

## Western Balkans



\*The Government of Japan recognized Kosovo as an independent country on March 18, 2008.

### A MESSAGE FROM RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

More than five years have passed since our office was shifted from Vienna to Belgrade. We have also opened our branch offices in Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana and Prishtina, in order to strengthen our field operation and closely work together with partner countries.

With these arrangements now in place, we can take regional and comprehensive approaches to properly address the evolving needs of the Western Balkan region, which has experienced remarkable changes over the past decade. I myself have visited this region several times in the late 1990s for reconstruction assistance. After 10 years of absence, I was assigned to Belgrade, and was extremely impressed to witness the development that had occurred throughout the region.

Having said that, this region still has a wide range of various issues that must be addressed, i.e., political and economic problems, displaced people, ethnic minorities, environmental degradation, etc.

The stability and development of the Western Balkans has a big impact on the international community as a whole. Therefore, I believe that Japan, with its neutrality and vast experience for development assistance in many countries, can play a very important role in tackling these various issues and can further contribute to the stability and development of this region.

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Japan International Cooperation Agency JICA

## Western Balkans

- Republic of Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Republic of Kosovo\*
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Republic of Serbia

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Children in the Constructed  
21. Marta Elementary School  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina, GA)



Hand-Over Ceremony for Donation of  
Medical Equipment for Breast Cancer  
Screening and Prevention (Serbia, GA)



Donated Medical Equipment for  
Improvement of Medical Equipment on  
South Regional and District Hospital  
(Albania, GA)

### Aiming for Consolidation of Peace, Private Sector Development and Tackling Environmental Problems in the Western Balkan Region

Formally established October 2006 in Belgrade, the JICA Balkan office now covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.

It is important to note, however, that JICA had already started to support this region since 1970s for human resources development. After the collapse of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the middle of 1990s, JICA mainly focused on emergency humanitarian assistance, while taking into consideration Japanese Diplomatic Policies. Once this initial emergency stage was completed, JICA then gradually shifted their support towards projects that involved the development of the region.

In April 2004, the Government of Japan organised the Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans. This conference would be the starting

point that would bring key support to the region. Taking into account the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, JICA began its assistance by promoting ethnic reconciliation, supporting the social-political capitals, nurturing economic growth and encouraging environmental conservation, all towards the objective of attaining human security and sustainable economic development.

JICA's steadfast aim is to act as a bridge between the people of Japan and its partner countries by sharing a common pool of knowledge and experience.

In its unyielding pursuit towards the consolidation of peace and contributing to economic development, JICA intends to keep its commitment by providing active assistance to the region.





Donated Emergency Vehicle for the Improvement of the Medical Equipment of the Regional Level Emergency Centers (Albania, GA)



Inauguration of the Memorial Monument for the Solid Waste Management Project in Prizren (Kosovo, TA)



The Central Control Room in Bajina Basta Hydroelectric Power Plant (Serbia, GA)

JICA is responsible for implementing the bilateral aid of Japan's ODA (Official Development Assistance) through Technical cooperation, ODA Loans and Grant Aid.

Since JICA is a governmental agency focused on international cooperation, it does not favour any particular ethnic group or specific countries in this region.

With this neutrality of its character, JICA focuses on the following three areas of common concern in the Western Balkan region: **Consolidation of Peace, Private Sector Development** and **Tackling Environmental Problems**.



Kendo Training by a Japanese Volunteer (Serbia, TA)



Japanese Language Class Supported by a Japanese Volunteer in Belgrade Philological High School (Serbia, TA)



The project for confidence-building on agricultural development in Srebrenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina, TA)

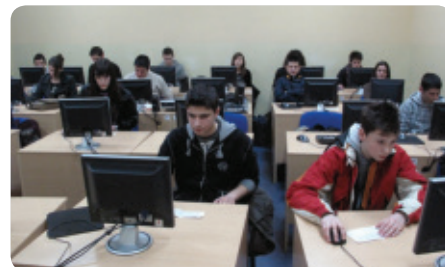


Donated Musical Instruments to Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra (Serbia, GA)

## Consolidation of Peace

The Dayton Peace Accord was signed in November 1995. In 1996, JICA started to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina by dispatching Project Formulation Advisors and Study Teams to identify development needs. Thus far, JICA has mainly provided assistance for capacity and infrastructure development in such sectors as education, agriculture and medical care, while paying careful attention to keeping the balance of shared benefits among the various ethnic groups and promoting reconciliation among the people. To this day, these initial concepts are still being expanded to new projects in this region, aiming at social-economic development and renewed urgings towards a consolidation of peace, each of which is to be principally approached from the perspectives of human security.

Modernization of informatics curricula (Bosnia and Herzegovina, TA)



Mostar High School



Bijeljina High School



Sarajevo Second High School

## Private Sector Development

Even if the respective nations continue to work together to undertake a successful transition to a global market, there is a broad spectrum of factors to consider among the countries in the region. When it comes to the consolidation of peace and economic development, nothing is more essential than private sector development, which is a vital contributor to the region's successful transition to a global market. As a result, the development of small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs), which includes entrepreneurship and the promotion of trade and investment, are of principal importance. From these perspectives, JICA supports human resources development for promoting SMEs and provides policy support to enhance trade and investment. The countries in the Western Balkan region have a net advantage when it comes to standards related to human resources, including the quality of facilities and more reliable support institutions. Thus, in carrying out the spirit of co-operation along with private sector development in this region, JICA is prepared to offer multi-faceted assistance appropriate to each country's particular needs.



The Project for Capacity Development of Digital Basic State Mapping (Serbia, TA)



Donated Bus Running in the City of Belgrade (Serbia, GA)



Training Program for Mapping Technology in Japan (Japan, TA)



The Project for Urgent Rehabilitation of Water Supply System in Podgorica (Montenegro, GA)



Daily Maintenance of Donated Buses in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina, GA)

## Tackling Environmental Problems

Along with the assistance required for economic development, JICA is also working on tackling the ongoing environmental issue. However, such essential and wide-ranging issues cannot be solved by one country alone. Environmental policies must be considered when providing assistance, and regionally comprehensive measures must be taken in accordance with the situations of each country.



The Flue Gas Desulphurization Construction Project for Thermal Power Plant Nikola Tesla (Serbia, ODA Loans)

GA: Grant Aid, TA: Technical Assistance