Aims

The Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) was established in June, 1973, with the aims to build, maintain and enhance win-win relationships in the fisheries field between Japan and coastal countries. OFCF has established strong relationships with more than 140 countries, regions and international organizations 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.

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, refrigerators and fishing boat engines damaged by the natural disaster and other causes. The assistance vitalizes fisheries activities and contributes capacity building of recipient countries.

2. Technical cooperation project

Fisheries development in the coastal countries

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 and providing necessary materials and equipment, in the field of fisheries development, improvement of processing and distribution system, resource management and aquaculture.

Examples of activities (2013～2017)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Technical guidance on management of giant clam farming</td>
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<td>• Technical guidance on development of trap net fisheries</td>
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<td>• Technical guidance on management of sea cucumber resources</td>
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<td>• Advice on promotion of fisheries</td>
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<td>• Technical guidance on fish handling for coastal fisheries</td>
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<td>• Technical guidance on maintenance of outboard engines</td>
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<td>• Advice on promotion of fisheries (ATLAFCO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Advice on overall tuna fisheries to FFA member countries (FFA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Technical guidance on processing methods for utilization of bycatch fish of tuna longline fishing</td>
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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 various fisheries techniques, skills and knowledge through the following training courses;

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

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

3) Leadership Training Course for Fisheries Resource Management
   Theme: Suitable management skills required to maintain the sustainable yield of fisheries resources
   Target Trainees: 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 use of fisheries resources
   Target Trainees: 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
   Target Trainees: Government officials with advanced skills in the fisheries field

Japanese language training
Training for stock enhancement techniques at a sea farming facility
4. Feasibility Study on Discovering New Fishery Products for Market Distribution

For the purpose of contributing to social-economic development of south pacific countries, OFCF organizes and dispatches survey missions to find out fishery products that could lead up to boost or create fishery businesses in and out of the recipient countries. The survey missions which consist of experts of fishery distribution, management and other fishery related fields will make reports on possible new fishery products, after fields studies in the recipient countries and marketing studies in third countries including Japan.

Survey at fish market  
Survey target fishes  
Cooked fishes

5. Adviser for Sustainable Use of Fishery Resources

OFCF dispatches advisers to the coastal countries and international organizations in order to promote worldwide the concept of sustainable use of fishery resources and aim adoption of proper resource management measures at international fora. The advisors provide advice on the principle that an appropriate resource management based on scientific evidences is essential to realize sustainable use of fishery resources.

Observation of fisheries patrol  
Exchange of views and opinions with fisheries officials

6. 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 Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency 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 500 fishing vessels (as of 2017). The data collected by the observers are conveyed to the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency and/or RFMOs for their analysis and would contribute to stock assessments as well as other fishery related issues at the respective RFMO.
7. 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 through 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 markets, fishing ports, research institutes, etc.

2) Fisheries conference

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

8. Evaluation

For the purpose of contributing to the effective and efficient implementation of technical cooperation projects, OFCF conducts yearly evaluation of each project. The result of the evaluation is reflected not only upon for the improvement of project management but also for 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 activities are also a significant function of the Panel to ensure objectivity, impartiality and credibility of the evaluation results.

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.
Major Overseas Fishery Cooperation Programs Implemented by
[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)

- **PNA**: Marshall Is.
  (Parties to the Nauru Agreement)
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