

Main Category	Others
Sub Category	International Cooperation

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were unanimously adopted by UN member states in 2015. The goal for the water sector under the SDGs is "universal and equal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030" and related efforts are underway in many countries.

Since before the SDGs were adopted, Japan had been making an international effort aiming to improve water supply facilities and access to safe drinking water in other countries. Most of the international cooperation projects are implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through government's Official Development Assistance or ODA (Table 1).

Table 1 Three Types of International Cooperation through JICA

Type	Content
Technical assistance	(1) Dispatch of experts: Sending Japanese water experts to other countries for the improvement of their water supply
	(2) Provision of training: Training water experts coming from other countries through tailored training programs
	(3) Development study: Conducting studies to determine if it is appropriate to implement water projects in candidate countries
Grant aid	Provision of funds with no repayment obligation
Loan aid	Provision of funds with repayment obligation

For example, the dispatch of experts takes place by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, receiving a request from JICA, recommends appropriate water experts that can be dispatched overseas to JICA upon consultation with water utilities and other related organizations. The dispatch period is either one year or longer (long-term) or less than one year (short-term).

Also, some water utilities accept trainees from, or dispatch their staff members to other countries as an independent initiative from the JICA program.

The JWRC website provides detailed information on some of Japan's international cooperation projects that were conducted in Asian countries (Table 2).

Table 2 International Cooperation Projects by Japanese Water Utilities (as of FY2021 on JWRC website)

No.	Water utility	Partner country and organization
1	Kitakyushu City	Vietnam - Haiphong Waterworks Public Corporation
2	Yokohama City	Vietnam - Hue Provincial Waterworks Public Corporation
3	Saitama City	Laos - 3 Main Waterworks Public Corporation
4	Kitakyushu City	Cambodia - 8 Provincial Capital Waterworks
5	Chiba Prefecture	East Timor - Department of Water Supply (DNSA)
6	Tokyo	Malaysia - Ministry of Energy, Environment Technology and Water (KeTTHA)
7	Tokyo	Malaysia - Penang Waterworks (PBAPP)

Reference	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. International Cooperation in Water Supply. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000112577.html
-----------	---