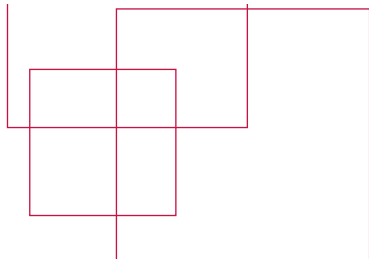


MAY 2017



International  
Labour  
Organization



# Japan ILO Cooperation

Japan is a founding member State of the ILO, and a valued partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Japan has ratified 49 Conventions, including 6 Fundamental, 3 Governance and 40 Technical Conventions. Japan holds one of the ten permanent government seats on the ILO Governing Body as a State of Chief Industrial Importance.



## Japan's contribution to the ILO

Japan has a long-standing relationship with the ILO in the field of development cooperation, establishing itself as a key partner in the promotion of social justice and decent work, especially in Asia and the Pacific. Japan supports the ILO's mandate by contributing to both its core budget and its development cooperation programmes.

The ILO cooperates closely with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, as its governmental constituent. The partnership aims primarily at supporting a fair globalization, contributing to poverty reduction, advancing occupational safety and health standards, promoting international labour standards and social dialogue.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has provided strategic funding to ILO priority programmes in Asia and the Pacific, as well as for the regional Skills and Employability Programme, the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, and the Social Safety Nets Fund.

Further support to development cooperation activities is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both directly and through the [UN Trust Fund for Human Security](#). The cooperation extends primarily to livelihood-oriented emergency response to both humanitarian and environmental crises. The ILO also collaborated with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for technical interventions in Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and the Pacific.

In terms of cooperation with the private sector, the ILO implements a global programme to reduce the worst forms of child labour in tobacco-growing communities with the support of Japan Tobacco International.

Furthermore, the ILO avails itself of Japanese expertise thanks to the country's participation in the Junior Professional Officer programme and to the secondment of Japanese officials, as well as specialists from the Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union.

## JAPAN'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Japan contributes proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

The priority areas within Japanese development assistance are:

- **Peace building**
- **Poverty reduction:** education, health and population, water and sanitation and agriculture and rural development
- **Resilient international community:** environment, energy and disaster reduction
- **Good governance, gender equality and human security.**

Japan's development cooperation strives to address these priority areas to achieve "quality growth" through the development of infrastructure and human resources.

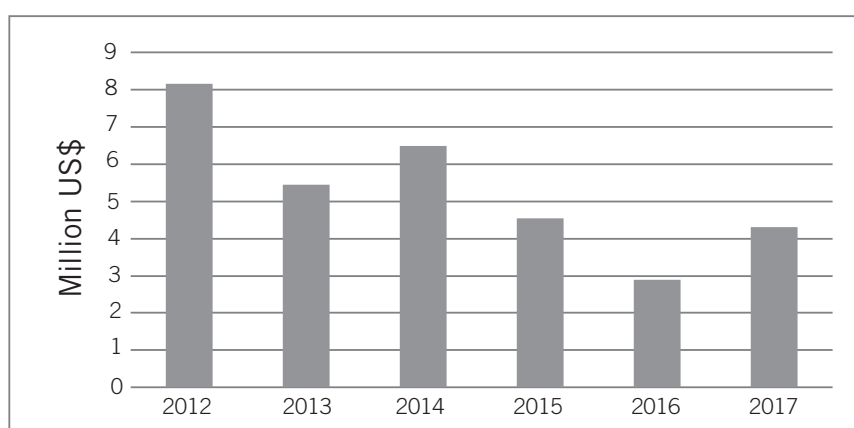
In 2016, Japan provided US\$ 10.37 billion in Official Development Aid, which represents 0.2% of its gross national income. (source: OECD Development cooperation report 2017)

## JAPAN'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO

Japan funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions**, which are paid by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership. With more than **USD 271 million** provided between 2012 and 2017, Japan is the second largest contributor to the ILO's regular budget.
- **Voluntary contributions** earmarked to priority programmes and projects. Between 2012 and 2017, it amounted to USD 31.8 million.

## Japan's overall voluntary contributions to the ILO (2012-2017) in US\$



## Promoting and building social protection in Asia

Since 2011, the ILO and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare have supported ASEAN members to strengthen their social protection systems. The cooperation includes measures to expand social protection coverage, design and improve unemployment insurance schemes, pensions' reforms, and promote better maternity and sickness protection, including for migrant workers. Viet Nam and Indonesia are receiving direct techni-

cal support for improving their legal and institutional frameworks in view of increasing social security coverage. Lessons learnt and good practices are disseminated to other ASEAN members through South-South and Triangular cooperation. The project also helps ASEAN members to define a monitoring framework to measure progress, as part of their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Mongolia, the project helped the country defining its social protection floors, devise the old-age pension's reform and its extension to herders, while also encouraging the ratification of the **ILO's Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention**. Support is also provided to design income security and employability measures for rural youth.



## Sustainable and inclusive growth through industrial relations

Implemented with the support of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, the **InSIGHT Project** aims at strengthening national and regional industrial relations in Asia, and specifically in Indonesia and Viet

Nam. By enhancing the capacities and platforms for tripartite dialogue, the project aims at creating a shared vision among governments, workers and employers on how to achieve sustainability and inclusive growth. InSIGHT

also supported capacity building activities in enterprise greening, as well as overall improvements in the workplace conditions, with concrete benefits for both workers and employers.

## The Fund for Building Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific

Recognizing the growing importance of social safety nets in Asia and the Pacific in terms of response to financial crises, unemployment and natural disasters, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan established with the ILO in 2011 the Fund for Building

Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific (SSN Fund).

Designed as a flexible and rapid funding mechanism, the SSN Fund has supported over 35 different projects to develop social protection schemes, improve occupational safety and health,

promote employment through skills training and entrepreneurship, and eradicate child labour. The fund also contributes to the region's resilience to natural hazards by supporting livelihoods recovery and reconstruction projects in areas affected by natural disasters.

### Lifting people out of poverty through entrepreneurship

For many people in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand, entrepreneurship and vulnerable employment in micro-enterprises are the only available

income streams, often in the informal sector, with limited impact in terms of social and economic development. Responding to this situation, the



project “Fostering an enabling environment for livelihoods development in vulnerable and at risk communities through entrepreneurship and micro-enterprise skills” develops the capacity of institutions to provide, sustain, and scale up interventions through innovative and low-cost models built around self-facilitation and social learning techniques. The ILO’s **Community-Based Enterprise Development (C-BED)** program provides a comprehensive suite of self-implemented training tools for participants to develop basic skill sets and competencies in entrepreneurship, business management, marketplace financial literacy, social protection and rights at work. The tools incorporate simple, hands-on, activity-based lessons, maximizing the use of diagrams and pictures so that even participants with little or no literacy are able to learn together.

### Supporting post-disaster recovery in Fiji

In February 2016, Cyclone Winston, the largest storm ever formed in the Southern Pacific, hit Fiji. It affected

about 540,400 people - representing 62 percent of the country’s population. The SSN Fund promptly brought



its support through the “**Resilient Employment and Livelihoods through Enterprise and Skills Development**” project. Based on a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the project provides skills trainings to the affected provinces, in order to support their livelihoods. The trainings range from carpentry skills to “build back better”, to small engine repairs for boats in the coastal areas, or entrepreneurship skills. These programmes are tailored to each community’s needs, to generate livelihoods and promote a sustainable recovery. They also address the psychological impact of such disasters among children and adults. This comprehensive and unique approach is helping Fiji to attain a sustainable and resilient recovery.

## PROGRAMMES AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE OF THE ILO

Within the scope of the cooperation framework between the ILO and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Government of Japan provides financial and technical support to the training activities of the ILO's **International Training Centre** in Turin. The appointment of Japanese experts has strengthened the Centre's training offer on employment and training policies and practices, occupational safety and health and labour inspections, while allowing the Government of Japan to benefit from international exposure and peer-to-peer exchanges.

## Regional Skills and Employability programme in Asia and the Pacific and the Pacific

The ILO and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare initiated a 3-years programme to support skills development for green jobs in Asia and the Pacific, as a tool to ensure an efficient transition to a green economy and foster sustainable growth.

Recognizing the need to create sustainable jobs in Samoa, the ILO developed and pilot tested a national green job skill-set, which was shared at the regional workshop on Core Skills and

Competencies for Green Jobs in the agricultural sector in March 2016. The event provided guidance on how to better integrate environmental awareness into domestic skills development policies.

In Myanmar green competencies were integrated into the skills standards for tour guides, in order to enhance the delivery of tour guide services in the area of green tourism.

## Durable Solutions for Somali refugee returnees



Somalia is one of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. Also due to the prolonged conflict, there are 1.1 million internally displaced people in Somalia and 1 million Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa. With funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the ILO organized vocational skills and business management training for refugee returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities to support their

employment-based reintegration. The project imparted fundamental skills to 320 beneficiaries in Baidoa aiming to increase their access to and opportunities for self-employment. At the same time, in collaboration with the Japanese NGO **Community Road Empowerment (CORE)**, 2,814 workdays were created for 134 returnees to generate immediate income through road maintenance technology.

## Way out of Informality: Facilitating the formalization of the informal economy in South Asia



A significant share of the workforce in South Asia earns its livelihood in the informal economy, with no access to social protection and no formal labour rights. To address this problem, in 2012-2017 Japan and the ILO implemented a project to promote formalization in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, in close cooperation with governments, employers' and workers' organizations. The project achieved important regulatory and policy improvements in Bangladesh and Nepal, and greatly increased the awareness on the importance of formalization and strategies to achieve it, through workshops, policy dialogues and the sharing of good practices.

The project's results include the establishment in Nepal of a registration system for informal construction sub-contractors (with about 2,300 registered entities) and the registration of more than 2,827 micro entrepreneurs. An association of sub-contractors was founded in Bangladesh, with more than 500 members joining, while 521 informal workers in Pune (India) while more than 1,400 informal workers in Pune (India) were made eligible to access social security.

A training programme on the transition to the formal economy was piloted in Nepal and adopted by the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin.

### Contact

International Labour Organization  
4, Route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneva-22 – Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 799 7239 / Fax: +41 22 799 6668  
E-mail: [pardev@ilo.org](mailto:pardev@ilo.org)  
[www.ilo.org/pardev](http://www.ilo.org/pardev)

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