

Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Mongolia

—Assistance to Improve the Quality of Engineering Higher Education through Exchanges with Japan and Other Programs—

Today, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Japanese ODA loan agreement with the Government of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar to provide a Japanese ODA loan of up to a total of 7.535 billion yen for the Higher Engineering Education Development Project.

By strengthening the functions of higher education engineering institutions in Mongolia (including educator training, curriculum improvement and the provision of materials) and providing exchanges to Japan, this project will train industrial engineering human resources, thereby fostering and strengthening industry toward economic growth in Mongolia. The funding for this loan will be allocated to expenses for exchanges to Japan, the procurement and installation of education and research equipment, the selection and acceptance of exchange students, bidding and contract assistance for equipment, and construction management.

In recent years, Mongolia has achieved a remarkable rate of economic growth, driven by the development of mineral resources. The growth reached 12.3 percent in 2012 and it appears certain that double-digit growth was achieved in 2013 as well. With this growth, there is a rising need for the training of industrial human resources. In the five years from 2007 to 2012, the number of students entering higher education institutions rose 22 percent, and of particular note, the growth was 38 percent for students entering engineering departments in that same period.

Improvement in the quality of education has not kept pace with the rapid quantitative expansion of the higher education sector, however, as the number of educators at engineering higher education institutions with doctorates was a mere 24 percent, for example, extremely low when compared to the nearly 100 percent found in Japan and other advanced nations. The number of educators is also insufficient as the ratio of students to instructors at national universities in Mongolia is 29.7 (compared to an average of 11.5 for universities in Japan), and improving the quality of engineering higher education, including meeting the important challenges of training excellent educators, is a priority.

This project will conduct an international joint education program (for faculty twinning programs at Japanese universities and improving curricula), an educator training program (exchanges at Japanese master's and doctoral programs) and a technical high school exchange program, along with providing teaching and research equipment, and conducting collaborative research between Japanese and Mongolian universities. These programs are expected to greatly contribute to the improvement of engineering higher education in Mongolia.

JICA's policy is to continue providing support to the education sector in Mongolia to assist with stable socioeconomic growth.

Reference

1. Terms and Amount of Loan

Project title	Amount (million yen)	Annual interest rate (%)		Repayment period (years)	Grace period (years)	Procurement
		Project	Consulting services			
Higher Engineering Education Development Project	7,535	0.2	0.01	20	6	General, untied

2. Executing Agency

Ministry of Education and Science

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3. Planned Implementation Schedule

(i) Completion of project: March 2023 – with completion of the loan process

(ii) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services: May 2014