

ICD

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



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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.

And now the time has come
for the Japanese legal system and jurisprudence,
developed in that manner,
to relate its experience towards the outside world.

MIKAZUKI Akira

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

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



About Legal Technical Cooperation

Q&A

Frequently Asked Questions about Legal Technical Cooperation



Q1

What is the history of the International Cooperation Department?

A1

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) began its legal technical cooperation toward Asian countries in 1994. In response to the increase of requests for Japanese cooperation 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 specialize in legal technical cooperation.

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

Q2

Does the ICD work with any partner organizations or individuals?

A2

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

Q3

What is “legal technical cooperation” ?

A3

It means to support developing countries or countries in transition to market economies in their efforts to improve their legal systems. The ICD has conducted legal technical cooperation in the wide range of legal fields including civil law, criminal law and administrative law areas. Below are the three basic pillars of the ICD’s legal technical cooperation:

1. Cooperation with the drafting and the amendment of laws and regulations;
2. Cooperation with the strengthening the functions of legal/judicial institutions for the proper implementation of laws and regulations; and
3. Cooperation with the capacity-building of legal professionals (prosecutors, judges and attorneys) , etc.

Q4

What are the characteristics of Japanese legal technical cooperation?

A4

The newly established laws or legal systems, which are the achievements of Japanese cooperation, need to take root in partner countries. Thus, the ICD’s legal technical cooperation intends not to impose the Japanese legal system but to find the laws and systems most appropriate for the situation in partner countries through dialogue with legal drafters or judicial officials in those countries (“stand-by” style). Moreover, Japan stresses their capacity-building through the above-mentioned process to encourage partner countries to take the initiative in establishing, operating or improving their own systems.

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

Q5

Why does Japan provide legal technical cooperation?

A5

Some countries do not have well-established laws or fair court systems. The protection of individual rights and the expansion of free and fair economic activities through the promotion of the rule of law in those countries are important for the prosperity of those countries as a basis for the development of their societies, as well as for the peace and security of the whole international community. Japan sees it as its responsibility to contribute to the peace and security in the world as a member of the international community, and at the same time, it cultivates the trust of other countries.

Q6

What kind of achievements has legal technical cooperation brought so far?

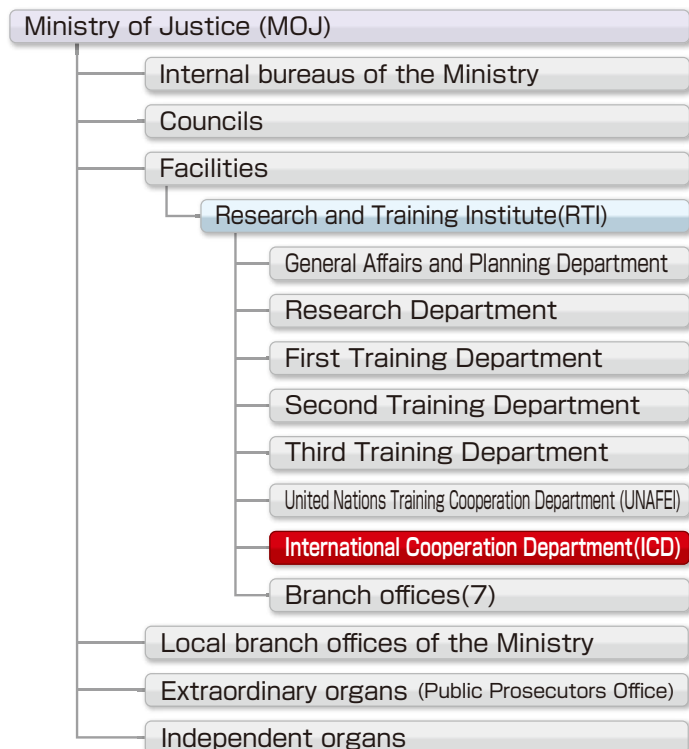
A6

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

In addition to the above, legal and judicial practitioners in partner countries have gained practical experiences along with a wide variety of general legal knowledge through seminars and shared them with their colleagues.



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. The IJC is composed of 7 facilities; the International Cooperation Department (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.



International Justice Center



International Conference Hall A



International Conference Hall B

Overview of Cooperation (As of March 2025)



● 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
 - implementation of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure
 - trainings for judicial capacity-building

● 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 (enactment in 2017)



● People's Republic of Bangladesh

Cooperation began in 2016

- Assistance in:
 - mediation and improving court function



● Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Cooperation period: 2013-2023

- Assistance in:
 - legal-vetting and legislative-drafting
 - establishing systems, e.g. introduction of mediation etc.
 - drafting textbooks related to work reference
 - human resources development
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2014-)

※ In February 2021, all activities were ceased due to the coup d'état by the Myanmar military forces; in May 2023, the cooperation was finished upon expiry of the Project term.



● Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Cooperation began in 2019

- Assistance in:
 - improvement of criminal justice practices



● 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, the Code of Civil Procedure and improvement of their implementation
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2006-)

● Kyrgyz Republic

Beginning cooperation in 2025

- Joint Study on the digitalization of administrative and judicial procedures, international mediation and the regulation of the money laundering



● Mongolia

Cooperation began in 2004

- Assistance in:
 - establishing the mediation system
- Joint study on the Trade Law





● 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
 - the 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



● 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 ensuring 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 (2017-2021)
 - strengthening disputes resolution mechanism and legislative-drafting capacity development for improving business environment (2021-)
 - dispatch of long-term experts (2016-)



● 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)
 - creating the handbook on the Code of Civil Procedure and the Code of the Criminal Procedure (issued in 2014)
 - capacity-building of legal professionals
 - creating the handbook on Resolution of Economic Dispute Law (completed in 2017)
 - Q&A on criminal investigation stage (completed in 2017)
 - creating the handbook on Labor Law (completed in 2018)
 - drafting the Civil Code (bill passed in 2018 and enforced in 2020)
- Dispatch of long-term experts (2002-2006, 2010-)



● 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



● Republic of Fiji

Beginning cooperation in 2025

- Joint Study on countermeasures against prolonged civil trials and the digitization and streamlining of judicial and administrative procedures

Main Activities of the ICD



JICA Project Office in Indonesia

The ICD government attorneys, who are originally public prosecutors or judges, are dispatched to partner countries as JICA long-term experts for over one year to support local activities on a daily basis.



In Partner Countries



Seminar in Vietnam

The ICD cooperates to design and organize local seminars and provides lectures to local legal and judicial practitioners.

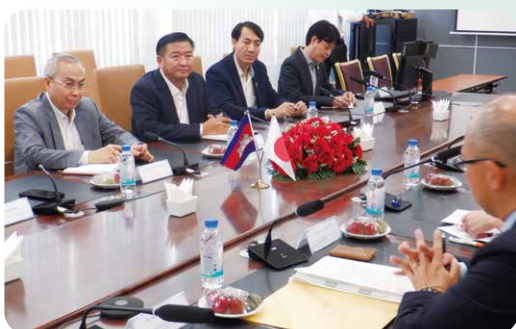


Special Event of ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers

The ICD interacts with Asian nations by conducting research studies in the civil and criminal law areas and joint study programs with respective countries.



Research and Studies



Research Activity in Cambodia

The ICD carries out its own legal surveys or joins the JICA survey teams in partner countries.

The ICD designs and organizes seminars in Japan for legal and judicial officials invited from partner countries.

In Japan

The ICD staff participate in the study group meetings composed of Japanese scholars and legal practitioners to cooperate in local activities.

The ICD holds the “Annual Conference on Technical Cooperation in the Legal Field”, inviting various organizations and persons involved in legal technical cooperation for information-sharing and discussions.

Exchange of Information and PR Activities

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



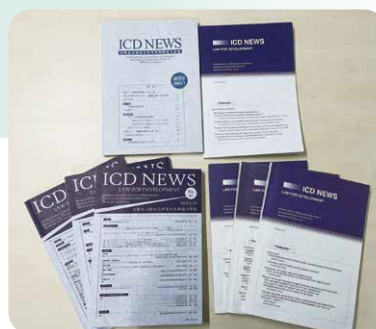
Training Course in Japan for Nepalese Legal Professionals



Conference with Legal Professionals and Officers from Bangladesh



Annual Conference on Legal Technical Cooperation



Quarterly “ICD NEWS”

Cooperation to Each Partner Country



Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Since the adoption of the Doi Moi (renovation) policy in 1986, Vietnam has undertaken legal development to accelerate a transition to a market economy. To this end, the government of Vietnam requested legal assistance from Japan. In response to this request, the MOJ, as its first attempt of such assistance, organized a study trip to Japan in 1994, inviting officers from the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam.

In 1996, the JICA began the Technical Cooperation Project in the Legal and Judicial Field, and since then, seven major projects including the one currently ongoing have been implemented to date. The Ministry of Justice of Vietnam was initially the only implementing agency for legal technical cooperation projects; however, subsequently the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuracy and the Vietnam Bar Federation joined as counterparts, expanding the scope of cooperation projects.

In Vietnam, a variety of activities have been carried out through the projects so far, including:

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

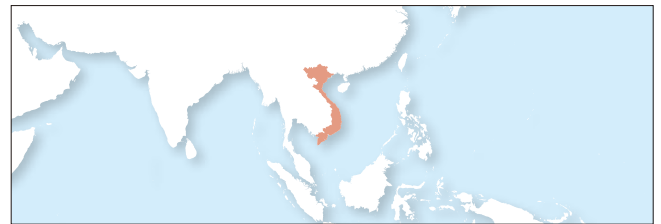
Such efforts have achieved significant results including: the enactment of important laws (Civil Code, Civil Procedure Code, etc.); completion of manuals for legal practitioners through joint work, etc.

In 2021, the Project “Enhancing the Quality and Efficiency of Developing and Implementing Laws in Vietnam” was

launched with six counterparts in total, including the Office of Government and the Central Internal Affairs Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam in addition to the above four institutions. In order to help contribute to the promotion of the legal and judicial reforms in Vietnam and the strengthening of the country's international competitiveness, this project has taken a new initiative in which each counterpart selects its own top-priority issues, studies and discusses them in a working group format, with the aim of enhancing the quality of Vietnam's legal system and the efficiency of law enforcement in light of international standards.

Since its establishment, the ICD has fully cooperated with the projects' activities, including organizing study trips to Japan. The MOJ has dispatched a prosecutor and an administrative official from the Civil Affairs Bureau to Vietnam as long-term experts to help local project activities.

Vietnam is Japan's first partner country for legal technical cooperation. In 2024, the MOJ celebrated the 30th anniversary since the commencement of legal cooperative relationships with Vietnam.



JICA Project High-Level Forum in Vietnam



Group Photo in the Supreme People's Procuracy of Vietnam



Meeting with Stakeholders in Vietnam

1986	Introduction of the Doi Moi (renovation) policy – creating the need 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 its government attorneys (prosecutors) to remain in Vietnam as 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. (In addition to the previous assistance, this project aims to improve the quality of the legal normative document system and effective law implementation) MOJ began dispatching its officers (administrative officials from the Civil Affairs Bureau) to stay in Vietnam as JICA long-term experts



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. Against this background, 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 cooperation 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 cooperation by the JICA.

In 1999, the JICA Project for Legal and Judicial Development began with the aim of assisting in the drafting of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure. Subsequently, in 2005, another project was commenced to undertake human resources development with the Royal School of Judges and Prosecutors (RSJP). This project focused on the training of candidates for trainers at the RSJP, who were chosen from among junior judges in Cambodia. In 2012, the JICA launched a new project 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 implementing organizations to further disseminate the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure. In April 2017, another phase of the project began for the Ministry of Justice of Cambodia aiming at proper application of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure nationwide.

Since November 2022 to date, a new project has been ongoing with the Ministry of Justice of Cambodia as the

implementing agency, for the purpose of improving the capacity of judges and other legal professionals.

As a result of these project activities, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Civil Code were enacted in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Moreover, graduates from the RSJP now serve as trainers at the school.

For implementation of these projects, the ICD has been extending full support by organizing study trips to Japan, etc. The MOJ has also dispatched prosecutors (including ones who were originally judges) to Cambodia as long-term experts.

Furthermore, in January 2020, the Research and Training Institute (RTI) of the MOJ concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with RAJP for training and human resource development in the legal and judicial fields. Based on the MOC, the ICD has continuously organized seminars on sales contract and personal status litigation, etc.



Group Photo with JICA Project Stakeholders



Conference with Stakeholders in Cambodia



JICA Project Office in Cambodia

1994	Cambodia requested assistance from Japan
1996	MOJ began organizing study trips to Japan as part of technical cooperation by JICA
1999	JICA Project for Legal and Judicial Development began
2005	JICA Project for Improvement of Training on Civil Matters at the RSJP began
2006	MOJ began dispatching its officers (prosecutors) as JICA long-term experts
2007	The Minister of Justice of Cambodia was invited to Japan to give a special speech at the Annual Conference on Technical Assistance in the Legal Field
2012	JICA Project for Dissemination of the Civil Code and the Code of the Civil Procedure began
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 began



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Along with the introduction of the “New Thinking (Chintanakan Mai)” policy in 1986, Laos introduced the “New Economic 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. In 2003, a JICA legal technical cooperation project began, followed by the Project for Human Resources Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 1) in July 2010; the Project for Human Resources Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 2) in July 2014; and the Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Laos (Phase 1) in July 2018, to work with four implementing agencies (the Ministry of Justice, the People's Supreme Court, the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor and the National University of Laos) in each project. Furthermore, along with the above, technical cooperation for drafting a unified civil code, which had been a long-held wish for Laos, was added to cooperation activities in 2012.

Since July 2023 to date, with the above four implementing organizations, the JICA Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Laos (Phase 2) has been implemented. With the aim of creating a foundation to develop legal professionals who are capable of finding facts and properly interpreting and applying laws, various activities have been conducted towards the creation of Commentary Books to promote the understanding of basic laws and providing effective training to promote practices based on the understanding of basic laws.

As a result of these projects, capacity-building has been strengthened through the creation of reference materials on legal practices, as well as improvement of legal education and legal training, to help contribute to the development of the core human resources in the legal and judicial sectors of Laos. In addition, the Civil Code was enacted in December 2018 and enforced in May 2020, becoming an important pillar of the Laotian legal system in the civil law area.

The ICD, since its establishment, has cooperated with the project activities for Laos, including organization of study trips to Japan. The MOJ has also extended cooperation by dispatching prosecutors as JICA long-term experts to Laos.

Furthermore, apart from the JICA Projects, the Research and Training Institute of the MOJ concluded the Memorandum of Cooperation on training 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 various activities such as continuously holding joint seminars by the ICD.



Seminar in Laos



Working Group in Laos



Research Activity in Laos

1986	Laos introduced the New Thinking (Chintanakan Mai) and the New Economic Mechanism, giving rise to the necessity of a legal system appropriate for a market-oriented economy.
1998	MOJ began organizing study trips to Japan for Laotian judicial officials as part of JICA's technical cooperation.
2003	JICA Technical Cooperation on the Legal and Judicial Development Project began.
2010	JICA Project for Human Resources Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 1) began
2014	JICA Project for Human Resources Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 2) began
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 (Phase 1) began Joint seminars based on an MOC between the RTI and the National Institute of Justice of Laos began
2023	JICA Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening of the Rule of Law (Phase 2) began



Republic of Indonesia

Since the mid-1990s, the Indonesian government has considered the reform of its judicial system to be an important national achievement, which includes stimulating the training of legal practitioners and combating corruption.

In response to a request from the Indonesian Government, the ICD began cooperating with the Indonesian Government by holding a training seminar for legal practitioners in the framework of the JICA scheme in 2002.

From 2007 to 2009, the MOJ cooperated with the JICA project to improve the mediation system implemented by the Supreme Court of Indonesia. Through this cooperation, the ICD contributed to the amendment of the Supreme Court Rules on Settlement and Mediation and the improvement of mediator training. Although the project ended in 2009, the ICD continued its relationship with the Indonesian government and strengthened mutual trust by inviting Indonesian Supreme Court judges and holding an annual joint study with a focus on the capacity-building of judges from 2010 to 2015.

In addition, since 2015 the ICD cooperated with the JICA Project on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Legal Consistency for Improving the Business Environment, to work with the Supreme Court, Directorate General of Legislation in the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, and Directorate General of Intellectual Property in the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. The MOJ also dispatched its government attorneys for full commitment to this Project in 2016.

In October 2021, a new JICA project, the Project for Efficient and Fair Disputes Resolution Mechanism and Legislative Drafting Capacity Development for Improving Business Environment, was launched working with the Supreme Court and Ministry of Law and Human Rights. The ICD has continued cooperating with this JICA project to date.



Conference



Directorate General of Legislation, Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia



JICA Project Office in Indonesia

1998	MOJ began legal technical cooperation for Indonesia by organizing a seminar on economic law
2002	The ICD began a study trip to Japan as a part of JICA technical assistance
2007	JICA began the Project for Improvement of the Mediation System (~2009)
2010	The ICD began a Joint Study for capacity-building of judges with the Indonesian Supreme Court judges (~2015)
2015	JICA began the Project on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Legal Consistency for Improving the Business Environment (~2021)
2021	JICA began the Project for Efficient and Fair Disputes Resolution Mechanism and Legislative Drafting Capacity Development for Improving Business Environment



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 faced issues of the delay in the development of the legal system and shortage of human resources in judicial related institutions.

As such, the ICD has provided cooperation 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 legal drafters of Timor-Leste to draft its own national laws, in accordance with the



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



Seminar in Timor-Leste

actual situation. The ICD has also carried out activities with a focus on the training of legal professionals and the capacity-building of judicial related institutions.

2009	The ICD cooperated with training in capacity-building for legislative drafting, as part of the JICA's technical assistance (until 2010)
2011	The ICD conducted local seminars and Joint study of the Legal systems (until 2012)
2013	The ICD provided cooperation as part of the JICA's technical assistance (providing advice on the building of legal systems) (until 2014)
2014	The ICD conducted local seminars and Joint study of the Legal systems (ongoing. *The JICA and the Ministry of Justice of Timor-Leste signed Minutes of Meetings on an individual project including the 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 a transition to a market economy and with assistance from international organizations and foreign countries, Mongolia has established many laws including the Civil Code.

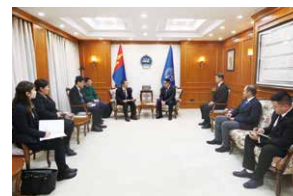
In 2001, the ICD, in response to Mongolia's request for cooperation in the legal field, dispatched its government attorneys to conduct a survey on Mongolia's judicial system etc. and invited legal and judicial practitioners from Mongolia to carry out a comparative seminar on judicial systems between the two countries.

In 2004, the JICA began dispatching legal technical cooperation advisers to Mongolia and conducted a project plan to establish bar associations in 2006; another project to establish the mediation system in 2010; and Phase 2 of both projects in 2013. The ICD participated in the activities of the advisory group for the project to establish the mediation system.

In addition, in response to a request from Mongolia that was



Group Photo with Seminar Participants in Mongolia



Conference with Stakeholders in Mongolia

considering the establishment of a commercial law to improve its business environment, since 2018 the ICD has continuously provided cooperation. For the establishment of a commercial law in Mongolia, the ICD has invited officials from the Mongolian Ministry of Justice and Internal affairs, judges, and professors from the National University of Mongolia to conduct a joint study on the Commercial Law, etc.

Furthermore, in 2021, the Research and Training Institute (RTI) of the MOJ concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on human resource development in the field of law and justice with the National Legal Institute (NLI) of Mongolia. Based on the MOC, both institutions have strengthened cooperative relationships through various activities such as implementing seminars.

2001	The ICD conducted a seminar on comparative study of judicial systems of Mongolia and Japan
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	The ICD conducted a joint study on the Commercial Law of Mongolia
2021	MOC between the NLI and the RTI was concluded





Republic of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan became independent in 1991 along with the collapse of the USSR, and began its judicial and administrative reform such as a transition from the Planned Economy to the Market Economy. Since 2001, in response to Uzbekistan's request, the ICD, in cooperation with the JICA and Nagoya University, conducted surveys on Uzbekistan's civil law and administrative law, 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.

Subsequently, with the completion of the Administrative Procedure Law and the Administrative Litigation Law in 2018, the drafting of which had been supported by Japanese professors, ICD's legal technical cooperation for Uzbekistan became even more active.

Since 2019, the ICD, together with Uzbekistan's working group composed of Uzbek legal experts, has worked on the drafting of the commentary on the Administrative Procedure Law (its first edition was published in 2024). From 2020, the ICD expanded its cooperation to the criminal justice field as well, and began assisting in the drafting of the White Paper on Crime for the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of Republic of Uzbekistan (currently the Law Enforcement

Academy of Republic of Uzbekistan). In the same year, JICA's training for the operation of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure began, followed by training for enhancement of judicial capacity in 2023. The ICD also cooperated with this training.

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



Conference with Stakeholders in Uzbekistan



Group Photo at the International Conference



Celebration of Publication for Administrative Procedure Law

2002	MOJ began cooperation in conducting training
2005	JICA's project for drafting the commentary of the Bankruptcy Law began (~2007)
2008	The ICD conducted seminars to study comparative legal systems in Central Asia (~2013)
2018	The Administrative Procedure Code and the Administrative Litigation Law of Uzbekistan were completed The ICD launched joint study on the Administrative Law of Uzbekistan in Japan (every year)
2020	The ICD began cooperating in the drafting of the White Paper on Crime (ongoing annually) JICA began the training for enhancement of judicial ability
2021	Collaborative relationship between the ICD and the Lawyers' Training Center under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan began
2023	JICA began training for enhancement of judicial capacity
2024	The Commentary on the Administrative Procedure Law (the first edition) was published



People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh has been experiencing a high-level economic growth in recent years, attracting an increasing number of Japanese companies.

When Bangladesh was designated as one of the eight prioritized countries in “The Basic Policy on Legal Technical Cooperation (revised version)” in 2013, the ICD collected information on Bangladesh and began its cooperation in 2016, holding a joint study program in Japan with officers from Bangladesh, including the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

In 2017, cooperation of the JICA's country-focused training courses began, and in 2024, JICA's legal technical cooperation project “Development of Mediation and Civil Litigation Practices for Enhancement of Access to Justice Project” began, to which the ICD provides its full-fledged cooperation.

Bangladesh is facing a challenge to reduce the number of



Interview with Local Citizens



Supreme Court of Bangladesh

accumulated cases in Court. To address this problem, the ICD cooperates in promoting the use of mediation through training to enhance the skills of mediators and improving the court function through a litigation practice reform.

2015	The ICD conducted a local survey
2016	The ICD conducted a joint study inviting the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
2017	JICA's country-focused training courses began
2024	JICA's Legal Technical Cooperation Project (Development of Mediation and Civil Litigation Practices for Enhancement of Access to Justice Project) began



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka gained full independence from the Commonwealth self-governing territory of Ceylon in 1972, and since the civil war which had continued more than 25 years ended in 2009, the country has been working on peace-building and social reconstruction throughout the country. Sri Lanka was facing, as one of important national issues, serious litigation delays in criminal courts, with a huge volume of criminal cases languishing unprocessed, and furthermore, serious offenders were not being punished appropriately.

Under these circumstances, and in response to a request from the Sri Lankan Government, the JICA made the decision to provide legal technical assistance with an emphasis on improving criminal justice practices starting in 2019. Thereafter, at the request of the JICA, the ICD dispatched a survey team to Sri Lanka to investigate issues facing the local judiciary, etc., and then invited the Sri Lankan criminal justice officials for training in Japan.

The ICD has continued to cooperate with the activities through online training during the COVID pandemic and



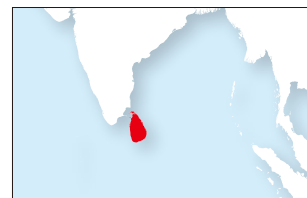
Conference with Stakeholders in Sri Lanka



Seminar in Sri Lanka

dispatching the ICD professors to Sri Lanka to conduct a face-to-face seminar in 2022. It also conducted a training course in Japan in March 2024. The ICD will continue to cooperate with the JICA and other related organizations to improve criminal justice practices and reduce delays in court proceedings in Sri Lanka.

2019	The ICD dispatched a survey team to Sri Lanka
2020	The ICD has conducted face-to-face training in Japan and two online seminars
2022	The ICD conducted a local seminar and survey for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic
2024	The ICD conducted training in Japan





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 revision of its 19th-century enacted Country Code “the Muluki Ain” (a code covering substantive and procedural laws in the civil and criminal fields), with the aim of modernizing its legal system. In response to Nepal’s earnest request, the JICA began its cooperation in the drafting of the Civil Code in 2009, and the ICD supported JICA’s activities by organizing training courses in Japan for drafting the Civil Code and for preparing a commentary of the Civil Code. As a result, the Civil Code was established in 2017 (and enforced in 2018).

In addition to the JICA’s cooperation in the civil law area, the ICD extended its legal technical cooperation in the criminal law field, including organizing local seminars since 2009 and joint studies in Japan since 2011 with Nepalese attorneys from the Office of the Attorney General.

In order to improve the court system in Nepal, the JICA conducted a project for strengthening the capacity of courts from 2013 to 2018, and the ICD supported it by organizing study trips to Japan, etc.

The ICD, in collaboration with the JICA, continues cooperation for Nepal in drafting the commentary and the dissemination of the Civil Code. The ICD has also introduced Japanese legal system and practices in local seminars for judicial officers.



Workshop in Nepal



Seminar in Nepal (both face-to-face and online)

2009	JICA began cooperation in the drafting of the Civil Code The ICD conducted a local seminar on criminal law
2010	The ICD organized a study trip to Japan as part of legal technical cooperation by the JICA in order to help draft the Civil Code, etc.
2011	The ICD began joint studies on criminal law
2013	JICA Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Courts began (running through 2018)
2018	The ICD conducted local seminars on the Civil Code and criminal law
2022	The ICD conducted training courses in Japan on the reform of the Civil Code and improvement of its implementation



Ukraine

Despite its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine has been under military invasion by Russia. In January 2024, upon a request from the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine for legal technical cooperation, the ICD began discussions on providing support to Ukraine by inviting its Deputy Minister of Justice to our Annual Conference on Technical Cooperation in the Legal Field held in December of the same year and through other activities.

From FY2025, the ICD will carry out:

- A joint study on: the way of evidence collection from juveniles, who are crime victims or witnesses; protection of juveniles at trial; structure of the family courts in Japan; etc., in response to a request from Ukraine, as a unique cooperation of the Ministry of Justice of Japan; and
- Support towards the eradication of corruption, which has been one of the major problems in Ukraine, in cooperation with a JICA's country focused training course.



Kyrgyz Republic

The Kyrgyz Republic gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 with the Declaration of State Independence.

In November 2023, Japan and Kyrgyz issued the Japan-Kyrgyz Joint Statement and concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in the legal and justice field between the two countries. In July 2024, the two countries concluded a Plan of Action (POA) based on the MOC agreement.

In accordance with the MOC concluded in November 2023, the ICD held discussions with the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic on specific cooperation. Consequently, in February 2025, the "1st Japan-Kyrgyz Joint Study" was conducted as the Japanese Ministry of Justice's own cooperation in the legal and judicial fields. During the joint study, Japan shared its expertise and exchanged opinions on areas of interest to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Justice, including the digitalization of administrative and judicial procedures, international mediation, and the regulation of the money laundering.

It is planned to continue joint study programs in the next fiscal year and beyond, through discussions on specific themes with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Justice.





United Republic of Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania (hereinafter referred to as “Tanzania”) was established in 1964 through the unification of the Republic of Tanganyika (independence in 1961) in the African Continent and the Indian Ocean island nation of Zanzibar (independence in 1963).

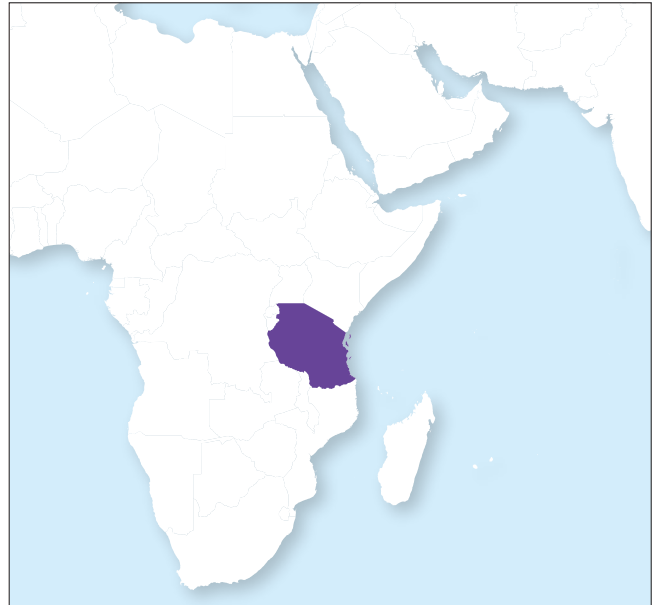
Though Tanzania initially proclaimed itself a socialist economy, since 1986 the country has been trying to shift to a market economy. Despite its economy being liberalized, its constitution still clearly states that Tanzania is a socialist country.

Tanzania is ranked 141st out of 190 countries in the DoingBusiness ranking (World Bank, 2020), which is an indicator of the quality of the business environment. Even compared with neighboring countries (Rwanda 38th, Kenya 56th, etc.), its business environment is not favorable, which is partly attributed to a lack of consistency in related policies and laws, such as business licensing, taxation and tax administration, customs policy and administration, land policy, financial services regulations, and local procurement rate regulations.

In order to examine the possibility of providing legal technical cooperation to Tanzania, the ICD has commissioned research and other activities to investigate the existence and nature of legal issues for the purpose of Tanzania’s transition to a market economy. In addition, the ICD is building relationships with the Tanzanian Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and

the Office of the Attorney General, through discussions on the possibility of cooperation in the legal and judicial fields.

Based on the results of the commissioned research and discussions with the relevant organizations, the ICD is planning to provide support to Tanzania in the form of joint study and others.



Republic of Fiji

The Republic of Fiji is an island country in the Pacific Ocean and gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1970.

In January 2024, as part of its Justice Affairs Diplomacy, the Ministry of Justice of Japan agreed with the then Attorney-General and Minister for Justice of Fiji to establish the “Strategic Dialogue on Law and Justice,” which is a platform for dialogue in the legal and justice field on a regular basis. In July of the same year, a symposium was held on the theme of “The Rule of Law and International Cooperation” in conjunction with the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10), by inviting judicial officials from Pacific island countries and regions.

In response to this growing momentum for the establishment of new cooperation, the ICD decided to launch a new legal technical cooperation program for Fiji. In March 2025, the ICD held the 1st “Joint Study on the Legal and Judicial Systems of the Republic of Fiji and Japan,” as our own cooperation, by inviting Fijian participants from Office of the Attorney-General, Judicial Department, Ministry of Justice, and Legal Aid Commission to Japan. With a focus on such themes as countermeasures against prolonged civil trials and the digitization and streamlining of judicial and administrative procedures, the joint study included lectures by Japanese experts, exchanges of opinions, and visits to relevant institutions.

We will endeavor to identify areas to conduct cooperation activities including our joint study program through discussions with Fiji, in order to build a strong and continuous cooperative relationship.





Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar, after its shift to civilian rule in March 2011 and under leadership of Ms. Aung Sang Suu Kyi who assumed the position of state counselor following the general election in 2015, began making steady progress toward democratization. In response to this situation, the ICD has promoted personal exchanges in the legal field since 2012, including local surveys and an invitation of the Chief Justice and the Attorney General of the Union to Japan. The ICD has provided assistance to Myanmar by cooperating with the JICA's Legal Cooperation Projects for Myanmar since 2013.

The MOJ also dispatched its officers (government attorneys and public prosecutors) as long-term experts. The ICD held study trips to Japan for Myanmar's legal / judicial officers, etc. and conducted legal research (related to land estate) to improve the investment environment in order to promote sustainable economic growth. Due to the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, all these activities were suspended and discontinued.



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

Reports are available on ICD activities, including legal technical cooperation (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/housou_icd.html



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Study Tours in Japan (FY2024)



