



Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)

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Japan International Cooperation Agency is a special governmental corporation with the aim of contributing to economic and social development in developing region of international co-operation. JICA is responsible for the technical co-operation aspect of Japan's ODA programs. Technical co-operation is aimed at the transfer of technology and knowledge that can serve the socio-economic development of the developing countries. JICA carries out variety of programmes to support the nation building of developing countries through such technical co-operation. JICA has about 1,200 staff members working in Japan or at its 75 overseas offices. Japan's provision of economic co-operation is based on the concepts of 'humanitarian and moral considerations' and 'the recognition of interdependence among nations.' The Japanese government provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) after taking into account the following four principles cited in the ODA Charter published in 1992: (i) environmental conservation and development should be pursued in tandem; (ii) any use of ODA for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts should be avoided; (iii) full attention should be paid to trends in the recipient countries' military expenditures, their development and production of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, their export and import of arms and so on, in order to maintain and strengthen international peace and stability; and (iv) full attention should be paid to efforts towards democratisation and the introduction of a market-oriented economy, the situation regarding the securing of basic human rights and the level of freedom in the recipient country. Today, Japan stands as the top donor in the world in terms of net ODA disbursement and in 1992 it was the major donor in 25 countries. There are three main categories of Japanese ODA: (i) bilateral grants (grant aid and technical co-operation); (ii) bilateral loans (loan assistance, generally known as 'Yen Loan'); and (iii) contributions and subscriptions to multilateral donor organisations. The major portion of bilateral grants is undertaken by the Japan international Co-operation Agency (JICA), while the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) is in charge of bilateral loans. Since its establishment in 1974, the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has been extending technical co-operation in human resources development for nation building as part of Japan's ODA programmes. JICA's activities take various forms such as despatching experts and volunteers (JOCV) to developing countries. Also, JICA accepts participants from those countries for technical training in Japan.

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