

9. The Role of International Education Cooperation—A Study on
Evaluating International Education Cooperation in Japan
Leader: SAITO Yasuo, Senior Researcher, Department for International
Research and Co-operation

(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

The purpose of this research was to investigate more effective methods of international education cooperation, taking into account developments in international society since the World Education Forum was held in Dakar in 2000. The comprehensive evaluation reviewed all aspects of international education cooperation in Japan, including the impact of international education cooperation experiences for donor countries.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- 1) Conducted a historical overview of Japan's changing concepts and policies for international education cooperation, from its inception in the 1950s up through the 1980s.
- 2) Formed an overall picture of international education cooperation program initiatives from the 1990s onwards, with a focus on MEXT.
- 3) Analyzed the current state and issues of the special professional teacher participation program of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, which has gained attention recently as an international education cooperation project. Trends towards preferential treatment for experienced volunteers taking teacher employment exams were also analyzed.
- 4) Conducted an overview of international education cooperation initiatives by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
- 5) Examined a program for accepting practicing teachers from developing countries as teacher training exchange.
- 6) Conducted an overview of the latest international trends surrounding international education cooperation.
- 7) Using the U.S. and UK, analyzed the extent of the return effects that international education cooperation activities had on donor countries' education systems,
- 8) Compiled, organized, catalogued, and abstracted the main points from primary documents concerning Japan's international education cooperation policies, or documented their full text.