English

Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan

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Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan

Aims

The Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) was established in June, 1973, with the aims to build, maintain and enhance amicable relationship in the fisheries field between Japan and coastal countries concerned by way of extending technical and economic cooperation for the development and promotion of their coastal fisheries and for the effective management of international marine resources conducted by the regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

OFCF has carried out its cooperation projects in more than 140 countries, regions, and RFMOs since its establishment.

Major Activities

I Technical Cooperation

1. Technical assistance for restoration of functions of fisheries facilities and equipment

The fisheries technical experts transfer technologies of repair and maintenance of fisheries facilities such as ice-making machine, refrigerator and fishing boat engine damaged by the natural disaster and other causes.

The assistance vitalizes fisheries activities and contributes capacity building of recipient countries.

Technical guidance on decomposition of outboard engine

2. Technical cooperation project

Fisheries development in the coastal nations

For the purpose of contributing to the promotion of fisheries in the coastal nations, OFCF has been trying to extend fisheries techniques by dispatching fisheries technical experts with necessary materials and equipment, if necessary, in the field of fisheries development, improvement of processing and distribution system, resource management and aquaculture.

Examples of activities (2011～2015)

Activities
・Technical guidance on management of giant clam farming
・Technical guidance on development of trap net fisheries
・Technical guidance on management of sea cucumber resources
・Advice on promotion of fisheries
・Technical guidance on fish handling for coastal fisheries
・Technical guidance on maintenance of outboard engines
・Technical guidance on development and promotion for fish consumption
・Training of tuna longline crews
・Training of international scientific observers for tuna longline fishing
・Advice on promotion of fisheries (ATLAFCO)
・Advice on overall tuna fisheries to FFA member countries (FFA)

Release of juvenile sea cucumbers

Operation of trap net fisheries

3. Inviting overseas fisheries trainees

OFCF invites and trains the government officials, researchers and the local fishing company staffs of coastal countries in order to provide the various fisheries techniques, skills and knowledge for them by the following training courses;

1) On Board Training Course for Fisheries Crews
   Theme: Fishing techniques required to crews of purse seiner
   Qualification: Those who are expected to be engaged in fishing boat works

2) Practical Training Course for Fisheries Technicians
   Theme: Practical skills and techniques on fisheries processing, distribution, etc., required to fishing company staff or engineers
   Qualification: Technical staff working in fishing companies

3) Leadership Training Course for Fisheries Resource Management
   Theme: Suitable management skills required to maintain the sustainable yield of fisheries resources
   Qualification: Government officials or researchers engaged in the fisheries resources management in the member countries of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

4) Leadership Training Course on Fisheries Management and Administration
   Theme: Suitable management theories and skills required to attain the sustainable yield of fisheries resources
   Qualification: Government junior officials or researchers who are expected to be engaged in middle or high class officials in the future

5) Leadership Training Course on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources
   Theme: Deeper knowledge and skills on the sustainable use of fisheries resources
   Qualification: Government officials with advanced skills in the fisheries field

Japanese language training

Training for stock enhancement at a sea farming association

4. Scientific observer program

In order to fully satisfy the requirements of the tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), namely ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC, CCSBT and WCPFC, Japan has reorganized its scientific observer program in 2013 under the supervision of Fisheries Agency of Japan and through close cooperation with the National Research Institute and tuna fishing industries in Japan; now known as "Japan Observer Program (JOP)" . Since then, OFCF has played the role of the JOP's secretariat and has trained observers to meet the international standards and has deployed the observers to more than 400 fishing vessels (as of 2016). The data collected by the observers are conveyed to the National Research Institute and/or RFMOs for their analysis and would contribute to stock assessments as well as other fishery related issues at the respective RFMO.

Length measurement at tuna longline fishing vessel

5. Promotion of fisheries personnel exchange with overseas countries

1) Inviting key officials

OFCF invites high ranking fisheries officials from the coastal countries or regional fisheries organizations to deepen mutual understanding by organizing meetings with leading officials of the Fisheries Agency of Japan and the Japanese fishing industries, and study tour to the fisheries related facilities such as fish market, fishing port, research institute, etc.

Study tour to Tsukiji market

2) Fisheries conference

OFCF has promoted the exchange of fisheries related personnel through organizing conferences on the fisheries issues with the coastal nations and regions with which Japan maintains close relationship in the fisheries sector.

Japan-FFA dialogue for future cooperation

6. Evaluation

For the purpose of contributing to the effective and efficient implementation of technical cooperation projects, OFCF evaluates each project. The result of evaluation is reflected not only upon for the improvement of project management but also upon the planning and designing of future projects.

OFCF established Evaluation Panel in 1998 which is composed of external experienced persons, in order to conduct evaluation works on cooperation projects, as well as to deliberate on planning method of cooperation and evaluation program. On-site evaluation work is also a significant function of the Panel to ensure objectivity, impartiality and credibility of the evaluation results.

Exchange of views and opinions with fisheries officails for on-site evaluation works

II Economic Cooperation (Loans for Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Projects)

1. Non-interest loan

OFCF provides non-interest loan to the Japanese fishing companies and international organizations to cover the necessary fund, when they carry out technical cooperation projects that are acknowledged as transfers of installations, equipment or materials to overseas government or as contribution to the promotion of fisheries development research and management of international fisheries resources.

2. Soft loan

OFCF provides low-interest loan in the Japanese yen or the US Dollar to the Japanese fisheries companies and organizations to cover the necessary fund for overseas investments in equity holding, forming fixed tangible assets or establishing fishery joint venture companies.

III Organization

Major Overseas fishery Cooperation Programs Implemented by OFCF (2011-2015)

Practical training on fish processing in Cabo Verde

Spawning experiment on giant clam in Palau

Technical guidance on generator in FSM

Seeding production for management of sea cucumber resources in Solomon Islands

Workshop on making fishing tools in Kiribati

Management of handling of fish harvest in Madagascar

【International organization】

- FFA: Solomon Is.
  (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency)
- ATLAFCO: Morocco
  (Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic)
- IOTC: Seychelles
  (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission)

Making model of trap net in PNG