

# Directions for Future Technical Cooperation on Overseas Industrial Human Resources

- The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has conventionally fostered industrial human resources overseas in order to enhance bilateral economic ties, including facilitating overseas production by Japanese companies and developing industries in partner countries, through such efforts as providing support measures for imparting specific skills to workers in the production processes in the manufacturing industry.
- Recently, changes have been seen in business environments and demands of companies, in particular, the restrictions on overseas travel amid the COVID-19 pandemic, advanced digitalization and contributions to efforts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including carbon neutrality.
- In light of these trends, METI **inaugurated a Study Group on Ideal Approaches to Future Technical Cooperation on Overseas Industrial Human Resources in order to hold discussions on ideal approaches to new technical cooperation on overseas industrial human resources.** This is an effort focused on the with-corona and post-corona era, as well as the DX era, including the potential for digitalization in the fields of technological transfer and human resource development overseas. Since the inauguration, the study group has advanced discussions.
- Based on the results of the discussions by the study group, METI announced **a policy that “it will strive to promote the development of industrial human resources in the fields of carbon neutrality and digital technologies by taking full advantage of remote instruction tools.”**

## Overview of the study group’s report

### 1 Promoting introduction of remote instruction

- (1) Raising awareness of the usefulness of remote instruction through efforts for preparing and disseminating a collection of successful case examples in which remote instruction was utilized, and providing support measures for introducing remote instruction, e.g., introducing digital tools and providing individual-based consultation services
- (2) Improving training programs in local areas and third countries through efforts toward utilizing local instructors and the existing networks of ex-training participants, etc.; and sophisticating details of training programs provided in Japan in parallel with making use of remote instruction and such programs in local areas and third countries; etc.



Scene from remote training using an exercise kit

## 2 Field of digital technologies

- (1) Improving development of local system integrators (SIs) who also appreciate advantages of Japan's robot technologies
- (2) Developing human resources with abilities for data utilization, e.g., development and design using three-dimensional data etc.; developing human resources specializing in IT fields in collaboration with local educational institutes, etc. and providing seamless support measures to human resources that have completed training programs, focusing on employment and successful and stable careers in Japanese companies
- (3) Developing standards for skills in order to assure the quality of engineers who have completed training programs by objectively assessing them, e.g., dissemination of domestic qualification examinations and systems therefor and mutual certification of such examinations with local qualification examinations, aiming at further popularization and branding of Japanese-style monodzukuri; etc.



Program for fostering SIs for realizing lean automation (LA) in Thailand

## 3 Field of carbon neutrality

- (1) Enhancing understanding of Japan's cutting-edge technologies for environmental and energy efficiency improvement, developing local systems, including rulemaking, and fostering international awareness of realistic and diverse transition to carbon neutrality, through such efforts as training programs for government and industrial stakeholders in emerging countries.
- (2) Conducting training programs targeting local businesses in the production facility- and other equipment fields, with Japan's quality environmental and energy efficiency systems; and developing human resources that are responsible for operation of such facilities; etc.



Scene from a Japan-provided course in the field of IT