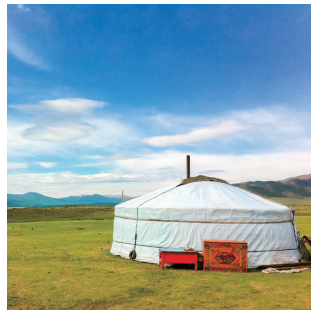


# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

Research and Training Institute  
Ministry of Justice






## CONTENTS

---

■ Words of Dr. Akira Mikazuki, Late Former Minister of Justice . . . . .	01
■ Q&A about Legal Technical Assistance . . . . .	02
■ Organization Chart and International Justice Center . . . . .	05
■ Overview of Assistance . . . . .	06
■ Main Activities of the ICD . . . . .	08
■ Assistance to Each Recipient Country	
● Vietnam . . . . .	10
● Cambodia . . . . .	11
● Laos . . . . .	12
● Indonesia . . . . .	13
● Uzbekistan / Timor-Leste . . . . .	14
● Mongolia / Bangladesh . . . . .	15
● Nepal / Sri Lanka . . . . .	16
● Myanmar . . . . .	17

---



Before any other Asian nations, Japan independently absorbed  
the three major trends of legal systems worldwide:

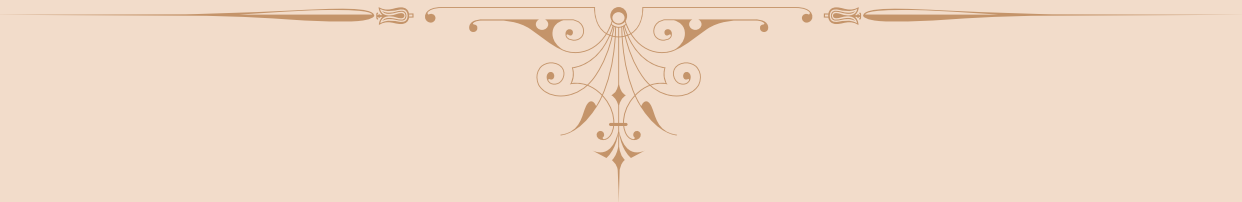
French law, German law and common law,  
into its legal system as its primary nutrients.

It is finally time for the Japanese legal system and jurisprudence,  
developed in that manner,  
to relate its experience towards the outside world.

**Akira MIKAZUKI**

Late Former Minister of Justice, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo

*Source : ICD NEWS No.3, May 2002 (in Japanese)*





# Q&A

## about Legal Technical Assistance



### Frequently Asked Questions about Legal Technical Assistance

## Q 1

### What is the history of the International Cooperation Department ?

## A 1

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) began its assistance toward Asian countries in 1994. In response to the increase of requests for Japanese legal technical assistance since then, in April 2001 the MOJ established the International Cooperation Department (ICD) within the Research and Training Institute, a subordinate organization of the MOJ, to exclusively specialize in legal cooperation.

The ICD is staffed with public prosecutors, MOJ officials specializing in legal affairs, etc. and administrative officers.

## Q 2

### Does the ICD work with any partner organizations or individuals ?

## A 2

The ICD works closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the International Civil and Commercial Law Centre Foundation (ICCLC), courts, bar associations and the academia. The ICCLC is a foundation established in April 1996 in cooperation with the private sector, academia and the legal community for the purpose of conducting legal technical assistance in the civil and commercial law field. It has been a very reliable partner for the ICD.



## Q3

### What is “ legal technical assistance ” ?

---

## A3

It means to assist developing countries or countries in transition to market economies in their effort to improve their legal systems, based on the following three pillars:

1. Assistance in the drafting of basic laws;
  2. Assistance in the establishment of judicial institutions for the operation of enacted laws; and
  3. Assistance in the capacity-building of legal professionals, etc.
- 

## Q4

### What are the characteristics of Japanese legal technical assistance ?

---

## A4

The newly established laws or legal systems, which are the achievements of Japanese assistance, need to take root in recipient countries. Thus, Japan intends not to impose its own legal system but to find the laws and systems most appropriate for the situation in recipient countries, through dialogue with legal drafters or judicial officials in those countries.

Moreover, Japan stresses their capacity-building through the above-mentioned process to encourage recipient countries to take the initiative in establishing, operating or improving their own systems.

Bilateral seminars and work shops are conducted using interpreters who translate the official language of the client country and Japanese.

This type of Japanese legal technical assistance through interpersonal relationships can be referred to as an example of “person-to-person international cooperation.”

## Q5 Why does Japan provide legal technical assistance?

### A5

Some countries do not have enough well-established laws or fair court systems. Protection of individual rights, free and lively economic activities, and social development and stabilization in those countries may lead to the prosperity of their surrounding regions, which may be conducive to the peace and safety of the whole international community. Japan sees its responsibility to contribute to the peace and safety of the international community, and such Japanese contributions may foster trusting relationships with other countries.

## Q6 What has legal technical assistance achieved so far?

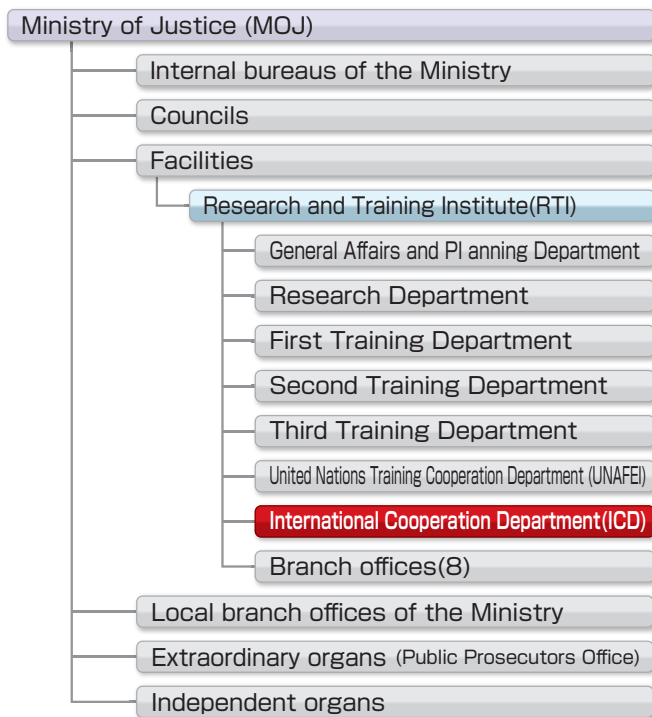
### A6

For example, through assistance in drafting basic laws, many laws and law commentaries have been drafted (including civil code, etc.). Moreover, our assistance in capacity-building of legal professionals have produced a great number of individuals in leadership positions at judicial institutions in recipient countries.

Through our seminars and workshops, Japanese legal experts have shared their practical experience along with a wide variety of general legal knowledge in the participants' countries.



# Organization Chart



Research and Training Institute

## International Justice Center (IJC)

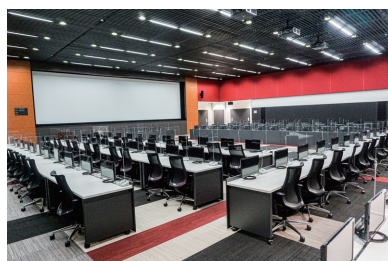
In October 2017, the IJC was established in Akishima City, Tokyo, with the following purposes in mind: promoting and strengthening international cooperation activities of the MOJ; and improving medical correctional functions and the training of correctional personnel. IJC is composed of 7 facilities. The ICD, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), the Training Institute of Correctional Personnel, the Medical Center of Correctional Institution in East Japan, the Juvenile Medical Training Center of Correctional Institution in East Japan, the Tokyo West Juvenile Classification Home and the Training Institute of the Public Security Intelligence Agency.

The ICD, established within the Research and Training Institute in April 2001 as a department specializing in legal technical assistance, had been previously located and operated in the Osaka Nakanoshima National Government Building for nearly 16 years, since its establishment. The ICD made a new start through its relocation to the IJC, a new facility of the MOJ.

The UNAFEI organizes multi-national training courses for not only Asian and Pacific region but also other regions such as Latin America and Africa, with focus on criminal justice.



International Justice Center



International Conference Hall A



International Conference Hall B



# Overview of Assistance

## ● Republic of Uzbekistan



Cooperation began in 2001

- Assistance in:
  - drafting the Commentary on the Bankruptcy Law (issued in 2007)
  - drafting the manual of the Administrative Law
  - drafting the White Paper on Crime
  - implementations of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure

## ● Uzbekistan

## ● Kyrgyz

## ● Kazakhstan

## ● Tajikistan

- Central Asia Comparative Law Seminar (2008–2013)

## ● Nepal

Cooperation began in 2009

- Assistance in:
  - drafting the Civil Code (enactment in 2017)
  - the capacity-building of courts
  - drafting the commentary and dissemination activities on the Civil Code
  - the new Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Act (enforced in 2018)

## ● Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Cooperation began in 2013

- Assistance in:
  - legal-vetting and legislative drafting
  - establishing systems, e.g. introduction of mediation etc.
  - drafting the textbooks related to work reference
  - human resources development
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2014~)
- ※ temporarily suspended in view of political situation (as of March 2023).

## ● Kingdom of Cambodia



Cooperation began in 1996

- Assistance in:
  - drafting the Civil Code (promulgated in 2007) and the Code of Civil Procedure (promulgated in 2006)
  - capacity-building of legal professionals
  - dissemination of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure and improvement of their implementation
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2006~)

## ● People's Republic of Bangladesh



Cooperation began in 2016

- Assistance in:
  - mediation and improving court function

## ● Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Cooperation began in 2019

- Assistance in:
  - improvement of criminal justice practices

## ● People's Republic of China



Cooperation period: 2007~2021

- Assistance in:
  - revising the Civil Procedure Law and civil-related laws, leading to the promulgation of the Tort Liability Act in 2009
  - revising the Administrative Procedure Law and administrative-related laws
  - Law on the Application of Law for Foreign-Related Civil Relations in 2010
  - Revised Civil Procedure Law in 2012
  - the Law on the Protection of Consumer Rights and Interests in 2012

## ● Mongolia



Cooperation began in 2004

- Assistance in:
  - establishing the mediation system
  - Joint study on the Trade Law (since 2018 ~)

## ● Lao People's Democratic Republic



Cooperation began in 1998

- Assistance in:
  - drafting the civil judgment manual (issued in 2006)
  - the textbook on civil and commercial laws (completed in 2007)
  - handbook on the Code of Civil Procedure and the Code of the Criminal Procedure (issued in 2014)
  - capacity-building of legal professionals
  - handbook on Resolution of Economic Dispute Law (completed in 2017)
  - Q & A on criminal investigation stage (completed in 2017)
  - handbook on Labor Law (completed in 2018)
  - drafting the Civil Code (bill passed in 2018, enforced in 2020)
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2002~2006, 2010~)

## ● Socialist Republic of Vietnam



Cooperation began in 1994

- Assistance in:
  - drafting and revising the Civil Procedure Code (promulgated in 2004, 2010 and 2015)
  - revising the Bankruptcy Law (promulgated in 2004 and 2014)
  - revising the Civil Code (promulgated in 2005 and 2015)
  - drafting and revising the Civil Judgment Execution Law (promulgated in 2008 and 2014)
  - drafting the State Compensation Law (promulgated in 2009 and 2017)
  - revising the Criminal Procedure Code (promulgated in 2015)
  - Administrative Procedure Law (promulgated in 2010)
  - drafting the Prosecutors Manual (issued in 2007)
  - standardizing civil judgments, establishing judicial precedent system
  - the capacity-building of judicial institutions (courts, prosecution offices, etc.)
  - the establishment of methods and systems for consistency and uniform implementation and application of legal normative documents
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2000~)

## ● Republic of Indonesia



Cooperation began in 1998

- Assistance in:
  - establishing the court-annexed mediation system
  - enhancing the judicial training system
  - improving IPR protection and legal consistency
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2016~)

## ● The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste



Cooperation began in 2009

- Assistance in:
  - legislative-drafting capacity development
  - human resources development
  - the capacity-building of judicial institutions

The information on long-term experts is of that of those dispatched by the Ministry of Justice.

# Main Activities of the ICD



JICA project office in Vietnam

The ICD attorneys are dispatched to client as JICA long-term experts and remain there for over one year to support local cooperation activities on a daily basis.



## In Client Countries



Seminar in Cambodia

They cooperate in the designing and organization of local seminars and provide lectures to local legal experts.



Japan-Korea Partnership Program

The ICD conducts legal studies in the civil and commercial law areas in the Asia-Pacific region, and joint study programs with respective countries.



## Research and Studies



Workshop in Bangladesh

The ICD conducts various legal surveys independently, or as members of the JICA survey teams, in client countries.



The ICD designs and organizes seminars in Japan for legal experts from client countries.



## In Japan

The ICD staff participate in the meetings of study groups composed of Japanese scholars and legal practitioners to assist cooperation activities in client countries.



Seminar in Japan for Indonesian officers



TV conference with the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh

The ICD holds an "Annual Conference on Technical Assistance in the Legal Field" to exchange information and discuss with stakeholders in relation to legal technical assistance.

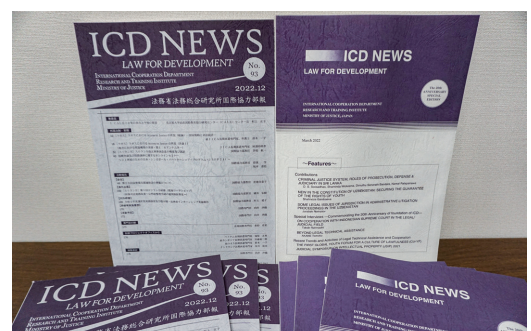


## Exchange of Information and PR Activities

The ICD quarterly issues the departmental journal "ICD NEWS" and conducts symposiums, internship programs and lectures for graduate/undergraduate students.



Annual Conference on Technical Assistance in the Legal Field



Departmental journal "ICD NEWS"

# Assistance to Each Client Country



## Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Since the adoption of the Doi Moi (renovation) policy in 1986, Vietnam has undertaken legal development to accelerate the transition to a market economy. To this end, the government of Vietnam requested legal assistance from Japan.

In response to the request, the MOJ, as the first attempt of such assistance, organized a study trip to Japan in 1994, inviting officers from the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam.

Since the launch of the Technical Cooperation Project in the Legal and Judicial Field by the JICA in 1996, the MOJ has continued its assistance to Vietnam through cooperation with this project and its succeeding projects. Working with four implementing institutions: the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuracy and the Vietnam Bar Federation, the MOJ has helped develop a variety of assistance activities, including:

- Assistance in drafting basic laws;
- Capacity-building of personnel engaging in the operation of laws;
- Improvement of legal practices, etc.

Such efforts have achieved significant results including: the enactment of important laws (Civil Code, Civil Procedure Code, etc.); completion of manuals for legal practitioners through joint work, etc.

In April 2015, a new project began with an eye towards 2020, the target year of the legal and judicial reform of Vietnam, adding the Office of Government as a new implementing institution. In addition to conventional areas of assistance in legislative drafting and improvement of legal practices, this project launched new activities to ensure consistency among many legal normative documents which have been enacted in Vietnam in recent years, etc. and joint activities

on challenges concerning the implementation of the revised Criminal Procedure Code with the participation of judges, public prosecutors and attorneys.

In January 2021, the Central Committee for Internal Affairs of the Communist Party of Vietnam was newly added as an implementing institution and the Project “Enhancing the Quality and Efficiency of Developing and Implementing Laws in Vietnam” was launched. Aiming to contribute to the promotion of the legal and judicial reform in Vietnam and the enhancement of the country's international competitiveness in light of international standards, this project is a new initiative in which each implementing institution selects its own top priority issues and conducts research and discussion on them in a working group format.

In order to effectively implement these projects, the MOJ is extending full-fledged cooperation, through the dispatch of prosecutors as long-term experts, study trips to Japan, etc.



Long-term experts and local staff of the JICA project office



Seminar in Japan



Workshop in Vietnam

1986	Introduction of the Doi Moi (renovation) policy – creating the necessity for a legal framework appropriate for a market economy
1991	Vietnam requested legal technical assistance from Japan
1994	MOJ began organizing study trips to Japan for the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam
1996	JICA legal cooperation project began (assistance in legislative drafting, human resource development)
2000	MOJ began dispatching the MOJ officers (prosecutors) to remain in Vietnam as the JICA long-term experts
2007	JICA Technical Assistance Project for the Legal and Judicial System Reform began (assistance in legislative drafting, human resource development, improvement of legal practices)
2015	JICA Project for Harmonized, Practical Legislation and Uniform Application of Law Targeting Year 2020 began (assistance in legislative drafting, human resource development, improvement of legal practices, ensuring consistency among legal normative documents, etc.)
2021	JICA Project for Enhancing the Quality and Efficiency of Developing and Implementing Laws in Vietnam began (same as above)



# Kingdom of Cambodia

In Cambodia, due to the abolition of laws and the massacre of intellectuals including legal professionals that took place during the Pol Pot regime in the 1970s, the legal and judicial fields had been severely damaged. Under these circumstances, the establishment of judicial systems through development of laws and training of legal professionals was an urgent challenge the country was forced to address after the civil war. For this reason, the Cambodian government requested legal technical assistance from Japan.

In response to the request, the MOJ organized a study trip to Japan inviting judicial officials from Cambodia in 1996, as part of technical assistance by the JICA.

In 1999, a JICA legal cooperation project began with the aim of assisting in the drafting of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure. As a result, the two codes were enacted in 2007 and 2006, respectively. The above project continued to disseminate the two new codes, as well as to draft other civil-related laws.

In parallel with this, for the purpose of facilitating appropriate interpretation and operation of the codes, in 2005, a new project was commenced to undertake human resources development with the Royal School of Judges and Prosecutors (RSJP). The project aimed at finding the appropriate interpretation and operation of the two new codes. In this project, a focus was placed on the training of candidate trainers for the RSJP, who were chosen from among junior judges in Cambodia. As a result of these efforts, graduates from the RSJP currently serve as trainers at the school.

Since April 2012, the MOJ has been working with the Ministry of Justice of Cambodia, the Royal Academy for Judicial Professions (RAJP), the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Royal University of Law and Economics as the implementing organizations of a new project. With the aim of human resources development and further dissemination of the two codes, the project

cooperates with, by giving advice to, the working groups composed of selected members from each implementing organization.

Since April 2017, another phase of the project has been conducted with the Ministry of Justice of Cambodia as the implementing organization and cooperating with other related organizations toward the aim of establishing a foundation for appropriate legal practices in line with the two codes for their proper application nationwide (or for their proper and wide range of applications). The MOJ supported this phase, which focuses on three pillars:

- 1) drafting important civil-related laws, including property registration law, etc.,
- 2) drafting of forms such as complaints, etc.; and
- 3) publication of court decisions, etc.

Since November 2022, the new project which aims to improve the capacities of judges and other legal professions has launched with Ministry of Justice of Cambodia as the implementing organizations and the RAJP as the target group of this project. The MOJ has been extending full support to these projects through the dispatch of prosecutors (including the ones who were originally judges) to Cambodia as long-term experts, organizing study trips to Japan, etc.

Besides, in January 2020, the Research and Training Institute (RTI) and the RAJP also signed / exchanged the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in training and human resource development in the legal and judicial fields. Based on the MOC, further development of cooperative relationship between the two institutions is expected.



Group photo with stakeholders of JICA project



Working group



Seminar in Japan

1994	Cambodia requested assistance from Japan
1996	MOJ began organizing study trips to Japan as part of technical assistance by the JICA
1999	JICA Technical Cooperation Project in the Legal and Judicial Field began (assistance in legislative drafting)
2005	JICA Project for the Improvement of Training on Civil Matters at the RSJP began (assistance in human resources development)
2006	MOJ began dispatching its officers (prosecutors) as the JICA long-term experts (to support the technical assistance field in Cambodia)
2007	The Ministry of Justice of Cambodia was invited to Japan to give a special speech at the ICD annual conference on legal technical assistance
2012	JICA project for Dissemination of the Civil Code and the Code of the Civil Procedure began (assistance in human resources development and in the dissemination of law)
2017	JICA Project for establishing a foundation for appropriate legal practices according to the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure began
2020	MOC between the RAJP and the RTI was concluded
2022	JICA Project for Legal and Judicial Development Project began





# Lao People's Democratic Republic

Along with the introduction of the “New Thinking (Chintanakan Mai)” policy, Laos introduced a “New Market Economy Mechanism”. At the same time, in order to advance legal development in promoting the needed economic system transition, Laos requested legal technical assistance from Japan.

In response to this request, the MOJ organized a study trip to Japan inviting judicial officers from Laos in 1998, as part of a JICA technical cooperation program. From 2003, after starting implementation of the JICA “Technical Cooperation on the Legal and Judicial Development Project”, the MOJ further extended its cooperation by dispatching short/long-term experts to Laos and holding study trips to Japan.

From 2003 to 2008, the JICA “Technical Cooperation on the Legal and Judicial Development Project” was implemented, and after the end of this project, the MOJ, the JICA, the Nagoya University, etc. conducted local surveys, etc. Based on the results of these activities, the JICA Project for Human Resource Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 1) was implemented from July 2010 by working with four implementing organizations (the Ministry of Justice, the People’s Supreme Court, the Office of the Supreme People’s Public Prosecutor and the National University of Laos), and from July 2014, the JICA Project for Human Resource Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 2) was implemented working with the four organizations. During the period of implementation of “Phase 1” and “Phase 2”, the Project achieved significant results in order to better build capacity-building through the creation of reference materials on legal practices and activities in improving legal education, legal training and continued practical training etc., and to develop the core human resources of the legal and judicial sectors of Laos.

Further, along with the capacity building activities of the Projects, technical assistance for the drafting of the Civil Code which Laos was longing for was added to the activities in 2012. This Civil Code was

finally enacted in December 2018 and enforced in May 2020, becoming an important pillar of the Laotian legal system in the civil law area.

Since July 2018, the JICA Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Laos has been implemented working with the four organizations. In this Project, the core human resources of the legal and judicial sectors acquire abilities to study legal theories, to implement and enforce basic laws based on legal theories and to improve laws and practices, share outcomes of the study with relevant officials of the sector and plan sustainable structures to continue these activities by themselves, and the trainers and lecturers of legal education and training sector acquire abilities to train legal practitioners of high quality. For these purposes, the Project is implementing various activities such as the study of basic law theories and the way of dissemination, creation of reference materials and preparation of curriculum, etc.

Furthermore, independent from the JICA Projects, the Research and Training Institute of the MOJ concluded the Memorandum of Cooperation on trainings in the law and justice sector with the National Institute of Justice of Laos in December 2018. Based on this Memorandum, both institutions have strengthened cooperative relationships through concrete activities such as continuously holding joint seminars.



Discussion with an implementing organization



Seminar in Laos



Seminar in Japan

1986	Laos introduced the New Thinking (Chintanakan Mai) and a new economic mechanism, causing the necessity for legal systems appropriate for a market-oriented economy
1998	MOJ began holding study trips to Japan for Laotian judicial officials as a part of JICA's technical assistance
2003	JICA Technical Cooperation on the Legal and Judicial Development Project began (assistance in drafting law textbooks and manuals)
2008	The above program ended
2010	JICA Project for Human Resources Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 1) began (assistance in human resources development through drafting model handbooks, etc.)
2014	JICA Project for Human Resources Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 2) began (assistance in legislative drafting and in human resources development through drafting reference materials on legal practices)
2015	MOJ invited the Minister of Justice of Laos to Japan
2018	JICA Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Laos (assistance in the study of legal basic theories and improvement of law and practices, and sharing of these outcomes, preparation of curriculum and study of efficient reference materials, lectures, etc.)



# Republic of Indonesia

Since the mid-1990s, Indonesia has considered its judicial system reform (including the improvement of legal training and the eradication of corruption) as one of its critical national challenges. In response to a request from the Indonesian government, in 2002 the MOJ began legal technical cooperation with Indonesia within the JICA framework. Its cooperation included the organization of seminars for legal professionals, etc.

From 2007 to 2009, the MOJ cooperated with the JICA Project for Improvement of the Mediation System. Working with the Supreme Court (SC) of Indonesia as the implementing organization, the MOJ contributed to the revision of the SC resolutions on mediation, and to the improvement of the mediator training system, etc. After the completion of the project, between 2010 and 2015, the MOJ annually organized joint studies on judicial training within its original cooperation framework by inviting judges from the SC and lower courts of Indonesia. In this way, it developed and continued its original cooperation, thereby further deepening its relationship of trust with Indonesia.

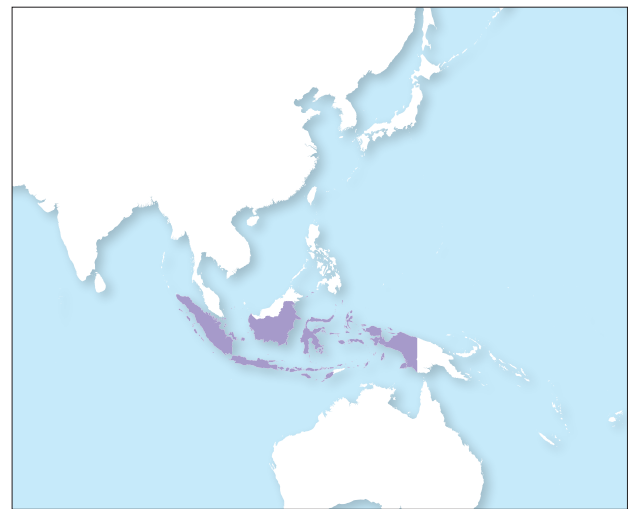
Furthermore, in December 2015, Japan began the new JICA Project on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Legal Consistency for Improving the Business Environment. The project works with three implementing organizations: the SC, the Directorate General of Legislation (DGL), and the Directorate General of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. Japan has also organized study trips to Japan and local seminars for staff of implementing organizations. The new project has been developed by further advancing the former JICA project on intellectual property (IP), in which the Patent Office of Japan worked in cooperation with Indonesia.

The new project aims to strengthen the IP protection system, and to establish a mechanism to improve consistency in business-related laws (with a focus on IP laws) in Indonesia. For

these purposes, the project will seek to improve predictability in the disposition of IP cases, and practices in legal drafting and vetting, through the capacity-building of judges in charge of IP cases and drafting law reports, etc.

The MOJ had extended its full-fledged cooperation to the new project through the dispatch of prosecutors (including one who was originally a judge) to Indonesia as long-term experts since 2016, along with other approaches.

In October 2021, a new JICA project was launched working with the SC of Indonesia and the DGL of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights to improve the capacity of drafters to ensure legislative consistency, and to strengthen the capacity of judges for efficient and fair case processing and disposition in business-related cases including IP disputes. The ICD continues to cooperate in this project as well.



Seminar in Japan



Seminar in Indonesia



Joint Coordinating Committee in 2022

1998	MOJ began cooperation by organizing seminars on economic laws in Japan, etc.
2002	MOJ began study trips to Japan as a part of JICA technical assistance
2007	JICA Project for Improvement of the Mediation System began (until 2009)
2010	Within its original framework, the MOJ began local surveys and joint studies on human resources development for Indonesian judges (until 2015)
2015	JICA Project on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Legal Consistency for Improving the Business Environment began (until 2021)
2021	JICA Project for Efficient and Fair Disputes Resolution Mechanism and Legislative Drafting Capacity Development for Improving Business Environment began



# Republic of Uzbekistan

The ICD, in cooperation with the JICA and the Nagoya University, conducted a survey on the legal system in Uzbekistan in 2001. Since 2002, the ICD has cooperated with the JICA's trainings and local seminars. Between 2008 and 2013, the ICD held seminars on the comparative study of legal systems among four countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgiz and Tajikistan) in Central Asia.

Later, the ICD's assistance to Uzbekistan had been suspended, however, it resumed in 2017 when the Administrative Procedure Law and the Administrative Litigation Law were completed which had been supported by Japanese Professors.

In 2019, the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (former the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan) and the Research and Training Institute (RTI) of the MOJ was concluded and the cooperative relationship



Discussion with an implementing organization

has grown even further.

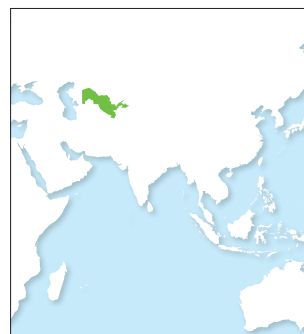
The ICD, together with Uzbekistan's working group, whose members are Uzbek experts, is currently assisting the drafting of the commentary on the Administrative Procedure Law and the Administrative Litigation Law. From 2020, the ICD has expanded its assistance to its criminal justice field as well, and has started to assist in drafting the White Paper on Crime with the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (former the Academy of General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan). In the same year, the ICD, in cooperation with the JICA, has also started to provide a training for enhancement of judicial ability (especially regarding the operation of Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure).

Furthermore, in 2021, the ICD established a collaborative relationship with the Lawyers' Training Center under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Seminar in Uzbekistan

2002	MOJ began cooperation for conducting trainings
2005	JICA's assistance in drafting the commentary of the Bankruptcy Law began (~ 2007)
2008	MOJ conducted seminars on studying comparative legal systems in Central Asia (~ 2013)
2018	The Administrative Procedure Code and the Administrative Litigation Law of Uzbekistan were completed MOJ invited and conducted joint study on the Administrative Law of Uzbekistan (every year)
2019	MOC between the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (former the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office) and RTI was concluded
2020	MOJ began to assist in drafting the White Paper on Crime (every year) JICA began the training for enhancement of judicial ability
2021	Collaborative relationship between MOJ and the Lawyers' Training Center under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan started



# The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste recovered its independence in 2002, after going through a long-standing conflict. Since then, the country has been pushing forward with national development, with support from foreign countries and international organizations. In the legal and judicial field, Timor-Leste faces several major issues that must be addressed, including the delay in the development of the legal system-building, a lack of human resources in judicial institutions, etc.



Group photo with officials of Ministry of Justice of Timor-Leste

The MOJ has provided assistance to the Ministry of Justice of Timor-Leste and other relevant institutions since 2009, with a focus on strengthening legislative-capacity, through the actual drafting of specific bills depending on their needs. Our highest goal is to enable the country's legal drafters to draft its own national laws, in accordance with the actual situation of Timor-Leste. The MOJ has also carried out activities with a focus on human resources development and the capacity-building of judicial institutions.



Seminar in Timor-Leste

2009	MOJ cooperated with training in capacity-building for legislative drafting, as part of the JICA's technical assistance (until 2010)
2011	MOJ conducted local seminars and joint legal system studies (until 2012)
2013	MOJ provided assistance as part of the JICA technical assistance (providing advice on the building of legal systems) (until 2014)
2014	MOJ conducted local seminars and joint legal system studies (ongoing *JICA and Ministry of Justice of Timor-Leste signed Minutes of Meetings about an individual project including dispatch of short-term experts in 2020)







# Mongolia

In Mongolia, socialism was de facto abandoned in 1990. In 1992, a new constitution was established and the name of the country changed from the Mongolian People's Republic to Mongolia. Ever since, along with the transition to a market economy and with assistance from international organizations and foreign countries, Mongolia has established many laws including the Civil Code.

The JICA began dispatching legal technical assistance advisers to Mongolia in 2004, and conducted the project plan to establish bar associations in 2006 and the project to establish the mediation system in 2010; Phase 2 of each project was conducted in 2013. The MOJ participated in activities of the advisory group for the project to establish the mediation system.

Currently (as of December 2022), Mongolia does not have a commercial code. Rules regarding business dealings and trade are stipulated under the Civil Code. There-



Joint study in Japan

fore, Mongolia is considering establishing the Commercial Code.

In response, the ICD continues its assistance to develop trade rules, e.g. conducting a joint study on trade law inviting staff of the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia etc. in 2018.

Furthermore, in 2021, the Research and Training Institute (RTI) of the MOJ signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the National Legal Institute (NLI) of Mongolia on human resource development in the field of law and justice. Based on this, collaboration and cooperation between the two institutions have been strengthened such as implementing seminars.



Discussion with an implementing organization

2004	JICA dispatched a legal technical assistance adviser
2006	JICA began the project plan to establish a bar association
2010	JICA began the project to establish the mediation system
2013	JICA began the second phase of the project to establish the mediation system (~ 2015)
2018	MOJ conducted a joint study
2021	MOC between the NLI and the RTI was concluded



# People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh has had high-level economic growth in recent years, attracting more Japanese companies.

When Bangladesh was designated as one of the eight prioritized countries in "The Basic Policy on Legal Technical Assistance (revised version)" in 2013, the MOJ collected information on Bangladesh and began its assistance in 2016, with a joint study program inviting participants from Bangladesh, including the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs.

In 2017, assistance within



Seminar in Japan

the framework of the JICA's training courses began, to which the ICD provides its full-fledged cooperation.

Bangladesh currently considers utilizing an out-of-court mediation system as a countermeasure to reduce the number of accumulated cases in Court; thus assistance to improve the Court function is provided with trainings aiming to enhance the capacity of mediators.



Supreme Court of Bangladesh

2015	MOJ conducted a local survey
2016	MOJ conducted a joint study inviting Ministers in charge of Legal / Justice / Parliament Affairs
2017	JICA's training courses began







# Nepal

In 2008, Nepal announced its national transition to the federal democratic system, along with the abolition of its traditional monarchy. Since then, Nepal has undertaken the division and revision of its 19th-century enacted Country Code “Mulki Ain” (a code covering substantive and procedural laws in the civil and criminal fields), with the aim of drastically modernizing its legal system, and the basic laws including the Civil Code, the Penal Code, etc. were enforced in 2018.

The Research and Training Institute of the MOJ of Japan has extended legal technical assistance in the criminal law field:

-organizing local seminars since 2009;

-organizing joint studies in Japan since 2011, by inviting Nepalese attorneys from the Office of Attorney General.



Seminar in Nepal

In order to promote the

national democratization process, the ICD, in the civil law areas, has organized study trips to Japan since 2010 to assist in the drafting of the Civil Code and a commentary thereon in cooperation with the JICA, etc.



Seminar in Nepal

At the same time, in order to improve the court system in Nepal, the JICA conducted the project for strengthening the capacity of courts from 2013 to 2018, and the ICD assisted it by helping organize study trips to Japan, etc.

The ICD, in cooperation with the JICA, now continues assistance in drafting of commentary and the dissemination of activities on the Civil Code. The ICD also introduces Japanese legal system and practice in criminal procedure, tort, etc. by conducting local seminars as its own activity.

2009	MOJ conducted a local seminar on criminal-related laws
2010	MOJ organized a study trip to Japan as part of technical assistance by the JICA, in order to help draft the Civil Code, etc.
2011	MOJ began joint studies on criminal laws
2013	JICA Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Courts began (until 2018)
2018	MOJ conducted local seminars on the Civil Code and criminal-related laws



# Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka gained full independence from the Commonwealth self-governing territory of Ceylon in 1972, and after more than 25 years of civil war since 1983, the country ended the civil war in 2009 and has since been working on peacebuilding and social reconstruction throughout the country.

One of the ways to rebuild this sound social system is to improve the functioning of the courts. The sound functioning of the courts is very important for the proper prosecution and punishment of not only the crimes committed during the civil war, but also the various crimes that have occurred since then, and for the realization of social justice.

Currently, in Sri Lanka’s courts, the inefficiency inherent in the traditional criminal justice system and various other factors have resulted in a huge volume of criminal cases



Discussion with Sri Lankan legal professionals

linguishing unprocessed, causing extremely serious litigation delays, and problems such as serious offenders not being properly punished.

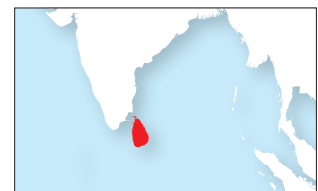


Mock trial performed by Sri Lankan Legal Professionals

In response to a request from the Sri Lankan government, the JICA decided to provide assistance with an emphasis on improving criminal justice practices starting in 2019, and thereafter, at the request of the JICA, the ICD has dispatched a survey team to Sri Lanka to investigate issues facing the local judiciary, etc., and then invited Sri Lankan criminal justice officials for training in Japan. In 2022, the ICD dispatched its professors who is a judge and a prosecutor, to Sri Lanka to conduct an in-person seminar.

The ICD will continue to work actively in cooperation with the JICA and other related organizations to improve criminal justice practices and improve delays in court proceedings in Sri Lanka.

2019	MOJ dispatched a survey team to Sri Lanka
Since 2020	MOJ conducted an in-person training in Japan and two seminars online
2022	MOJ conducted a local in-person seminar and survey, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic





# Republic of the Union of Myanmar

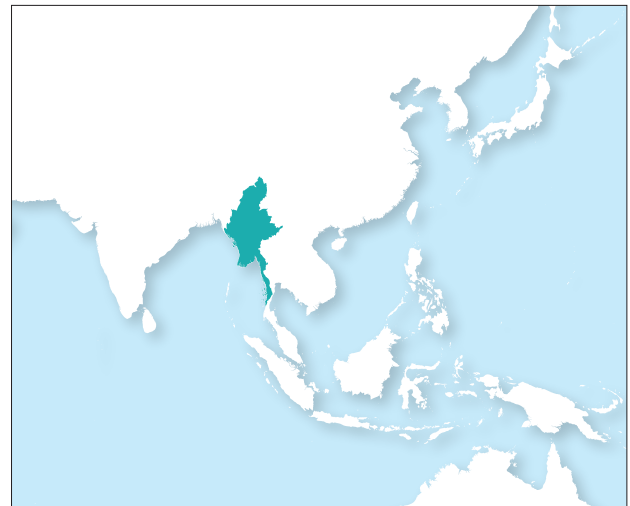
The MOJ had been providing legal technical assistance to the Union Attorney General’s Office (UAGO) and the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar since 2012, however, taking into account the military coup d’etat in February 2021, the MOJ suspended all of such assistance.

Myanmar, after its shift to civilian rule in March 2011 through the general election in 2015 and under the leadership of Ms. Aung Sang Suu Kyi who assumed the position of state counselor, started to make steady progress toward democratization; and the MOJ has promoted personal exchanges in the legal field since 2012, including local surveys and the invitation of the Chief Justice and the Attorney General of the Union to Japan. The MOJ has been providing assistance to Myanmar by cooperating with the JICA’s Legal Cooperation Projects for Myanmar since 2013.

The JICA’s Legal Cooperation Projects for Myanmar have been implemented in cooperation with the UAGO and the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar as implementing organizations and assisted in improving the legal system (especially economic-related laws), establishing the judicial system for prompt and appropriate dispute resolution and human resources development in the legal and judicial areas etc. Those Projects achieved significant results including drafting the textbooks related to work (the guidelines about vetting contracts for officers of the UAGO and textbooks for judges) and implementing a pilot program on mediation. Moreover, assistance in establishing intellectual property trial system, disseminating mediation and improving the training system for legal professions, etc. has been implemented.

The MOJ has extended its full-fledged cooperation to those

projects, by dispatching its officers (government attorneys & public prosecutors) as long-term experts, holding study trips to Japan for Myanmar’s legal / judicial officers, etc. and conducting legal research (related to landed estate) for improving the investment environment in order to promote sustainable economic growth, until the coup d’etat by the Myanmar’s military in February 2021.



Seminar in Japan



Seminar in Myanmar



Discussion with an implementing organization

2011	Myanmar shifted to civilian rule
2012	MOJ invited the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union to Japan
2013	MOJ invited the Attorney General of the Union to Japan JICA Project for Capacity Development of Legal, Judicial and Relevant Sectors in Myanmar (Phase 1) began
2014	MOJ began dispatching its officers (government attorneys & public prosecutors) as JICA long-term experts (to support in the technical assistance field in Myanmar)
2018	JICA Project for Capacity Development of Legal, Judicial and Relevant Sectors in Myanmar (Phase 2) began
2021	Myanmar’s military executed the coup d’etat in February MOJ suspended all of the assistances in Myanmar



**International Cooperation Department  
Research and Training Institute  
Ministry of Justice**

2-1-18, Mokusei no Mori, Akishima-shi, Tokyo,  
196-8570, Japan  
Phone: +81- 42-500-5150



**Information for those who would like  
to know more about the ICD**

Reports are available on ICD activities, including legal technical assistance (such as seminars, etc.), international symposia, studies of foreign legal systems, etc. in “ICD NEWS.”

Updates are also available on the ICD, as well as ICD NEWS previous issues, on ICD web pages within the MOJ website.



[https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/housouken/houso\\_icd.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/housouken/houso_icd.html)