

6th Seminar on International Cooperation for Local Initiatives

(Unofficial translation)

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Title

Minamata's achievements and issues in international cooperation

Summary

1. International cooperation in Minamata
 - 1992: Receiving trainees and organization of international conference through national, prefectural and local level
 - 1998: Organization of seminar on enlightening people about Minamata Disease (Asia)
 - 2000: Receipt of JICA trainees (Asia)
 - 2002: JICA technical cooperation at the grassroots level programme (Brazil)
 - 2003: Participation in JBIC programme (promotion of citizen participation support seminar) (Philippines)
2. Achievements
 - Promotion of understanding of Minamata Disease (information dissemination)
 - Improvement of regional image of Minamata
 - Improvement of environmental understanding of residents (residents as lecturers)
 - Hints towards the development of new activities and actions
3. Issues
 - Difficult to grasp to what extent training contents are being used
 - No linkages or development after conclusion of trainings
 - Lack of English-speaking lecturers
4. Practical application of international support schemes
 - Necessary to have merits for both supporting and supported sides
 - Support should agree to the basic policies of both sides
5. Expectations to international organizations
 - Understand the necessity and continuance of international support schemes
 - Understand the activities of local governments