

Japan's ODA for the advancement of Myanmar

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Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Bilateral ODA

➤ ODA Loan

- Japanese govt. => **JICA is funding agency** for loan project on behalf of Government of Japan (GoJ).
- Myanmar govt. => **Treasury dept. is borrower** on behalf of Government of Myanmar (GoM). The owner of loan project is Executing Agency (EA), GoM



Photo: JICA Myanmar Office

South Nawin and North Nawin Irrigation System after the project completion in 2019



Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Bilateral ODA

➤ Technical Cooperation Project (TCP)

- Expert dispatch
- Provision of equipment
- Long-term and short-term trainings, study tour in Japan and third countries
- Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)



Photo: JICA Myanmar Office

Curriculum reforms at Primary Level in 2016



*Photo: JICA Myanmar Office
Japanese volunteers in 2018*



Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Bilateral ODA

➤ Grant Aid (GA)

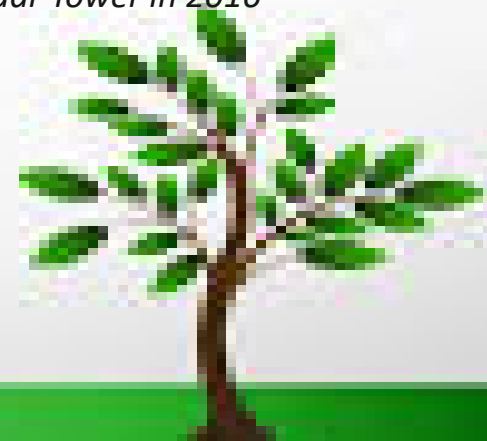
- Construction Works
- Provision of Equipment



*Photo: JICA Myanmar Office
Provision of rural water supply in 2016*



*Photo: JICA Myanmar Office
Yangon Radar Tower in 2016*



Japan's ODA to Myanmar's agriculture sector

- Agriculture is the main industry in Myanmar
- The agricultural GDP has been gradually decreased due to two crisis
- In Myanmar, agriculture and rural development is first priority (MOFA-Japan, 2015)
- Japanese govt. supports agricultural education, rural water supply, irrigation, quality rice seed etc.

Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP) - Myanmar

World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.

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Data from the World Bank



Technical Cooperation Project (Case study)

Title : The Project for Capacity Development of Yezin Agricultural University

Duration : November 2015 - December 2020

Target Area : Academic Staff in 9 departments

Overall Goal : Qualified human resources in agriculture sector are produced by YAU

Purpose : Education and research for practice-oriented research is enhanced in 9 departments of YAU

Output : (1) Management system to promote research and education is improved
(2) The curriculum and teaching capacity of academic staff are improved
(3) The research capacity of academic staff is enhanced



Achievement of the YAU-JICA TCP

Output No. (1)

Management system to promote research and education is improved

- ✓ *Planning & Management Task Force was set up*
- ✓ *Baseline survey report for educational and research activities was issued*
- ✓ *Annual Action Plan was developed*
- ✓ *The draft 5-Year plan has been prepared but it has not been finalized yet*



Photos: Yezin Agricultural University



Achievement of the YAU-JICA TCP

Output No. (2)

The curriculum and teaching capacity of academic staff are improved

- ✓ *Education Task Force was set up*
- ✓ *A curriculum on the credit system was created and applied from 2017/2018*
- ✓ *Syllabus and teaching materials were reviewed and revised*
- ✓ *Trainings on education method were conducted to improve academic staffs' teaching capacity*



Photos: Yezin Agricultural University



Achievement of the YAU-JICA TCP

Output No. (3)

The research capacity of academic staff is enhanced

- ✓ 30 pilot research projects was formulated and conducted effectively
- ✓ 73% (22 groups) of pilot research projects have published research papers in domestic and international journals.
- ✓ YAU's faculty members obtained Ph.D. degree in Japan
- ✓ Government officials obtained Ph.D. degree at YAU by providing research fund and equipment



Photos: Yezin Agricultural University



Unexpected situation during and after the project

YAU faced following challenges after completing the project due to COVID-19 and the country's turmoil

➤ Limitations in Research Activities

- *YAU can't conduct pilot research due to regional unstable security*

➤ A Shortage of Human Resource

- *Some well-trained academic staffs resigned from YAU*

➤ Inadequacy in Sustainability

- *YAU needs to sustain the support by using government funding*

➤ The suspension of International Assistance

- *All the international assistance has been suspended since 2021*



Issues Faced During Project Formulation Stage

- The difficulty in identifying the target area due to limited availability of reliable data is faced during formulation of TCP and GA projects
- Changes in counterparts can pose a significant hurdle during the project formulation stage and implementation stage as well.
- Lack of clarity in certain policies of GoM arises from a limitation of transparent information flow between higher-level and lower-level officials.
- The process of obtaining cabinet approval from the Government of Japan (GoJ) can be time-consuming, as the Japanese ensure thorough consideration before making any decisions.
- Unexpected delays may occur during the signing approval phase.
- In cases where the Executing Agency comprises more than two ministries, it is essential to assign a focal department.



Issues Faced During Project Implementation Stage

- The main stakeholders during implementation G/A project are as follow.

Main banks

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (Japan) and Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (Myanmar)

Consultant

EA hires consultant to provide assistance and support throughout the entire project

Contractor

A construction contract is established between the Executing Agency (EA) and contractor

Supplier

Providing the necessary materials and equipment for project

- Payment delays occur due to the budget allocation process undertaken by the GoM, supported by the consultant
- Significant increase in construction material prices due to the impact of inflation
- Additional expenses exceed the originally planned and approved budget by the Japanese govt. due to Force Majeure circumstances

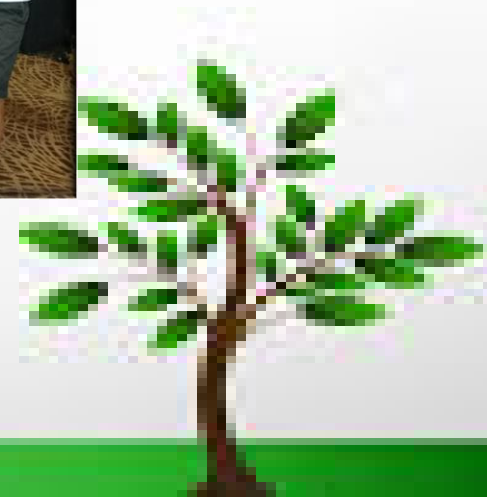


The role of national staff of JICA oversea office

- Strong linkage between Home Staff (Japanese) and National Staff
- No bias between Japanese and Myanmar governments
- Effective coordination among governments, suppliers, contractors, and private sector
- Support contractors and suppliers, especially GA projects
- Uphold ethical standards as professionals



Photos: 2018 retreat program



Thank you for your attention

