

TRAINING

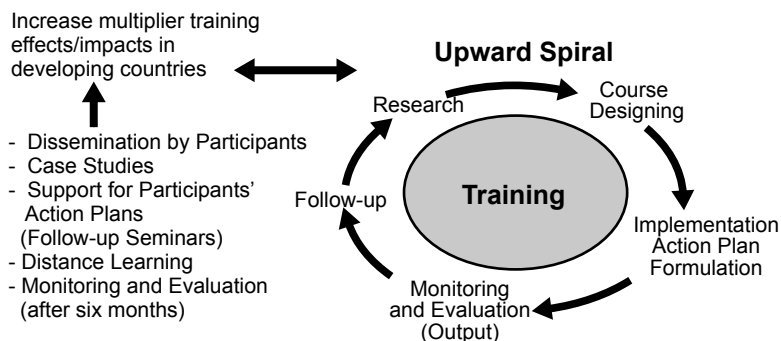


UNCRD has supported capacity-building for sustainable development in developing countries, particularly within the context of environment, human security, and disaster management issues through its various training activities. The internationally-agreed initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) have been incorporated into training in an effort to make development sustainable at the regional or local level in developing countries. The recent training curriculum designed by UNCRD is oriented towards pro-poor and environmentally sustainable development, with emphases on decentralization, participatory governance, and ownership and partnership.

UNCRD's Training Office, which is responsible for training, is engaged in a cycle of activities from course design and implementation to monitoring and evaluation for each training course, in collaboration with research groups. Based on the monitoring/evaluation of training outputs, it also plans and implements follow-up projects and the results of follow-up projects are also reflected in

the design of subsequent courses (see figure 1). Two types of training are conducted: (a) the International Training Course in Regional Development (ITC); and (b) country- and/or theme-specific training courses. With one exception, UNCRD has conducted the ITC annually since 1972. The course provides mid-career government officials from developing countries with comprehensive knowledge and skills necessary for regional development planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Country-specific and/or thematic training courses are joint training programmes held in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which, like UNCRD, is committed to achieving the MDGs. The UNCRD/JICA training courses feature tailor-made training to respond to specific requests from developing countries according to their prevailing situations and problems. Courses currently underway or completed during the reporting period are for Western China, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Republic of South Africa as well as on the theme of environmentally sustainable transport (EST). In addition, a new

Figure 1. Training Course Management





ITC group exercise at UNCRD

thematic training course focusing on human security was launched in collaboration with the Human Security and Regional Development Group during the reporting period. Each course is conducted in Japan to enable participants to learn firsthand from Japan's development experience, particularly of the Chubu region in which UNCRD is located. This constitutes one of the comparative advantages of these training courses.

With completion of two ITCs, including three follow-up seminars, and nine UNCRD/JICA Training Courses, one training seminar, and one field study programme, the Training Office trained a total of 336 individuals between July 2005 and June 2007.

During the reporting period, two ITCs, which were the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth (ITC 34 and ITC 35), were conducted from 18 May to 28 June 2006 and 17 May to 27 June 2007, respectively, each with eleven participants. These courses, each with six modules addressed the theme "Sustainable Regional Development" and enabled participants to deepen their understanding of sustainability in the context of the UN's MDGs and other important UN development initiatives. The human security module, mainly relating to Goal 1 of the MDGs, enabled participants to deepen their understanding of the concept of human security and its application to regional development planning and implementation through vulnerability assessments. The environment module, which was mainly related to Goal 7, dealt with 3R/sustainable production and consumption, and EST while the disaster management module focused on lessons learned from the reconstruction process after the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and community-based disaster management (CBDM). The living environment module, which integrates these modules examined model cases in Japan from the aspects of safety, health, convenience, amenity, and sustainability of the living environment while MDGs' Target 11 was featured through developing countries' case studies. The ITC incorporates an action plan module during which each participant is required to devise an action plan, derived from the real needs of his/her country, utilizing the lessons learned and information gained from the training course. This vital component of each ITC is designed to increase

participants' capability in a practical way and as a result constitutes a crucial component of each training course.

The Training Office also conducts periodic follow-up seminars in selected countries in direct technical support of ITC participants' action plans as well as to further disseminate ITC training inputs. Follow-up seminars with this objective were conducted twice in Mongolia (28 September 2005 and 3-5 May 2007) with forty-seven and forty participants, respectively, in collaboration with the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Government of Mongolia and the Urban Development Resource Center (UDRC). An additional seminar was conducted in Bhutan on 24 January 2007 in collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Government of Bhutan which was attended by twenty-five participants. The seminars in Mongolia addressed the theme of urban planning with a special focus on community participation while the seminar in Bhutan tackled urban-rural migration. Through these seminars, each action plan was incorporated as an official project/strategy proposal to the respective organizations and ITC training inputs concerning their action plans were disseminated and shared with seminar participants. The most important seminar output is the institutional commitment to the implementation of participants' action plans forged not only within their organizations but also with other potential stakeholders involved. In fact, UDRC, a co-organizer of the seminar, is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) set up by past participants in response to advice from UNCRD and now plays an important role in facilitating community participation and mobilization of their resources. Once such a commitment is developed, the feasibility of the action plans will be further enhanced. UNCRD will continue to follow up on their progress and implementation and exchange further information and knowledge when deemed necessary.

The following country- and/or theme-specific training courses were collaborative capacity-building-projects with JICA:



Indonesia Training Course, visit to a Meiho Road Station

UNCRD/JICA Training Course on Comprehensive Regional Development for the Western Region of China

This course was conducted twice — from 3 to 30 July 2005 and from 2 to 29 July 2006 — with fifteen participants each, addressing the issue of how to develop the western inland region, which has lagged behind the development level of the coastal region, by integrating economic, social, and environmental considerations into the development process. The curriculum was structured around three modules: outline of comprehensive national development; history and present situation of industrial policy; and development measures in local cities. These enabled participants to deepen their understanding of Japan's comprehensive national development planning, specific regional planning of Aichi and Hokkaido Prefectures as well as the country's post-war industrial policy. Training inputs concerning anti-pollution policy and measures were also added and highlighted reflecting the prevailing situation in China and past participants' suggestions. With the implementation of these courses, UNCRD completed its five-year training programme having trained a total of seventy-five Chinese officials, most of whom work for the National Development and Reform Commission. A summary report on what was learned during the five-year programme is being produced which is expected to synthesize the training inputs. This report is scheduled for wide dissemination to expand the training impact.

UNCRD/JICA Training Course on the Community Initiative Approach to Rural Development for the Republic of Bulgaria

Conducted from 20 November to 20 December 2005 with ten participants, this course was important in upgrading knowledge, improving attitude, and imparting skills on participation and community initiatives — still badly lacking due to the transition from a centrally-planned to a market-oriented economy. The curriculum stressed field studies in the rural areas of Aichi and Gifu Prefectures, which enabled participants from municipalities in Bulgaria to learn firsthand from local/regional government officials as well as residents on how to find and mobilize local resources such

as natural landscape, historical assets, traditional culture, and attractive townscapes for tourism development, in particular, based on collaboration between the public and private sectors including residents. The participants devised specific action plans for revitalizing their farming villages by developing heritage tourism and/or agritourism industry based on local resources. With the completion of this three-year programme of training courses in 2005, UNCRD had trained a total of thirty Bulgarian central and municipal officials, and further exchange of information and experiences would be highly anticipated especially with the initiatives of six participants from the municipal government of Kazanlak City where JICA's related pilot project was implemented.

UNCRD/JICA Training Course on Regional Development Management for the Republic of Indonesia

The second phase has been initiated, targeting the less-developed island of Sulawesi. The first course, implemented from 14 November to 13 December 2006, provided officials of six provincial governments in Sulawesi as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for regional development management as well as to understand the importance of endogenous regional development (EnRD) based on the optimum use of local attributes and resources and then obtain corresponding techniques and knowhow. The concept of EnRD at UNCRD implies a process of development promoted by the initiative of local people with the use of local resources based on local culture, traditions, and skills. The curriculum was organized around three modules: outline of regional development; regional development management; and EnRD. Course material covered EnRD measures utilizing local resources; support measures for local industry and specialty product development; One *Tambon*-One Product (OTOP) in Thailand as well as field visits to study Meiho's revitalization efforts to set up public-private companies for development of specialty products to be sold at *Michinoeki* (road stations). Participants' action plans reflected their understanding of EnRD and contained the innovative proposal to develop their respective provinces



Follow-up seminar in Mongolia

focusing on poverty reduction and empowerment of the poor by making full use of local products and resources such as marine resources for tourism, corn, virgin coconut oil, and marbles, all of which are available in Sulawesi. The concluding course was scheduled to be held in 2008.

UNCRD/JICA One-Year Training Programme for the Promotion of Small Business and Community Industry Development Facilitator for the Republic of South Africa

This course was designed to support the challenges and efforts made by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government to promote small, medium, and micro-enterprises (SMMEs). SMMEs are considered to have an important role and multilateral functions to play in the South African socio-economy, particularly in the promotion of local industry through small and micro-enterprises owned by black South Africans. The training course, conducted in Nagoya from 19 February to 21 March 2007, provided participants from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and the Department of Economic Development of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for local industry and SMME development as well as for EnRD based on full use of local characteristics and resources. The curriculum covered SME promotion policy, EnRD measures utilizing local resources, and support measures for local industry and specialty product development. It also comprised field visits to study the city of Kobe's various supports for local SMMEs by setting up a large rental factory and providing managerial and technical consultation based on its support network. Participants were taught how to rediscover and utilize local resources for local economic development and also how to link them to market demands and business opportunities as facilitators. Individual action plans contained the useful idea to promote and support SMMEs and local industry in KwaZulu-Natal Province based on the partnership with government, industry, and academia. The relationship between participants from SEDA and from KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government was also strengthened during the course, which constituted another training output. Such strengthened

relations are expected to have a synergy effect with the other organization when their action plan is put into practice. Concerning four other UNCRD/JICA Training Courses conducted in collaboration with research groups on EST and human security, refer to the relevant sections.

The Training Office also implemented several socioeconomic-related programmes and projects in collaboration with Chinese authorities. The projects conducted during the reporting period was designed to support the country's Western Region Development Policy, in particular concerning the human development side, in order to reduce poverty and rectify regional disparity. In collaboration with the Ministry of Land Resources, Government of China and the China Association of Science and Technology (CAST), the third Training Seminar on Land Planning and Integrated Rural Development in Western China was held from 20 to 23 December 2005 in Guangzhou, China with 109 participants. In the seminar, UNCRD introduced development planning in Japan and the "One Village, One Product" movement, which has also been introduced in Thailand and other Asian countries in order to demonstrate the EnRD policy as a possible alternative for the rural areas of China. The field study programme for China's Integrated Rural Development and Management was conducted from 19 to 28 April 2006 in Japan and enabled six participants to investigate Japan's know-how and experience of comprehensive national development planning, regional development policy and measures as well as rural and agricultural revitalization projects. Participants from both the seminar and field study programme were able to deepen their understanding of regional development, in particular the importance of formulating a development plan/strategy which can fully utilize local resources available in each region and thereby increase the potential for sustainability.

In addition to UNCRD core funding (see "Financial Statement," on p. 53), for the period 1 January to 31 December 2006 training activities received support totaling approximately US\$917,000, chiefly from JICA/JICE, Toyota Motor Corporation and Toyota Transportation Research Institute, and Nagoya-West Rotary Club. For the period 1 January to 31 December 2007, a

total of approximately US\$457,000 was received from JICA/JICE; Toyota Transportation Research Institute; Higashi-Chita and Nagoya-West Rotary Clubs; Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Government of Bhutan; National Center for Construction, Urban Development and Public Utilities, Government of Mongolia; and CITYNET.

Planned Training Courses and Seminars

- Fourth UNCRD/JICA Training Course on Urban Development and Transportation
- Third UNCRD/JICA Training Course on Project Formulation for Regional Development Focused on Human Security
- Second UNCRD/JICA Training Course on Regional Development Management for the Republic of Indonesia
- First UNCRD/JICA Training Course on Endogenous Regional Economic Development Utilizing Local Resources for Central Asia
- Thirty-sixth International Training Course in Regional Development (ITC 36)

In-house Training and Seminar Reports

Completion Report on ITC 34

Completion Report on ITC 35

Evaluation Report on the 34th International Training Course in Regional Development

Evaluation Report on the 35th International Training Course in Regional Development

Executive Summary of Seminar on Regional Development, Urban Planning, and Housing Upgrading: International Policy and Experiences — 2nd ITC Follow-up Project in Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 28 September 2005)

Executive Summary of Seminar on Urban Planning and Living Environment Improvement with Community Participation — 3rd ITC Follow-up Project in Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 3-5 May 2007)

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