The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) organization is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its founding this year. As a symbol of “tangible assistance with a Japanese face,” the JOCV has made it its mission to work closely together with and share the perspectives of the local people.

But what is the JOCV all about? In this issue, we profile the true significance of the organization through examples of JOCV projects the world over while exploring the organization’s fifty-year history.