cities had become able to end single fiscal years in surpluses. In other words, we were able to establish the foundation for a viable water supply business in a short period. Kitakyushu City also participated in the 'Project for Strengthening Administrative Capacity of Urban Water Supply in Cambodia' implemented by JICA from 2018 to March 2023. In this project, with the aim of strengthening the governance of water administration, we provided cooperation to the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, which has jurisdiction over the water sector, in the strengthening of organizations, legal development, licensing services, management of water supply operators, and human resources development."

In Cambodia, many private water supply operators operate mainly in densely populated areas where business is relatively easy to become viable. However, the country lacks in showing a clear view or policy to ensure that all citizens receive safe and affordable water services. In response to this, a three-year project was launched in May 2023 to help formulate a development plan for urban water supply for the water sector across Cambodia. "Local people told me that thanks to Kitakyushu City the water quality was improved. It makes me proud to be a member of the water administration," says Mr. Sasada with a smile. Cooperation from Kitakyushu City in water supply services is expected to continue.



Kitakyushu City officials providing guidance to Cambodian waterworks officials on the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant in Kampot Province built with the cooperation of Japan (Photo: Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau)

Development (SATREPS) program,”¹³ in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). Under the SATREPS program, international joint studies between universities and research institutions in Japan and those in developing countries are being conducted (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 37 for the results, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 95 for assistance in Malaysia).

JICA collaborates with Japanese universities to implement the “JICA Development Studies Program,” which provides master’s and doctoral students from developing countries with an opportunity to learn about the development history of Japan. In order to scale similar

efforts overseas, JICA also implements the “JICA Chair” program to support the establishment of “Japanese Studies” courses at top universities in developing countries. Additionally, working with the Open University of Japan, JICA has launched online lecture initiatives, such as the production of the “Japanese Modernization Lecture Series” program, which systematically presents the history of Japanese modernization and the importance of international cooperation.

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



Glossary

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

Established in 2001 as a university network comprising 19 top-ranking engineering universities in 10 ASEAN member countries and 11 partner universities from Japan (currently 26 ASEAN countries’ and 18 Japanese universities). The Government of 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 these people form alumni associations and engage in activities to promote exchanges with and understanding of Japan after returning to their home countries. Through our overseas diplomatic missions, MOFA facilitates collaboration with these people, who have a deep interest in and understanding of Japan.

In ASEAN countries, after returning to their home countries, participants of JICA’s Training Programme for Youth Leaders (the former Youth Invitation Program) have established alumni associations in their own countries. In 1988, the alumni associations in each ASEAN country were integrated into the newly launched “ASEAN-Japan Friendships Association for the 21st Century (AJAFA-21).” Since then, AJAFA-21 has continued to conduct exchange activities within the ASEAN region and with Japan. In December 2023, more than 100 members from eight ASEAN countries visited Japan to commemorate the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, expanding exchanges and confirming

their continuous commitment to contributing to Japan-ASEAN cooperation through alumni activities.

Through the ABE Initiative,¹⁴ Japan strives to increase follow-up support for participants after they complete the program. Using online methods and other means, Japan provides networking opportunities with Japanese company representatives and information to participants who wish to work for Japanese companies. To strengthen networking among ABE Initiative participants, a social media network was launched in April 2020. As of November 2023, the network had approximately 1,070 people, including current participants and graduates, as well as Japanese corporate representatives and former



Interaction between Japanese company representatives and ABE Initiative graduates at a reporting session after returning to their country (Photo: JICA)

¹³ See the glossary on page 38.

¹⁴ See the glossary on page 145.

Networking among JDS Alumni Returned from Japan – Fostering Young Mongolian Government Officials into Leaders who will Contribute to Solving Development Challenges –

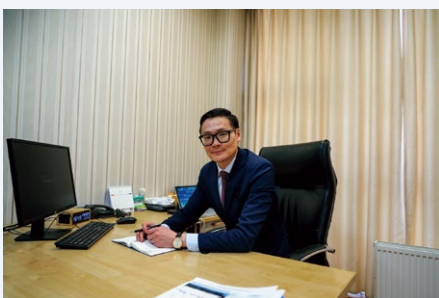
Mongolia, known as a friendly country with a strong affinity for Japan, is blessed with abundant underground resources. However, for medium- to long-term economic growth, the challenge it faces is channeling these resources into economic and further industrial development. For this reason, emphasis is placed on improving the administrative capacity of its governmental bodies for the development of an appropriate institutional structure, as well as for the formulation and implementation of sound financial plans, by training young government officials responsible for the future of the country.



A general meeting of the JDS Alumni Association held in Mongolia with the participation of faculty from the accepting Japanese universities (Photo: JICE)

Japan cooperates with Mongolia, through the grant aid “Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS),” to help young government officials study at graduate schools in Japan, aiming at fostering future policy makers of Mongolia. Since the country became a JDS recipient country in 2001, more than 400 young government officials have studied in Japan, 375 of whom have already obtained master’s or doctoral degrees. After returning to Mongolia, they are making great success in various fields, such as the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Mongolia, and other central government agencies.

Mr. B. Ganzorig studied at Saitama University for two years from 2017 under the JDS project. After returning to Mongolia, he returned to his previous position at the Ministry of Finance and currently serves as Head of the Development Financing Division, Development Financing and Public Investment Department. Mr. Ganzorig says that the experience of studying in Japan helped advance his career, explaining, “In recognition of my master’s degree in economics obtained in Japan, I was promoted to the Head of the Development Financing Division, Development Financing and Public Investment Department, and became involved in policy finance.” He also explains the positive outcomes of his study in Japan, saying, “When making policy investments, I take what I learned in Japan as a guideline. That is to say, I have become



Mr. Ganzorig serving as Head of the Development Financing Division, Development Financing and Public Investment Department, Ministry of Finance



Ms. Naranchimeg, Head of the Payments and Settlements Division, Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance

capable of appropriately allocating the necessary funds for priority policies, keeping in mind that the profits from Mongolia’s mineral resources should contribute to national development.”

Similar to Mr. Ganzorig, Ms. L. Naranchimeg also took part in the JDS project from the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia and obtained her master’s degree in economics from Saitama University in 2020. Currently, she is Head of the Payments and Settlements Division, Treasury Department. Ms. Naranchimeg describes the outcomes of her study in Japan through the JDS and says, “What I learned in Japan is the importance of conducting analysis and planning in advance of starting a project. After returning to Mongolia, I became involved in the introduction of a government-led online payment system in response to the demand that increased with the rise of remote work amid the spread of COVID-19. We steadily advanced our projects with foresight and were able to provide services to a wide range of people across the country. I am happy to hear that the work style I learned in Japan serves as a role model for my colleagues and subordinates.”

As for other outcomes, besides academic accomplishments, Ms. Naranchimeg says, “The connections I made with JDS alumni are also significant outcomes that have helped me in my work since returning home.” Furthermore, Mr. Ganzorig explains, “I leverage my experience of studying in Japan to serve as a Mongolian counterpart for Japanese cooperation projects. I also serve as a liaison to the Embassy of Japan in Mongolia and to the JICA Mongolia Office.” In Mongolia, the “JDS Alumni Association Mongolia” has been established, through which a network is built among graduates returned from Japan, Japanese academic institutions, the Embassy of Japan, and JICA. Its members strengthen the bonds among alumni, who are back in Mongolia and work actively at Mongolian governmental bodies, through various opportunities such as follow-up seminars on fellows’ return home and farewell parties for new fellows departing to Japan. They also talk about using the knowledge and experience they cultivated in Japan to benefit Mongolia and the world.

In 2023, seven JDS alumni, including Mr. Ganzorig and Ms. Naranchimeg, published their co-authored book entitled “Challenges in Fiscal and Monetary Policies in Mongolia” with the cooperation of their academic advisers at Saitama University. This book presents analysis and economic models useful for policy making in Mongolia. It includes an analysis of the current state of Mongolia’s economy, suffering from the so-called “Dutch disease” in which the export of natural resources leads to a decline in the domestic manufacturing industry, its impact on financial management, and measures to enhance the governance capacity of sovereign wealth funds.

It is expected that Mongolia’s qualified young government officials who have gained knowledge and experience in Japan will demonstrate leadership and promote economic development in Mongolia, while promoting friendship and understanding with Japan.

Japan Overseas Volunteers (JOCVs), disseminating business information related to Japanese companies in Africa and facilitating mutual exchange. The ABE Initiative also offers networking opportunities for all graduates to connect with each other. Furthermore, a group of volunteer participants established an organization called Kakehashi Africa, which aims to become a business partner with Japanese companies. While maintaining a network across Africa, the organization is engaged in activities such as conducting business surveys, providing business information, and matching the needs of Japanese companies and local resources. It has also collaborated with JICA, including on entrepreneurship training (see “Stories from the Field” on pages 36 and 140 for the activities of former international students who have studied in Japan).

In many cases, Japanese descendants (Nikkei people) form Nikkei communities in the countries of their residence and play a role as the foundation of strong ties between Japan and those countries. Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, which account

for approximately 60% of the world’s Nikkei people, support regional development and contribute greatly to the economic growth of their countries through the transfer of technology, etc., while also playing an important role as a “bridge” and “partner” with Japan. JICA implements the Training for Nikkei communities technical cooperation and the Program for Developing Leaders in Nikkei Communities technical cooperation for professionals who assume a leading role in cooperation between Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan. In FY2022, 152 Nikkei people from nine Latin American and the Caribbean countries participated in the Training for Nikkei communities. In addition, JICA dispatches JOCVs to Nikkei communities who are motivated to apply their skills and experience to the communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. In FY2022, 29 volunteers were sent to five countries in support of development in the region while living and working alongside Nikkei people and members of Nikkei communities.

Featured Project



Nurturing Young Entrepreneurs in “Nikkei” Communities

Seminar to Foster Young Entrepreneurs in Nikkei Communities across Latin America

(March 2023)

Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Mexico



Many Japanese immigrants and their descendants (Nikkei) live in Latin America and the Caribbean, where they have formed and developed their colonies and communities. On the other hand, many young Nikkei people from those colonies do not find the local industry centering on agriculture attractive, which leads them to move to urban areas or migrate to other countries to find work. The outflow of young Nikkei people and the resulting aging of Nikkei communities pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of these Nikkei communities.

To address this challenge, the JICA Bolivia Office held a seminar in March 2023 in the Department of Santa Cruz, where Nikkei colonies have been settled, with the aim of nurturing young entrepreneurs from Nikkei communities in Latin America. The seminar was attended by a total of 41 participants, mostly Nikkei people between the ages of 18 and 52, not only from Bolivia, but also from Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru. Group works



Deepening discussions between members from different countries (Photo: JICA)



Participants from Nikkei communities across Latin America, who discussed business ideas over three days (Photo: JICA)

were conducted aiming at generating business ideas. The JICA Bolivia Office had previously implemented “Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan)*1 in Bolivia” from September 2022 to January 2023 to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among young Nikkei people so as to revitalize Nikkei communities in Bolivia. The outcome of said project led to the realization of this multinational seminar, expanding the target area to other Nikkei communities throughout Latin America.

The seminar contributed not only to the development of Nikkei entrepreneurs but also to the formation of human networks across national borders among young Nikkei people, who are expected to lead the future Nikkei communities.

*1 See 23 on page 144.