

JICA in the Lao PDR

1. A brief history of the JICA Laos Office

Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Lao PDR commenced in 1958 when Japan invited Lao trainees to study in Japan. This initial exchange was soon followed by the dispatch of Japanese experts to the Lao PDR in 1959. Ties between the two countries were further strengthened when the Lao PDR became the first country to receive Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) after the program launched in 1965.

Established in 1967, the original Vientiane Office oversaw many major ODA projects, including construction of the highly significant Nam Ngum Hydropower Station in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Closing the office in 1978, Japan continued to provide support to the Lao PDR mainly through Grant Aid projects. The Vientiane Office reopened in 1990 as a JOCV Office and the dispatch of volunteers resumed. In 1996, the JOCV Office was renamed the JICA Laos Office and, since this time, JICA has been directly in charge of the majority of Japanese ODA activities in the Lao PDR.

Today, JICA is recognized as the leading bilateral development organization to the Lao PDR, providing assistance across various sectors to aid socio-economic development in partnership and friendship with the Lao people.

2. Country Assistance Policy and Priority Areas

At the ASEAN Summit in September 2016, “the Japan–Lao PDR Joint Development Cooperation Plan for Sustainable Development of Lao PDR” was agreed between PM Abe and PM Thongloun. Japan and the Lao PDR will seek to bring about the Lao PDR’s graduation from LDC status and make progress toward achieving the SDGs as a result of promoting activities of the following pillars.

The three pillars of

① **Strengthen connectivity with countries in the region on the tangible and intangible fronts**

② **Develop the industrial human resources in order to diversify Lao PDR’s industries and enhance their competitiveness**

③ **Rectify disparity through balanced urban and regional development that takes environmental and cultural preservation into account**



Cross-sectoral issues: Stabilize the macro economy, Achieve financial stability & Strengthen governance

3. Implementation

(1) Disbursement of JICA assistance in recent years

Billion Japanese Yen

Year(JFY)	Technical Cooperation	Grant Aid	Loan
2011	3.43	2.28	4.17
2012	3.26	5.30	0
2013	3.06	4.67	15.06
2014	2.98	2.32	0
2015	3.51	2.77	10.27
2016	2.82	2.24	0
2017	2.25	4.26	0

(Source: JICA Annual Report, JICA internal report)

(2) Number of Dispatched Personnel

	New dispatch (JFY2017)	Total up to JFY2017
Experts	335	5,089
JICA Volunteers (Junior, JOCV)	31	794
JICA Volunteers (Senior, SV)	4	158
Trainees to Japan	358	10,082

(Source: JICA Annual Report)

(3) Number of Cooperation Activities (as of November 30, 2018)

Types of Cooperation	Number of Projects/Persons
Technical Cooperation Project 【TCP】	14
Technical Cooperation (Policy advisor/ Issue-based Training) 【TC/Training】	13
Grant Aid Project 【Grant】	6
ODA Loan Project 【Loan】	4
Development Plan / Others 【DP/Others】	2
Partnerships with Private-Sector Activities	9
Volunteer program (JOVC/SV)	JOVC 38 / SV 5
Japan Partnership Program (implemented with Japanese NGOs or local municipality)	11

4. List of Cooperation Activities (as of September 1, 2018)

(1) ODA Loan, Grant Aid, Technical Cooperation

① Strengthen connectivity with countries in the region on the tangible and intangible fronts

【Loan】 Expansion of the Vientiane International Airport Terminal in Laos (LS-P8)

【Loan】 Nam Ngum 1 Hydropower Station Expansion Project (LS-P7)

【Loan】 Southern Region Power System Development Project (LS-6)

【 Grant 】 The Project for the Rehabilitation of the Bridges on National Road No.9 (2016.12-2019.06)

【 DP 】 The study on Power Network System Master Plan in Lao PDR (2017.06-2019.10)

【 TC 】 Power Policy Advisor (2016.08-2019.08)

【 TC 】 Planning Advisor to Cabinet Office, Ministry of Public Works and Transport (2016.09-2019.09)

【 TC 】 Strengthening of Governance and Trade Facilitation in the Field of Customs (2017.07-2019.07)

【 Training 】 Human Resource Development for Road Asset Management Technology (2017-2021)

② Develop the industrial human resources in order to diversify Lao PDR's industries and enhance their competitiveness

【 Grant 】 Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship

【 Grant 】 The Project for the Improvement of Irrigated Agriculture in Tha Ngon

【 TCP 】 ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Phase 4(Region-wide: 2018.03–2023.03)

【 TCP 】 The Project on Capacity Building for Supporting Private Sector Development and Japanese Investment in Lao P.D.R. through LJI of NUOL (2014.09-2019.08)

【 TCP 】 Clean Agriculture Development Project (2017.11-2022.11)

【 TCP 】 The Project for Participatory Agriculture Development in Savannakhet Province (2017.06-2022.06)

【 TC 】 SME adviser (2017.02-2019.02)

【 TC 】 Agricultural Policy Advisor (2018.10-2020.10)

【 Training 】 Innovative Asia (2017-2021)

【 Training 】 Training Program for Human Resources Development in the Mining Sector (2017-2021)

③ Rectify disparity through balanced urban and regional development that takes environmental and cultural preservation into account

【 Loan 】 Vientiane Capital Water Supply Expansion Project (LS-P9)

【 Grant 】 Project for Improving Secondary School Environment in the Central and Southern Provinces

【 Grant 】 Project for the Improvement of Setthathirath Hospital and Champasak Provincial Hospital

【 TCP 】 Project to Enhance the Capacity of Vientiane Capital State Bus Enterprise Phase 2 (2016.07-2019.06)

【 TCP 】 Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project (2015.10-2020.10)

【 TCP 】 Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater

Mekong Sub-regional Countries (Region-wide : 2015.04-2019.03)

【TCP】 The Project for Improving Teaching and Learning Mathematics For Primary Education (2016.02-2022.06)

【TCP】 Project for Improving Quality of Health Care Services (2016.02-2020.02)

【TCP】 The Project for Improvement of Management Capacity of Water Supply Sector (2018.05-2023.05)

【 TCP 】 The Project for Development of Innovative Research Technique in Genetic Epidemiology of Malaria and Other Parasitic Diseases in Lao PDR for Containment of Their Expanding Endemicity (SATREPS: 2014.05-2019.04)

【 TCP 】 Project for Sustainable Development and Quality Assurance of Health Care Professionals (2018.07-2023.07)

【TCP】 Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable World Heritage Management (2018.08-2023.08)

【TCP】 Project for Institutional Capacity Building for Urban Transportation (2018.12-2022.12)

【TC】 Health Policy Advisor (2016.03-2020.03)

【TC】 Advisor for Waste Management (2018.04–2020.04)

【Training】 Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-net) (2017-2021)

④ Cross-sectoral issues

【TCP】 Project for promoting development and strengthening of the rule of law in the legal sector of Lao P.D.R (2018.07–2023.07)

【TCP】 The Project for Strengthening Operational Capacity of UXO Lao contributing to poverty alleviation (2019.01-2023.12)

【TC】 Fiscal Statistics and Policy Advisor (2017.08–2020.08)

【TC】 Tax Adviser (2017.07-2019.07)

【Training】 Global Public Leadership Program (2018.8-2022.3)

【 Other 】 Joint Policy Research and Dialogue Program for Fiscal Stabilization (2018.03–2020.02)

(2) Partnerships with Private-Sector Activities

- Verification survey for the bus operation optimization system (Eagle Bus Co., Ltd.)
- Verification survey for sustainable commercial utilization of useful plant resources in Lao P.D.R. (Japan Flower Corporation Co., Ltd.)
- Verification survey for export promotion by utilizing furniture making skills (Legnatec Company Ltd.)
- Verification survey for export promotion by utilizing Japanese wood-processing skills (Takada Seizaisho Ltd.)
- Verification Survey for Improvement of Medical and Other Hazardous Waste Management in Vientiane City, Laos (Kayama Kogyo Co., Ltd.)
- Feasibility Survey for Multi-Beneficial Utilization project of Vernicia Montana Seed Oil in

Laos (SMAECO Co., Ltd.)

- Feasibility Survey for durable road construction by utilizing precast concrete (Sanko Construction Co., Ltd.) (in preparation)
- Feasibility Survey for Producing Regenerated Raw Materials from Waste PET Bottles (NEGORO SANGYO Co., Ltd.) (in preparation)
- Survey on training program for construction equipment operator and construction equipment contractor business (Mori Kogyo Co., Ltd.)

(3) Volunteer program (JOCV/SV)

- Basic education sector: 7 JOCV, 1 SV
- Higher education sector: 6 JOCV, 0 SV
- SMEs, commercial and industry sector: 9 JOCV, 0 SV
- Improvement of living condition in rural area: 1 JOCV, 1 SV
- Environment sector: 1 JOCV, 0 SV
- Health sector: 7 JOCV, 2 SV
- Governance sector: 5 JOCV, 0 SV
- Sports sector: 2 JOCV, 1 SV
- Culture and aesthetic sensibility education sector: 0 JOCV, 0 SV

(4) Japan Partnership Program (implemented with Japanese NGOs or local municipality)

- The Fan Industry Promotion Program in Laos (Phase 2) (Kagawa Prefecture: 2016.02-2019.02)
- Sports Promotion for Persons with Disabilities and Capacity Building of Sports Trainers and Sports Experts in Laos PDR (Asian Development with the Disabled Persons (ADDP): 2016.08-2021.07)
- Project for human resource development in wood processing and architectural industries in Champasak province (Wakasa Town, Fukui Prefecture: 2016.10-2019.09)
- Project for Enhancement of Cooperative Functions in Attapeu Province through Formation of Lao-lao producers Cooperative (Consumer Cooperative Coop Okinawa: 2017.04-2020.03)
- Promotion of Community Participation in Giving Care to Pregnant Women in Remote Rural Area of Xepon District, Savannakhet Province (Asia Health and Education Fund (AHEF): 2017.09-2020.08)
- Project for improving skills of woodworking trainers of Vocational Education Schools in Laos (IV-JAPAN: 2018.04-2021.12)
- Project for Improvement of Pipeline Management and Maintenance in WSSEs of Lao PDR (Saitama City Waterworks Bureau: 2018.06-2021.06)
- (Primary Education) English project name to be confirmed (Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA): 2018.07-2022.04)
- (Organic Agriculture) English project name to be confirmed (English organization name

to be confirmed) (in preparation)

End