

Technical Assistance



Technical cooperation projects are one of Japan's main Official Development Assistance (ODA) overseas activities. They are results-oriented, with Japan and a developing country pooling their knowledge, experience, and skills to resolve specific issues within a certain timeframe. The projects may involve the dispatching of experts from Japan to provide technical support, invitation of personnel from developing countries for training, or the provision of necessary equipment.

After receiving a request from a developing country, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) adopts various cooperation approaches (cooperation tools). In order to achieve the objective of promoting development, JICA determines how to combine these cooperation tools, how long they will be implemented, and how to time them for the most effective and efficient results.

Technical cooperation projects are implemented according to the plan made through consultations with the recipient country. In order to address each problem so that a broad range of needs of developing countries can be met effectively and efficiently, cooperation plans are tailor-made and implemented jointly with the recipient country.

(1) Dispatch of Experts

The Expert Dispatch Program's key objective is to transfer and disseminate technical knowledge and skills appropriate to the needs of partner countries.

(2) Acceptance of Technical Training Participants

The Acceptance of Technical Training Participants Program involves the transfer of knowledge and technology required by respective countries through the training of key administrators, technicians and researchers in developing countries and regions. This is the most fundamental human development program implemented by JICA.

The program has grown steadily not only in scale but also in terms of content since its launch in 1954. JICA has been working on training related to global issues, such as the environment and HIV/AIDS, and new issues like support for democratization and transitions to market economies, in addition to basic development fields such as administration, public works, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, education, health and medical care, mining, and industry.

(3) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program assists and promotes in response to requests from developing countries the overseas activities of young people who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development of developing countries. JOCVs generally spend two years in developing countries, living and working with the local people while taking part in cooperative activities. Cooperation is provided in seven fields: agriculture, forestry and fisheries, processing, maintenance, civil engineering, health and hygiene, education and culture, and sport.

(4) Senior Volunteers

The Senior Volunteer Program was preceded by the Senior Cooperation Expert Dispatch Program, which commenced in 1990 as a scheme aimed specifically at middle-aged people who have a strong interest in technical cooperation activities in developing countries making use of their skills and experience. Volunteers with extensive skills and plentiful professional experience between the ages of 40 and 69 are recruited. The recruits are then dispatched to developing countries in accordance with requests received from the governments of those countries.

(5) Preparatory Survey

Preparatory Survey to assistance project will be conducted to ensure flexibility and speed at the project preparation stage and to achieve mutually reinforcing effects among the aid schemes. Such surveys will enable JICA to conduct both project identification and formulation in a seamless manner, thereby significantly shortening the preparation period leading to actual implementation.