

Terminal Evaluation

Middle East

I. Outline of the Project

- Country: Egypt
- Project title: Clinical Immunology of Infectious Diseases and Introduction to Molecular Biology
- Issue/Sector: Health
- Cooperation scheme: TCTP
- Division in charge: Africa, Middle East and Europe Dept.
Middle East and Europe Division
- Total cost: 35 million Yen
- Cost per participant: 0.61 million Yen
- Share of Japan' contribution: 1999:95%~2003:85%
- Period of Cooperation (R/D): 1996 ~ 1998
(Extension): 1999 ~ 2003
- Partner Country's Implementing Organization: Faculty of Medicine, Suez Canal University (FOM/SCU), Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (EFTCA)
- Supporting Organization in Japan: National Institute of Infectious Diseases,
- Related Cooperation:

1. Background of the Project

Most of the African countries are in a situation where infectious diseases represent the major health menace. The challenge posed by this problem entail appropriate diagnosis and control of such infections and to have the technical expertise to carry out this job. In order to improve technical skills in laboratory medicine and research capabilities in the field of infectious diseases, the training was planned for sub-Saharan area, where infectious diseases. The training was extended for 5 years until 2003 because of its enormous needs in this field.

2. Project Overview

The training was conducted by a training team of Faculty of Medicine, Suez Canal University, which is the most advanced institution in this field in Egypt. Over the five years, about 40 experts/lecturers from different countries were participated in delivering the course and 71 participants from 22 African countries have been trained for acquiring knowledge and skills on natural history and pathophysiology of infectious diseases through lectures and experimental learning methods.

(1) Outputs of the Training Program

1) Output 1

Participants acquired recent information on natural history and pathophysiology of infectious diseases

2) Output 2

Participants will be able to prepare sound research protocols in the field of immunology & infectious diseases, with particular emphasis on evaluation of diagnostic tests and decision analysis

(2) Inputs

Japanese side:

Long-term Expert		Equipment	Yen
Short-term Expert	8	Local cost	35 million Yen
Trainees received	59	Others	Yen

-Egypt's Side:

Counterpart	189	Equipment	local currency(Yen)
Land and Facilities			local currency (Yen)
Local Cost			138,288 local currency (2.4 million Yen)
Others			local currency (Yen)

II. Evaluation team

Members of Evaluation Team

JICA EGYPT Office (commissioned to Mrs. Taissir Mohammed Hanafy Hosam El-din)

Period of Evaluation

15/11/2003 ~15/01/2004

Type of Evaluation:

Terminal

III. Results of Evaluation

III-1. Achievement of the Training Program

The training is based on participatory, experimental and reflexive learning methods. Besides plenary discussions, different forms of learning were used such as practices, work study, field trips, exercises, short lectures, journal clubs and presentations. Over the five years, about 40 experts/lecturers from different countries (Egypt, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Switzerland, USA, Sudan, Tunisia and Germany) were participated in delivering the course. 71 participants have been trained versus 147 applicants applied for the training program. 21 African countries participated in the training.

III-2. Evaluation Results

(1) Analysis on the Achievement in terms of Outputs

It can be concluded that the participants acquired the recent and up-dated information in the area of biological diagnosis of infectious diseases. More than 90% of the participants over the five years reported that they acquired the relevant information to upgrade their knowledge on clinical immunology of infectious diseases. According to the evaluation survey it was found that about 95% of the participants acquired the hand-on experience in running and development of medical laboratory for diagnosis of infectious diseases. Fostering the participants' ability to prepare sound research protocols in the field of immunology of infectious diseases was achieved with more than 90% participants.

In general, it could be concluded that the course is very relevant to the needs for diagnosis of infectious diseases and policies of African countries to improve the health conditions there.

Following the participants return to their countries, 90% responded they were able to apply the skills and knowledge they acquired during the training in their day-to-day work.

(2) Relevance

Since all the participants are engaged in laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases, the program was completely relevant to their work in terms of molecular biology, research methodology and laboratory management. In addition, they received training on related topics such as quality management, quality assurance and leadership.

The selection of Faculty of Medicine/Suez Canal University (FOM/SCU) was also convenient because it is the most advanced institution in Egypt in this field and could provide the training to meet various needs from participating countries regarding the infectious diseases.

III-3 Factors promoting sustainability and impact

(1) Factors concerning to Planning

- A continuous improvements and modification of curriculum have taken place according to the feedback of the participants by the implementing organization.
- It could be concluded that the setting requirements for the applicants are appropriate and adequate to the course content. As a result, all the participants fulfill the requirements, as reported by the training institution.
- The willingness of the participants to attend the course and get benefit from it also promoted the effects of the training program.

(2) Factors concerning to the Implementation Process

- The training was conducted in a well qualified and equipped Training institution having the accessibility to libraries, laboratory and qualified staff within the Suez Canal University. This provided the opportunity to the participants to enrich their knowledge and practices during the training program.
- Having international experts from different countries in addition to the staff from FOM/SCU, who received the same training course in Japan promoted the achievement of the training output.
- The text/materials provided in the course included both the theoretical and practical parts. Annual revision was conducted to the training material for and promoted the achievement

III-4 Factors inhibiting sustainability and impact

(1) Factors concerning to Planning

N/A

(2) Factors concerning to the Implementation Process

- In some cases, the dissemination of course information was not enough and received late. The delay in sending application forms on time as well as travel tickets. These resulted in late arrival of some participants which might affect their achievement.

III-5 Conclusion

In general, it can be concluded that the training program achieved its objectives and the participants applied the new skills and knowledge acquired in the training program. The program is considered an evidence of the successful triangular technical cooperation between JICA and African countries.

The level of the training institution meet one of the highest standards internationally in terms of lecturers, equipment, laboratory, accessibility of information resources and management of training event.

Since the infectious diseases are threatening the humanity in Africa and representing a major public health problem particularly in HIV and Hepatitis B/C, the program was designed in consistence with the development policy in the African countries.

III-6 Recommendations

The relevance of the course to the participants work and development policies in their countries is a strong reason for project extension to maximize the number of beneficiaries. Another important reason is the large number of applicants which is increased annually. In addition, the capacity of the Faculty of Medicine, Suez Canal University, in terms of instructors, equipment and facilities is adequate to deliver the training program. It is recommended to extend the program with an increase in the number of the participants to be 20 instead of 15 per each year.

For the purpose of increasing the network among the participants, they asked for distributing the contact information of the ex-participants.

The participants are required to analyze the medical statistics and the course also included data processing. However, since some of the participants lack the computer skills, they asked for having the Computer lab at the beginning of the training program to give them the chance for more practices during the training. The number of computers in the training institution should be increased so that the participants can utilize during the training.

The research methodology workshop should include a practical exercise of writing research proposal which could be applied by the participants following their return to their countries.

Since EFTCA is playing a bridging role, in the nomination and selection process, between the training institution, JICA and the African countries, so EFTCA can accelerate the procedures of nomination and selection of the participants. This could be achieved by sending the application including the setting criterion earlier to the African countries.

III-7 Lessons Learned

Lessons have driven from the training experience:

- To select capable institutions as the implementing organization
- To select nominees according to the appropriate requirements and assure the qualification of participants
- To improve and modify curriculum by elaborate needs survey and feedback at every stage