

Establishment of JICA: JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) was established on August 1, 1974 through a law passed by the Diet (Japan's Parliament) on May 31 in the same year. In it, merged the then existing Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA), handling technical cooperation with the Japanese Emigration Service (JEMIS), facilitating emigration of the Japanese. The law also entrusted JICA with a part of the Japan Overseas Development Corporation (JODC) function as well as with some new functions. An amendment of the law, made on April 28, 1978, added another area — Grant Capital Assistance — to JICA's jurisdiction.

JICA, with a budget of about \$ 1.5 billion (1993), is managed by a president, two senior vice-presidents, vice-presidents and auditors. The management is assisted by an advisory committee. Its organisational setup consists of the head office, split into departments, and offices and 12 training centers in Japan and 51 overseas offices throughout

JICA in Bangladesh

the world, both developing and developed.

Functions and Role of JICA

JICA's initial job portfolio had contained functions such as extending technical cooperation to the world's developing countries in the forms of training facilities, expert advisory services and equipment and implementing Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Programme. With time's passage, list of JICA's functions began to elongate. Technical cooperation, for example, no longer remained limited to personnel training, export dispatch and equipment supply but branched out into several programmes covering project-type technical cooperation. Likewise, technical cooperation and grant aid portions of Japan's bilateral ODA constitute the exclusive preserve of JICA, as will be seen from the graph below.

So far as Bangladesh is concerned, JICA's main thrust is on six strategic areas of technical cooperation, namely (1) Improvement and strengthening of social infrastructure for the promotion of investment and external trade (2) Rural Development and improvement of production in agriculture (3) Flood Protection (4) Human resources development such as vocational training and education (5) Basic human needs such as population control, sanitary, health, sewerage and water supply and (6) the Environment.

Programmes of JICA

1. Training Programme
Classification of Training Programme
1. Training in Japan
a) Group Training Course
b) Individual Training Course (Counterpart Training Course included)
2. Third-Country Training Programme

3. In-Country Training Programme
4. Youth Invitation Programme in Japan
Providing training facilities to Bangladesh personnel engaged in different fields of the country's socio-economic development, is a very important aspect of Japan's technical assistance to Bangladesh. The purpose of this programme is to equip the trainees with specialized knowledge and skills, such as to enable them to enhance their contribution to Bangladesh's development. Training facilities are provided at JICA's training centres spread throughout Japan. A total number of 1,842 persons from Bangladesh received training under this Programme during 1972 up to 1992.

Included in training courses conducted in Japan are Third-Country Training Programme and an In-Country Training Programme held outside Japan. In addition, a Youth Invitation Programme has been launched to invite the young people from the Asian Pacific Region to visit Japan for a short period.

Keeping in view the purpose of this programme, JICA not only trains trainees to their individual needs but, if circumstances so demand, goes beyond Japan's own territory in organising training courses. This programme consequently comprises of two types of training (1) Group Training Courses and (2) Individual Training Courses (Counterpart training included).

Experts Dispatch Programme

Experts Dispatch Programme is an important component of technical cooperation. This is viewed by Japan as a means of transferring technical knowledge and skills suited to the specific requirements of the developing countries. Bangladesh enjoys the benefits of this Programme, too. Two types of experts are dispatched under this Programme — individual experts and project experts. Experts are dispatched on request from the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) or from international organisations and assigned to Government or Government related organisations, research centres and educational institutions. In the course of their assignments, they undertake the training of their Bangladeshi counterparts so that counterparts can continue the experts' jobs when they depart from Bangladesh.

Equipment Supply Programme
Under this Programme, JICA supplies machinery and equipment to Bangladesh. The purpose of this Programme is to facilitate technology transfer of skills and services of the Japanese experts and JOCV members, dispatched to Bangladesh. In addition, the Bangladeshi personnel returning home on completion of their training in Japan, continue the training of the expert, utilizing the granted equipment and machinery. This is a very effective way of technology transfer as well as building up local expertise in the country.

The following are some projects undertaken under this Programme.

- 1) Supply of Equipment of BIRDEM, TB and Leprosy Control Project.
- 2) Improvement of Medical Equipment for Upazila (now Thana) Health Complexes and District Hospitals.
- 3) Supply of Equipment to Dhaka Dental College
- 4) Supply of Equipment to Dhaka Shishu Hospital
- 5) Supply of Agricultural Research Equipment to BRRI
- 6) Improvement and replacement of Medium Wave Transmitter to Radio Bangladesh.
- 7) Equipment Supply to Technical Training Centres of BMET
- 8) Mobile TV Relay Equipment to Bangladesh Television
- 9) Supply of automobile maintenance equipment to Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation
- 10) Supply of Equipment for Mushroom Culture to Department of Agricultural Extension.

Basic Facts on Japan's ODA

(Continued from page 13)

Through its own experience as well as that of providing aid to the countries of East Asia, Japan recognizes that the development of a country based on self-help efforts leads to a true economic take-off.

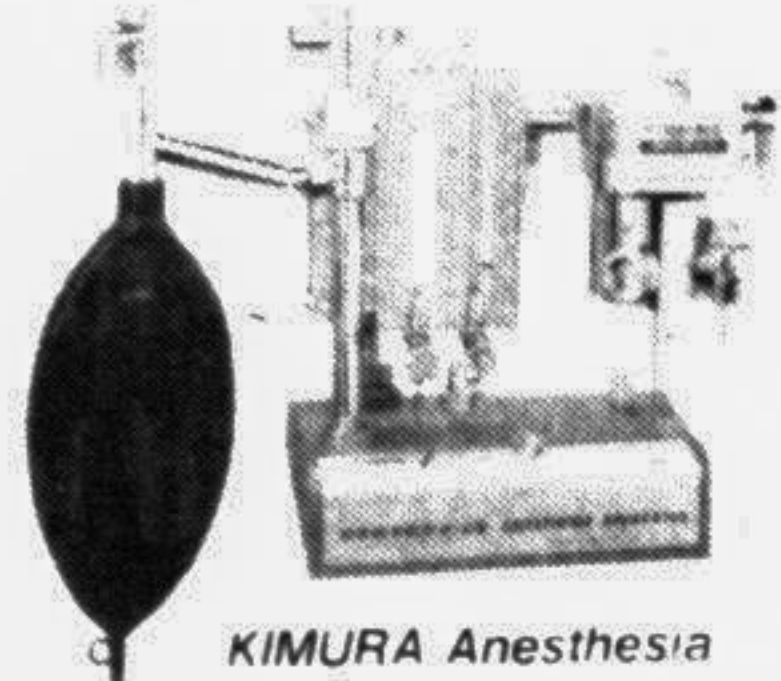
What are the aims of Japan's aid?

Role of Japanese aid in the post-Cold War world
In contributing to the cre-

ation of a new peaceful world order in the post-Cold War era Japan has made peace, freedom and prosperity the goals which should be pursued with the peoples of the world. In other words, Japan is pursuing the realization of an international community in which there is respect for freedom and democracy and in which people enjoy prosperity based on the principles of the market-oriented economy.

In 1989, democratization in Central and Eastern European

countries marked a turning point for dramatic change on the international scene. Countries formerly under socialist systems, along with many developing countries began to move toward economic liberalization and democratization. In the process of implementing these reforms, however, the fact remains that many developing countries have encountered political confusion and economic hardship. Japan is taking positive steps in implementing aid to support democratization and economic liberalization in these countries.



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The Imperial Family

Continued from page 13
Masako attended kindergarten in Moscow, elementary school in New York and Tokyo, and high school in Tokyo and Boston. In 1985 she graduated from Harvard University with a degree in economics, after which she did graduate work at the Faculty of Law of the University of Tokyo before entering the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1987.

While with the foreign service, she attended classes at Balliol College, Oxford University, returning to Tokyo in 1990 to assume a post in the Second North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she worked until shortly before her marriage.

The Crown Princess enjoys music, hiking, skiing, and tennis and is known for her language abilities, which include fluency in English, French, and German.

Other Members of the Imperial Family

Their Majesties' second son, Prince Akishino, was born on November 30, 1965. He graduated from Gakushuin University in March 1988 and studied at St John's College of Oxford University from October 1988 to June 1990. Since his graduation he has paid a number of official visits to other countries and has undertaken official duties at home. In June 1990 he married Kiko Kawashima, daughter of Tatsuhiko Kawashima, a professor at Gakuoshuin University.

Their Majesties' daughter, Princess Sayako, who holds the title "Nori-no-miya," was born on April 18, 1969. She graduated from Gakushuin University and is currently a researcher at the Yamashina Institute of Ornithology.

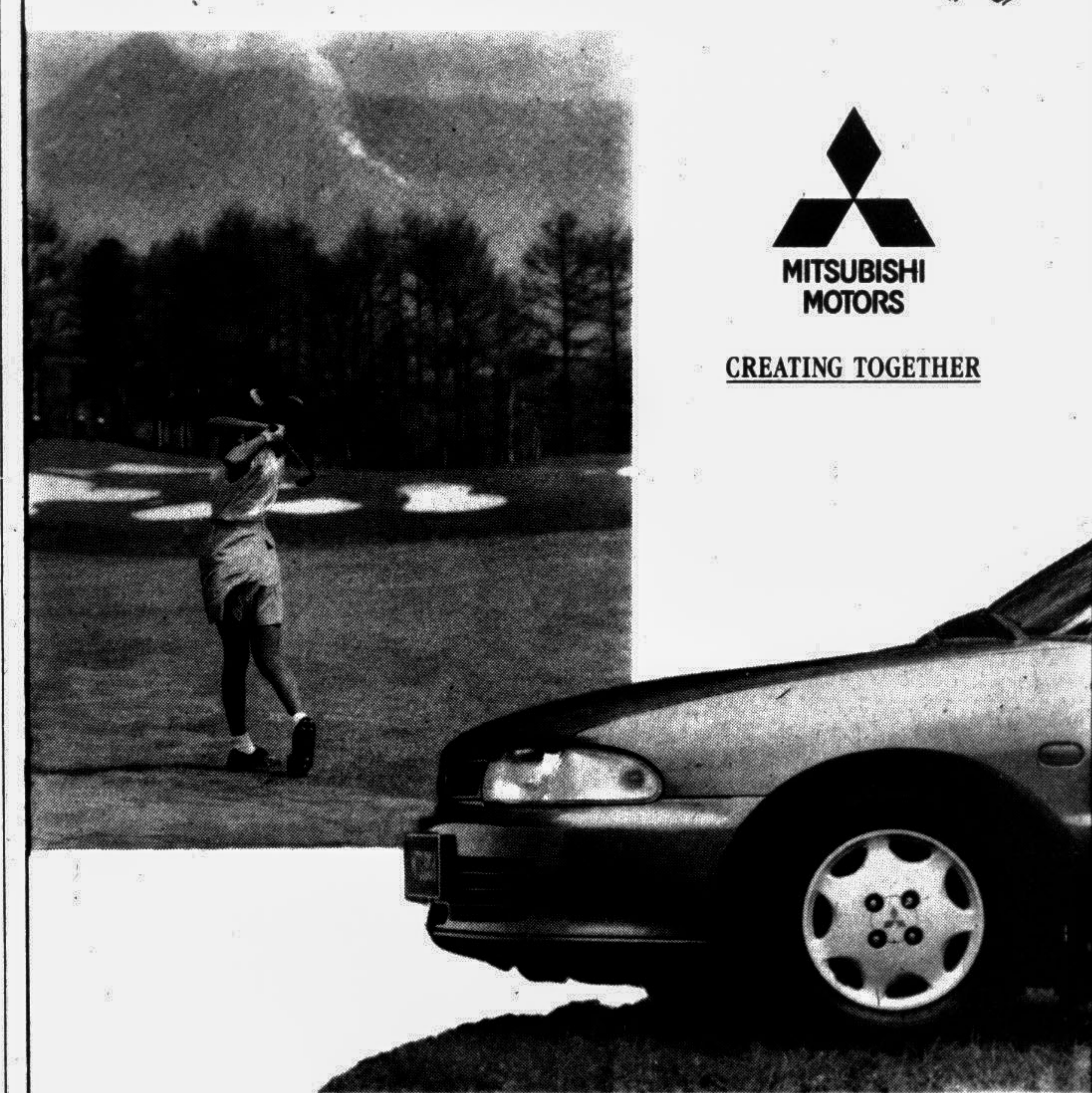
Emperor Showa and the Empress Dowager have five other children: Prince Hitachi and four daughters, all of whom are married. Prince Hitachi graduated from Gakushuin University in 1958 and since then has devoted himself to the study of biology, like his father. He married Hanako Tsugaru, daughter of a former count, in September 1964. The couple visit many parts of the country to take part in various ceremonies related to national activities in the fields of culture, education, sports, and social welfare. They have also undertaken a number of goodwill tours abroad. The four married daughters are the late Mrs Morihito Higashikuni (former Princess Teru), the late Mrs Toshimichi Takatsukasa (former Princess Taka), Mrs Takamasa Ikeda (former Princess Yori), and Mrs Hisanga Shimazu (former Princess Suga).

Other members of the imperial family include Princess Chichibu, Princess Takamatsu, and Prince and Princess Mikasa. Prince Mikasa is a younger brother of Emperor

Showa. (Prince Chichibu and Prince Takamatsu, both younger brothers of Emperor Showa, are deceased.)

Younger members of the imperial family include Prince and Princess Tomohito of Mikasa, Prince Katsura, and Prince and Princess Takamado. (The three princes are sons of Prince Mikasa.)

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His Majesty Emperor Akihito

JAPANESE-COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION IN DHAKA (SHOO KOO-KAI)