



JICA

TOHOKU PROFILE

FOREWORD

Three years have passed since I became the president of JICA. During this period, we have seen events around the globe that drastically changed the world order. These include Great Britain's decision to leave the European Union, the election of U.S. President Donald Trump and the rise of other assertive national leaders. The liberal international order as we have known it since the end of World War II is now standing at a critical juncture.

On the other hand, problems such as regional conflict, religious extremism, extreme poverty, disparities, worsening refugee situations, infectious diseases and natural disasters are threatening the lives and dignity of people around the world. For Japan, it is critical to keep peace, stability and prosperity of the world. These are the core elements of Japan's national interest, and that is why international cooperation is essential for Japan to its very existence.

In this sense, initiatives to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed upon at the United Nations Summit 2015 represent a rare opportunity for Japan to demonstrate its presence and leadership in the international community and to improve the international cooperation system. To that extent, JICA has a heavy responsibility as Japan's development cooperation agency, and JICA intends to work proactively with a range of domestic and international partners on international cooperation aimed at realizing a world in which no one is left behind.

Taking human security and quality growth as its missions, JICA makes a point of always respecting partner countries by putting ourselves in our partners' shoes and thinking with them as equal partners. Under its vision of "Leading the world with trust," JICA aims to create a world where all people and countries are bound together by trust. At the same time, it is essential for both recipient countries and Japan to get benefit of the growth and development through their international cooperation. If Japan can contribute to reduce poverty and grow the world economy with using its experience and expertise, the world will better recognize Japan's contribution to the international community. JICA will keep such endeavor in collaboration with various actors, including the Japanese government, local governments, private companies, civil society, universities and research institutes.

Among those partnerships, JICA is particularly emphasizing JICA Development Studies Program. Japan is the first example of a non-western nation becoming a developed country, and having maintained both tradition and modernity and created a free, abundant, democratic state. I believe it is one of the best models for the advancement of developing countries. Moreover, Japan's ODA has significantly contributed to the advancement of developing countries, mainly in East Asia. Because of this experience and expertise, Japan can be the world's leading country in development studies. Under JICA Development Studies Program, we invite young leaders of developing countries to Japan, who will lead the advancement of their home countries. In partnership with Japanese universities, we provide them with an opportunity to learn about Japan's modern development experience, which differs from that of Europe and the U.S., as well as about Japan's expertise as a post-war donor country.

In July 2016, seven Japanese people were killed in a terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh. They had been enthusiastically working for a development project with their passion for international cooperation. To make sure such an incident never happens again, we will continue our utmost effort to constantly review and improve safety measures, giving the highest priority to the security of all people involved in our international cooperation projects.

It has been 10 years since new JICA starts with integrated function of Japan's ODA. With the trust of the people of Japan and a responsibility toward the world, I will continue facing my work as president of JICA with a strong sense of mission. So I humbly request your continued support and encouragement.

Shinichi Kitaoka
President,
the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



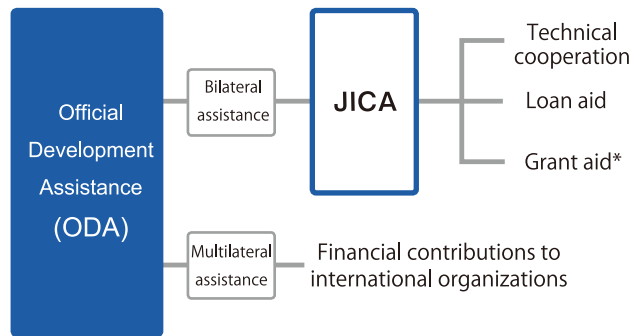
ODA and JICA

Since joining the Colombo Plan^{*1} in 1954, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries through ODA, aiming to contribute more proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community^{*2}.

JICA is in charge of administering all ODA such as technical cooperation, ODA loans and grant aid, in an integrated manner, except for contributions to international organizations. JICA, the world's largest bilateral aid agency, works in over 154 countries and regions and has around 100 overseas offices.

^{*1} The Colombo Plan is an international organization established in 1950 to support economic and social development of countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. Its head office is in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

^{*2} Taken from the Development Cooperation charter, which was decided in February 2015.



*Except grant aid programs that Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to implement independently as dictated by specific diplomatic policy.

Role of JICA offices in Japan

With its headquarters in Tokyo, JICA has many offices throughout Japan. These offices play a key role in promoting JICA's work in international cooperation. They provide hosting agencies for training programs and encourage locals to participate in international cooperation.

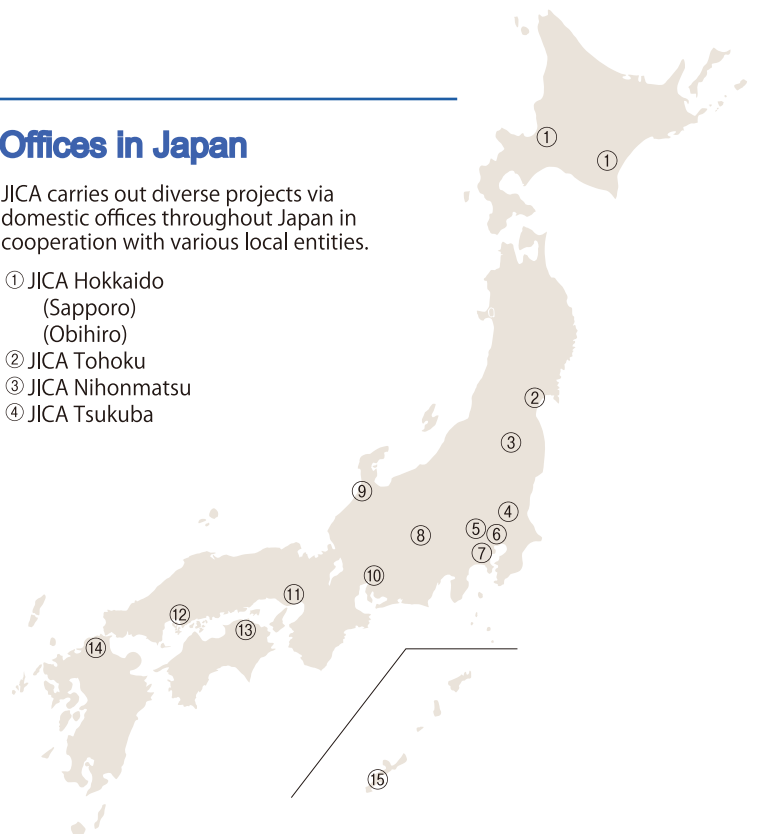
In addition to these training programs, the domestic offices support a wide range of projects, such as providing information about international cooperation, developmental education, and citizen participatory projects for local governments, NGOs and universities.

As a bridge between developing countries and Japan, JICA's domestic offices will continue to serve as the regional centers for promoting international cooperation, utilizing the skills, knowledge and experiences nurtured by local communities.

Offices in Japan

JICA carries out diverse projects via domestic offices throughout Japan in cooperation with various local entities.

- ① JICA Hokkaido (Sapporo) (Obihiro)
- ② JICA Tohoku
- ③ JICA Nihonmatsu
- ④ JICA Tsukuba



- ⑤ JICA Tokyo
- ⑥ JICA Global Plaza
- ⑦ JICA Yokohama
- ⑧ JICA Komagane
- ⑨ JICA Hokuriku
- ⑩ JICA Chubu/Nagoya Global Plaza
- ⑪ JICA Kansai
- ⑫ JICA Chugoku
- ⑬ JICA Shikoku
- ⑭ JICA Kyushu
- ⑮ JICA Okinawa

Websites of JICA offices in Japan
<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/organization/domestic/>

JICA's Vision and Efforts to address priority issues

Vision: Leading the world with trust

JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

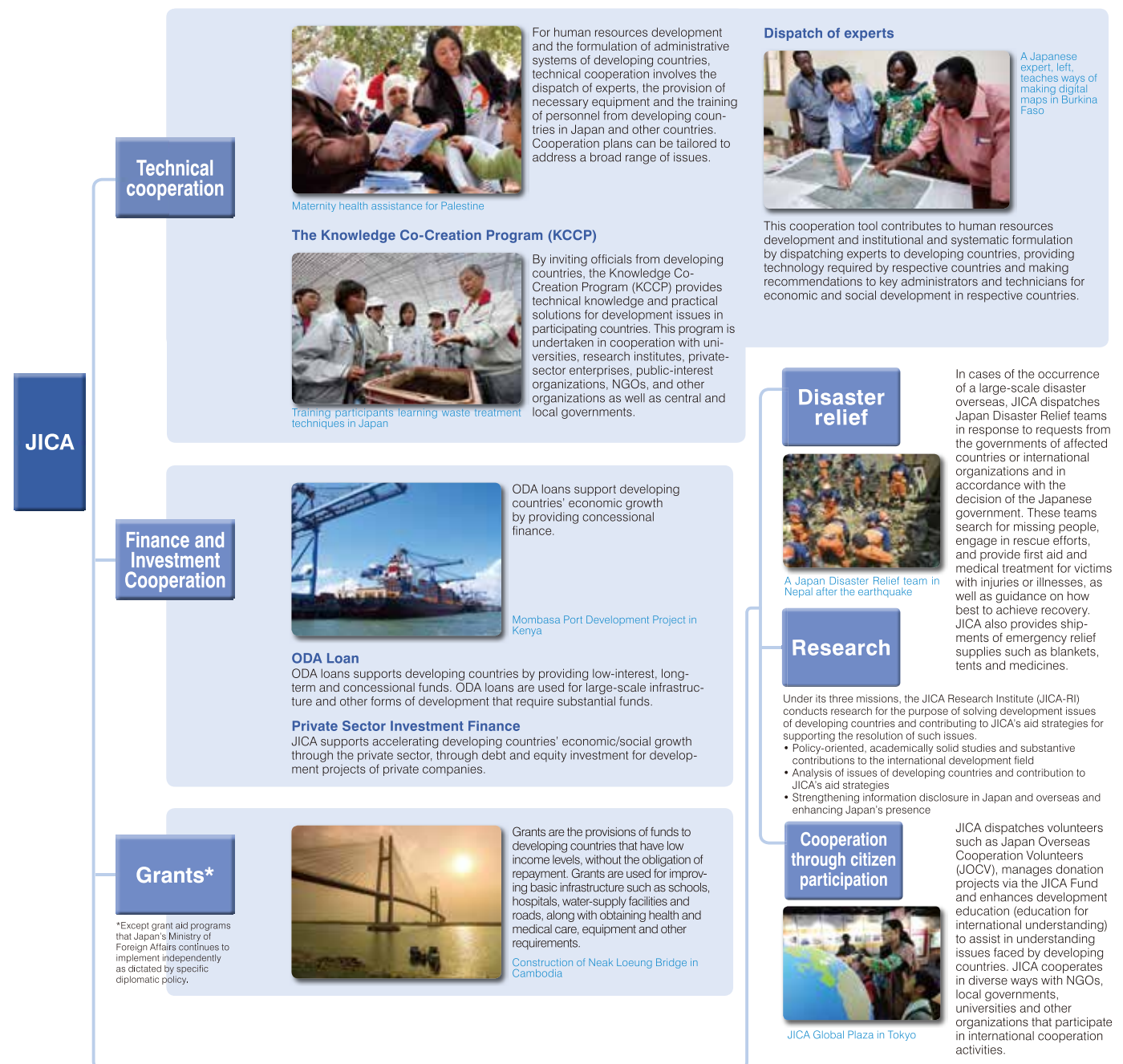
● Efforts to address priority issues

- (1) Secure a foundation and driving force for economic growth
- (2) Promote human-centered development, which supports basic human life
- (3) Share universal values and realize a peaceful and secure society
- (4) Build a sustainable and resilient international community by addressing global challenges

Types of Assistance

Through its three major schemes of assistance (Technical cooperation, Loan aid and Grant aid), JICA takes effective and efficient approaches to providing developmental assistance to developing countries.

Other projects include emergency disaster relief overseas, and citizen participatory cooperation programs that encourage Japanese citizens to participate in international cooperation.

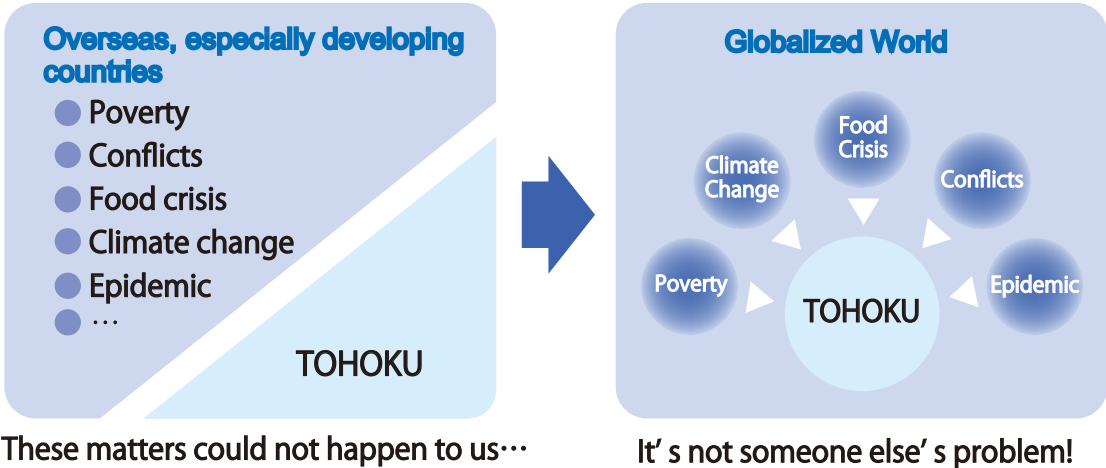


Role of JICA Tohoku

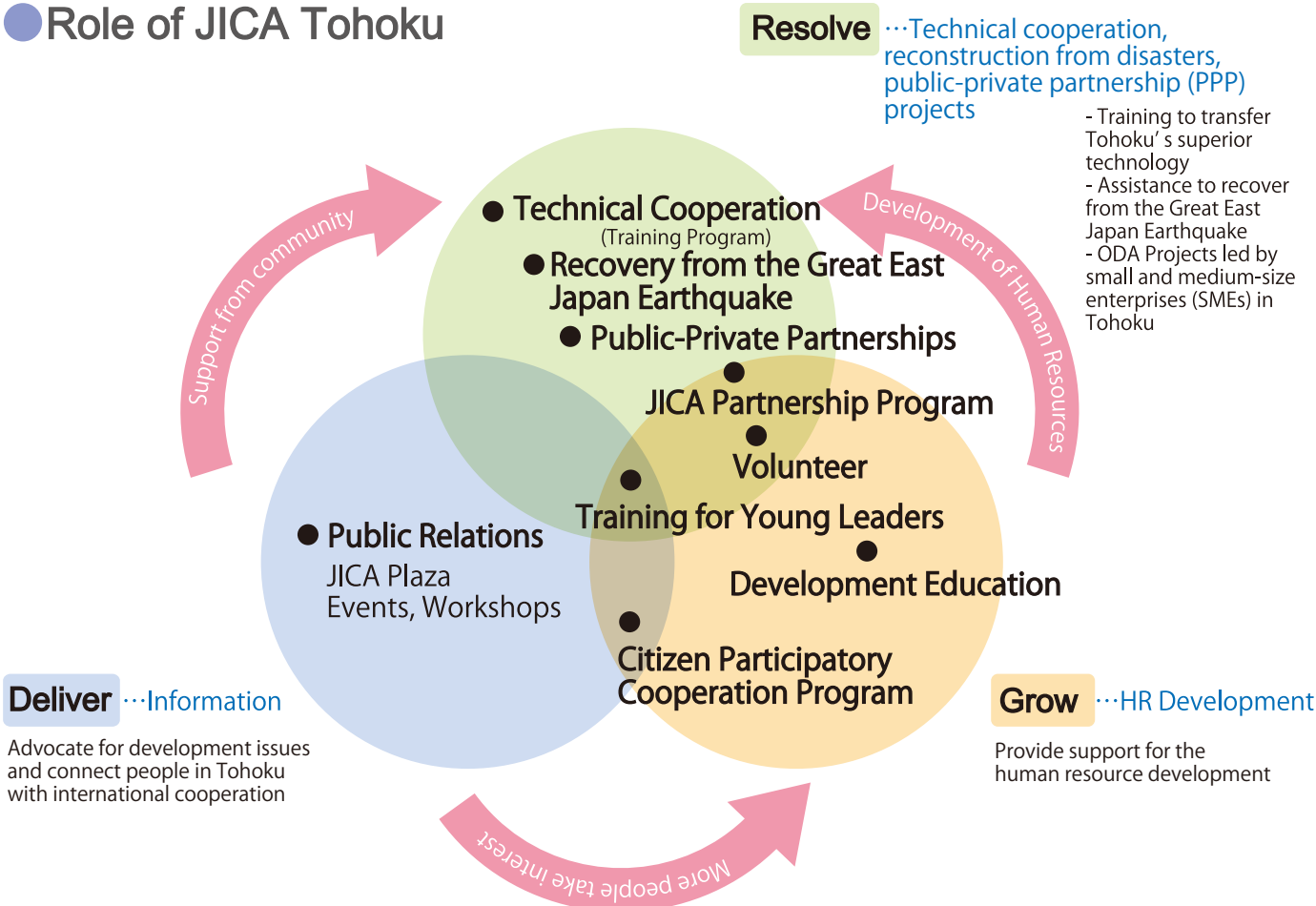
● Why in Tohoku?

In March 2011, Japan was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake. However, we were fortunate to receive considerable support from all over the world. This has helped the disaster affected areas move toward reconstruction. When Japan was experiencing hardships in the post World War II period, kind support from all over the world enabled us to rebuild the social infrastructure. We are living in an interdependent world.

The Tohoku region proudly offers superior technologies for agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The region has accumulated know-hows for mining and experience of "build back better" from disasters. With such regional strengths, JICA Tohoku contribute to address the various development issues. Public understanding is essential for Official Development Assistance. JICA Tohoku works on the people in Tohoku to understand the importance of the international cooperation.



● Role of JICA Tohoku



Resolve

● Knowledge Co-Creation (Country & Group and Region Focused)

Acceptance of training participants is one of JICA's technical cooperation initiatives. This program invites government officials and specialists from developing countries to Japan, and give them the opportunity to participate in technical training courses. There are two categories of programs: "Group and Region Focused" and "Country Focused." Making a full use of the abundant resources in Tohoku, JICA administers various training programs such as Disaster Risk Reduction and mining.

Point 1

Participants apply the knowledge and skills learned in Japan to resolve issues in developing countries after returning to their own countries.

Point 2

JICA provides training courses in collaboration with various entities, such as the national government, local governments, universities, nonprofit organizations, private enterprises and NGOs.

Point 3

A wide range of topics, such as disaster risk reduction, health care, education and resource development, are covered.

● Knowledge Co-Creation (Young Leaders)

Similar to the Region Focused and Country Focused programs, the Knowledge Co-Creation (Young Leaders) is another form of technical cooperation initiatives of JICA. JICA invites young leaders, who will become nation-building leaders in the future, and provide them with basic training to develop their specialties through experiencing and learning technologies and skills in Japan, and strengthen their motivation to resolve issues on their own.

Point 1

Young leaders, who will become nation-building leaders in the future, who are between 20 and 35 years of age are invited.

Point 2

The program aims to improve the participants' knowledge and skills in the specialized field, and to deepen their understanding for the Japanese history, experience, culture and society.

Point 3

The training period is for 18 ~ 25 days.

Case Study

■ Training on Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction



Site visit to reconstruction house

■ Training on Medical Equipment Management and Maintenance



Learning about a radiologic device

Case Study

■ Training on Tourism Promotion Course for Africa



Learning about the role of international tourist information center from East Japan Railway Company

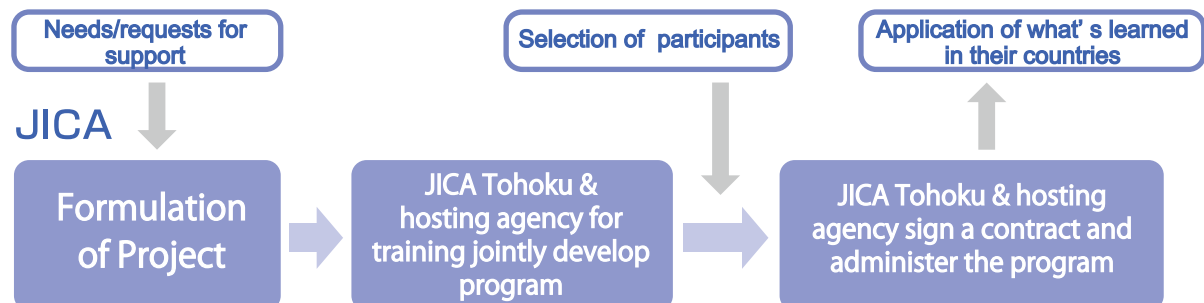
■ Training on Regional Revitalization in Disaster prone Area Course for Iraq



Making dumplings with citizens at NPO in Otsuchi Town

Process Flow of Knowledge Co-Creation Programs

Developing Countries



The majority of training participants are government officers or staff from related organizations. After returning to their home countries, the participants are expected to implement action plans to address issues they face, based on the knowledge and skills acquired in Japan.

● Build Back Better from the Great East Japan Earthquake

JICA Tohoku: serving as a bridge to link disaster affected areas with developing countries

JICA Tohoku cherishes the relationship we built with local residents in Tohoku. We strive to assist people in the tsunami affected areas to rebuild their lives, utilizing the knowledge and experience in disaster relief and reconstruction projects, human resources and overseas networks.

Point 1 JICA Tohoku disseminates information on community-led reconstruction projects to the international community.

Point 2 JICA Tohoku facilitates collaborative reconstruction between disaster affected areas in developing countries and the Tohoku region.

Point 3 JICA Tohoku supports recovery efforts by utilizing its experience overseas.

Projects include dispatching community reconstruction facilitators to support recovery efforts; compiling lessons through studies to identify means to improve recovery support efforts in disaster affected areas; promoting collaborative reconstruction with countries that experienced recovery from massive disasters, by sharing lessons and co-creating new reconstruction models; and implementing training programs to share the lessons from disaster recovery experiences with developing countries.



Community reconstruction facilitators participating in meetings with local residents to discuss reconstruction



Officials from Banda Aceh, Indonesia touring supply warehouses for disaster preparedness in the city of Higashimatsushima



Touring disaster-affected areas

● Public-Private Partnerships

JICA seeks to solve development issues in developing countries and revitalize the Japanese economy, by promoting private sector-led growth. JICA Tohoku provides assistance based on the readiness of the private enterprises to seek expansion to overseas market.

Point 1 JICA seeks to resolve development issues through private business models.

Point 2 JICA assists expansion of business in developing countries utilizing ODA.

Point 3 JICA provides a wide range of resources such as assistance from JICA local offices in the target country and information on human resources.

1. JICA's Proposal Based Programs with the Private Sector

Information Gathering, Feasibility Study	Dissemination Activities, Human Resource Development	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SME Partnership Promotion Survey Feasibility Survey for the Private Sector for Utilizing Japanese Technologies in ODA Project Feasibility Survey for SDGs Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies Collaboration program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizing Private Sector Technologies in ODA* or Contribution to resolving development challenges through business activities

* In some cases, request is needed from the partner country for further cooperation

2. Public-Private Partnership Volunteers (Human resources development program for employees who can play an active role globally)

In the public-private partnership project, we work on many other activities such as the human resources development program for the future of private enterprises, collecting information and consulting about developing countries.

Case Study

Overseas Expansion Support Project for Private Enterprises Case Survey to provide a transport service to enhance the functionality of CAI MEP Port in Vietnam (Shirogane Transport Co., Ltd., Oshu city, Iwate)

Shirogane Transport Co., Ltd. surveyed the issues faced by the transport industry in southern Vietnam through JICA's Overseas Expansion Support Project for Private Enterprises (Case Survey) and considered the possibility of utilizing their transport technology and know-how. Then in November 2016, Shirogane Transport established a locally incorporated company in Ba Ria - Vung Tau to run a freight-forwarding and logistics business. In addition, they will create a distribution center in the future which will help attract Japanese enterprises through both public and private organizations and encourage further use of CAI MEP Port.



CAI MEP Port where the survey was conducted



The background is CAI MEP Port.

JICA Partnership Program

JICA Partnership Program is a collaborative program jointly implemented with organizations such as nonprofits, local governments and universities. These organizations prepare project proposals, and JICA provides support while projects are implemented in developing countries.

- Point 1** The project must directly contribute to improving the lives of local people in developing countries.
- Point 2** The target can be any of the 90+ countries where JICA overseas offices are located.
- Point 3** Three project types are available, based on the scale of project and the eligibility of applicant.

Type	Partners	Amount of Funding	Application Period
Support	Nonprofit organizations, universities or public service companies, that wish to gain experience in the field of international cooperation	Under 3 years Up to ¥ 10 mil	Twice a year (June and Dec)
Partner	Nonprofit organizations, universities, public service companies or private enterprises (nonprofit) with two or more years of experience in international cooperation	Under 5 years Up to ¥ 100 mil	Twice a year (June and Dec)
Local Government	Local governments	Under 3 years Up to ¥ 60/30 mil	Once or twice a year (any time)

※Contents may be subject to change. Please refer to the JICA website for details.

Project Process Flow



Case Study

- Local Government Type: Food security enhancement project utilizing the traditional technology of Marumori-machi (Koya Council) for small farmers

Utilizing the knowledge, originality, and ingenuity developed in the environment of Marumori-machi, a mountain village, mainly farmers from both Zambia and Japan conduct joint community development to improve the nutrition and income of small farmers who live in rural areas in Zambia. This project will lead not only to eliminating poverty in developing countries but also to rediscovering regional values such as the re-examination of traditional Japanese technology.



Okonomiyaki made from local ingredients received favorable comments.

Case Study

- Local Government Type: Mutual reconstruction by the City of Banda Aceh, Indonesia and Higashimatsushima city (Higashimatsushima Organization for Progress and Economy, Education, Energy)

The Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The cities of Banda Aceh and Higashimatsushima, both disaster areas and both living with the sea, bring their fishermen and administrative officials, they dispatch experts, and conduct model activities in Banda Aceh such as joint farm management, the local product market in the tsunami evacuation building, and a bicycle rally which visits the remains of the earthquake, while in Higashimatsushima there are activities such as disaster prevention walking events, in order to build an economy activation model which enhances the region's disaster prevention abilities.



Training participants from Banda Aceh accumulating field experience of oyster farming in Higashimatsushima

For more details, please visit the Facebook page of Higashimatsushima Organization for Progress and Economy, Education, Energy (HOPE), <http://hm-hope.org/>

Volunteer

JICA's volunteer programs dispatch volunteers who wish to contribute their knowledge and experience to the development of developing countries. So far, approximately 3,700 volunteers participated from Tohoku. JICA Tohoku holds recruiting events and promotional campaigns to recruit more participants from Tohoku. In addition, JICA Tohoku provides career consultation to volunteers who return from their assignments.

※Contents may be subject to change. Please refer to the JICA website for details.



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers working at an elementary school in Morocco

Grow

● Development Education

Development education is defined as learning how our society and everyday life are related to global problems, such as poverty, conflicts, environmental destruction and human rights violations, through participation and experience based education. It encourages each student to understand and think about solutions to these problems.

JICA Tohoku hosts various events and seminars for children, students, and local residents to learn about the relationship between Japan and developing countries, as well as what is happening in those countries. Would you like to get closer to the world and think together about how you can contribute?

On-site Lectures for International Cooperation

Former JICA volunteers and staff members who have served in the field of international cooperation in developing countries tell you about their experience of different cultures, volunteer activities, and international cooperation in developing countries. These lectures are held during comprehensive learning periods and foreign language activities in elementary schools, and during such periods as comprehensive English and in homerooms in junior and senior high schools. It helps pupils and students increase their international understanding and is also good for their career education.

※If you have a specific request for an instructor or lecture topic, region or country, please contact JICA Tohoku.



An on-site lecture at an elementary school

JICA Tohoku Classroom

Why don't you come to JICA Tohoku? JICA staff members will introduce JICA's work and international cooperation for you to easily understand. Please feel free to ask any questions such as "I want to know about water issues in Africa," "I want to know about international cooperation in the field of disaster prevention," and "I want to think about what I can do now." In addition to JICA Tohoku, the contact desk in each prefecture also holds a Classroom.



Junior high school students learning about international cooperation in a workshop

Study Tour for Teachers

Teachers at elementary, junior and senior high, and special schools visit developing countries and learn about international cooperation. After returning to Japan, they make use of what they experienced in their Development Education classes. Why don't you tell your pupils and students what you felt and learned at the place you visited through a subjective class?



Exchange at an elementary school which teachers visited during the Study Tour

Seminars for International Understanding and Development Education

JICA Tohoku hosts events and seminars for local residents throughout Tohoku to share information about the situation in developing countries and the connection between Japan and the rest of the world. We hope local residents, children and teachers rethink their everyday lives and make good use of this information in such places as schools and their communities.



Seminar for International Understanding and Development Education

Essay Contest for Junior and Senior High School Students

This contest is for future leaders, namely for junior and senior high school students. The main goals are to promote a deeper understanding of the situation in developing countries and their relationships with Japan, and to provide the opportunity to think about how Japan and each of us can contribute to international society.

Deliver

● JICA Tohoku Website

JICA Tohoku's website provides information about events and publications related to international cooperation in Tohoku.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/tohoku/index.html>

JICA Tohoku facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/JicaTohoku>



● JICA Tohoku Plaza

JICA Tohoku Plaza, a facility attached to JICA Tohoku office, is open to everyone free of charge. Books and brochures related to developing countries and international cooperation are available.

🕒 Office Hours weekday 9:30~17:30



● Brochures

Brochures are available on JICA Tohoku's website. You can download them from:

<https://www.jica.go.jp/tohoku/office/pr.html>



● Citizen Participatory Events and Workshops

JICA Tohoku hosts events and workshops to promote deeper understanding for international cooperation and developing countries.

Case Study

■ JICAfe Tohoku

JICA invites training participants and JOCV members as guest speakers to share their experience in developing countries. In the event, exotic food and drinks are provided in a warm welcoming environment.



A Malawi training participant explains the geography, culture, history and food of the Republic of Malawi in Africa.



Interacting with people with a cup of coffee in one hand "What Japanese food do you like?"

■ Aomori

International Cooperation Photo Exhibition 2017 — We and the World are Connected — (Hirosaki city)



Exhibition of over 100 photographs of developing countries taken by a JICA volunteer from Aomori Prefecture.

■ Akita

Intercultural Understanding Workshop "Knock on the Door to the World ~ Let's Learn About Living in Syria ~" (Akita city)



In addition to showing a movie, ex-Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in Syria explained about the conditions in Syria before the civil war.

■ Iwate



At the JICA booth, there was a quiz to promote a deeper understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals.

■ Yamagata

"International Understanding Forum ~ Let's See the World from Yamagata! ~" (Yamagata city)



A variety of fields such as multicultural symbiosis, international cooperation, and education for international understanding were chosen as topics.

Organization

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

President:	Shinichi Kitaoka
Headquarters:	Floors 1-6, Nibancho Center Building, 5-25, Niban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8012, Japan
Tel:	+81-3-5226-6660 to 6663
Date Founded:	October 1, 2003 (as an incorporated administrative agency)
Objectives:	Established as an independent administrative institution under the law concerning the Independent Administrative Institution Japan International Cooperation Agency (Law No.136, 2002), JICA aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the sound development of the Japanese and global economies by supporting socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions.
Capital:	8,054 billion yen (as of March 2017)
Full-Time Employees:	1,882 (as of March 2017)

History of JICA Tohoku

July	1962	Japan Emigration Service (JEMIS) established an office in Sendai. After JICA was founded in 1974, the office administered projects in all 6 prefectures in Tohoku, as the Sendai branch. In 1980, it was renamed as the Tohoku branch.
July	2018	It was renamed as the JICA Tohoku Center.

History of Agencies Administering ODA

Oct	1954	Japan joined the Colombo Plan and initiated technical cooperation programs	Sept 1987	International Emergency Relief Team formed
March	1961	Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (OECF) was established and took over the Southeast Asia Development Cooperation Fund from the Export-Import Bank of Japan	May 1994	Number of Japan-trained technical trainees reached 100,000
June	1962	Overseas Technology Cooperation Agency (OTCA) established	Oct 1999	Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) was established through the merger of the Export-Import Bank of Japan and OECF
July	1963	Japan Emigration Service (JEMIS) established	Oct 2003	JICA re-launched as an independent administrative institution
April	1965	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program launched	May 2007	Number of countries receiving ODA loans reached 100
Aug	1974	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) founded	Oct 2008	JBIC's overseas economic cooperation operations and part of the grant aid under the jurisdiction of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs were integrated into JICA operations
			Jan 2015	Number of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers exceeded 40,000

Overseas Offices

Around 90 offices are located worldwide to promote projects in response to local needs.



Website of JICA offices overseas <https://www.jica.go.jp/about/structure/organization/oversea/>

● To learn more about JICA

We invite you to visit our website. Publications that include brochures, JICA's World PR magazine and our annual report are available on JICA's website and at offices in Japan.

● JICA Global Plaza

Various exhibitions and events are held at the JICA Global Plaza, which was established as a center for providing information on international cooperation, seminars and deepening meaningful forms of exchange.

● PARTNER

Participatory Network for Expert Recruitment website

The website connects those who are interested in international cooperation to JICA and other international cooperation organizations. Information about recruitment, training and seminars, career consultation and resume posting are available. For details, go to:

<https://partner.jica.go.jp/>

The latest information is available on JICA's website.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/>





Visit JICA desk in your prefecture

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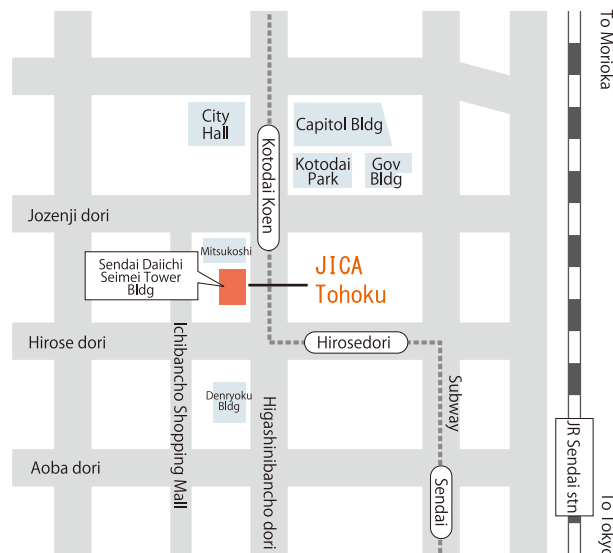
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