

## *New Series: Coordination between Technical Cooperation and Training Activities*

### **Part 1 – Introduction**

Various training programs in different technical cooperation fields are perceived to be increasingly important, in terms of building human capacity and resources. Within development studies and technical cooperation projects in the agricultural field in developing countries, training and extension are becoming important components. For instance, in the project on the extension of saving water in irrigated agriculture we currently implement in the Syrian Arab Republic, the core of our program is training and extension activities related to water saving irrigation techniques. We think that it is very important to utilize experiences and knowledge accumulated through training activities conducted in Japan. This means that it is necessary to wisely link technical cooperation activities outside Japan with training activities in Japan.

In the previous issues of the AAI News, we introduced technical cooperation activities under various schemes such as dispatch of experts and development studies. In the past, JICA had the dispatch program section and training program section within the organization, and different program sections were dealing with different schemes. Apart from the project type technical cooperation, the organizational structure made it highly difficult to ensure collaboration between various schemes. Since then, JICA's organizational structure has improved and the programmatic approach was adapted, resulting in recognition of the importance of coordination between schemes. Furthermore, in recent years, JICA has been actively promoting coordination between schemes within a technical cooperation project. This creates favourable conditions to promote improved coordination between technical cooperation activities outside Japan and training activities inside Japan.

In the AAI News, from Vol. 43 to 48, we introduced our efforts towards training activities. We introduced our agricultural training activities at the JICA Tsukuba center in Japan, and stressed the importance of post-training follow up activities. We also touched upon the ripple out effects of the counterpart training activities as part of development studies and expert dispatch projects. Moreover, we suggested a wide range of utilization of facilities that are established and run in developing countries through the Japanese Government's technical cooperation. In the conclusion of the series, we emphasized that the combination of technical cooperation and training activities should be actively considered and implemented.

Based on our experiences gained through diverse activities, the following are the different types of coordination that are possible between future technical cooperation and training activities. This new series aims to make useful suggestions that can be used for future projects, looking at actual examples for each coordination type.

<b>Coordination Type</b>	<b>Content</b>
Follow up Type	Based on our experience in the Tajikistan Vegetable Cultivation Course and Southern African Vegetable and Upland Crops Cultivation Technique Course, we would like to explore the possibilities of nurturing grassroots technical cooperation activities through follow up activities for the former trainees in their countries.
Coordination with technical cooperation projects	For example, in the Project on the Reconstruction of Agricultural Experimental Stations in Afghanistan, providing training in advance for future staff of the experimental stations to be rebuilt will lead to extremely efficient project implementation.
Training in a third country	In countries whose environments differ greatly from Japan, such as arid and semi-arid areas, we should consider effective use of facilities that were established and run with Japanese cooperation, as well as programs with a third-country training component.
Multiple program Type	Instead of implementing activities according to different schemes, we should examine possibilities of developing a program which comprehensively promotes various schemes including technical cooperation and training activities.