

Overseas technical cooperation being supported by various people -Touching on a driver we met during many years of technical cooperation in Pakistan-

Many AAI News readers, having lived in developing countries and worked on technical cooperation for many years, have accrued a wealth of knowledge in this field, equal to, or exceeding that of our own AAI personnel.

Since the main purpose of technical cooperation is to transfer technology to the partner country, some counterparts have been appointed as specific cooperation targets or cooperators and we feel sure readers have experienced intense and fruitful collaborations with those who share a mutual technical field.

We AAI staff have had technical exchanges with counterparts and have acted together from time to time through opportunities for technical cooperation in the countries and regions that we have experienced. Based on that exchange, we are still occasionally sharing information on current technological issues and new technologies in these countries. In technical cooperation overseas, it is natural that the relationship between us and our counterparts is the main foundation for achieving the project purpose, and the way we relate to them is important for the success of technology transfer. We would like to discuss this on another occasion in AAI News, but in this article, we would like to step away from that discussion and touch on the various people who support technical cooperation on site and whose lives have touched our own.

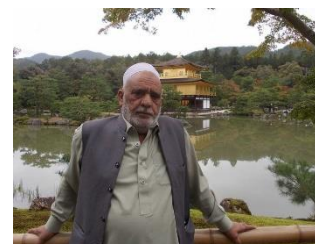
In the field of technical cooperation, in addition to activities directly linked to technology transfer, there are various indirect preparations and efforts to make technical cooperation work successfully. We must not forget that in technical cooperation, we employ local people and have them involved in various tasks.

Here, we would like to introduce a driver we met in Pakistan who had been working with us on some technical cooperation project sites for nearly 30 years. His name is Mr. Nazar. He has acted as a driver for almost all the

projects with which AAI has been involved in Pakistan. Although he is a driver, he indirectly supported our cooperative project behind the scenes. When our car fell into a riverbed after being hit by a reckless oncoming vehicle on a rough road, he was also injured and was trapped in the driver's seat, but despite his predicament he was very concerned about the safety of the Japanese people who were sitting in the car with him. When a terror attack occurred near where we were staying, and while the atmosphere was tense, he was the first to assess the situation at the scene and guided us to the quickest and safest place to evacuate. The number of such anecdotes is endless. We can't say enough about his kindness and sincerity. We loved him, and he also loved us, Japanese people and AAI. The year before last, AAI invited him to



An old picture of Nazar at a project site in Pakistan



Nazar relaxing in a park when he visited Japan

Japan to see and enjoy our country.

He passed away suddenly last November, 2020. After losing him, we were reminded once again of his rare and precious personality.

When we think of technical cooperation, we tend to think of counterparts with whom we have close technical exchanges. However, there is no doubt that the field of technical cooperation is supported by good relationships with various other people and we are greatly supported by their dedication. The death of Nazar, was an event that reminded us of the important aspects of such technical cooperation.