

## Message from Coordinator

Dear JICA Training Alumni,

It is my pleasure if this small column describes the stories of the participants posted every month from now on would serve as a reminder of those days.

Setsuko Negishi, Training Advisor, RESTEC

### Column 1. FIFA World Cup -Remote Sensing Team- (1994)

The 2014 FIFA World Cup had been taking place in Brazil till the middle of July. Twenty years have already passed since the 1994 FIFA World Cup was held in the USA. I miss the two months I spent together with "Remote Sensing Team". As the JICA remote sensing training was held almost at the same time as the World Cup, the results drew the attentions of the participants and thus they discussed the topic every day.

I can still remember that we had the eight participants from the eight different countries including one each from Argentine, Brazil, Mexico and Saudi Arabia among the teams that made it to the round of 16. The participant from Brazil was carried away by the atmosphere and promised his course mates that he would treat everyone to dinner costs 10,000 Yen each at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, which is known as one of the most prestigious and luxurious hotels in Tokyo, if Saudi Arabia won the Championship. While praying for the victory of Brazil, he was cheering Saudi Arabia. For one thing, he knew that the national team had made their World Cup debut; for another, he was interested in the expensive dinner. Contrary to the friendship in the classroom (the trainees from Brazil and Argentine were very good friends), the world cup final was played by those two countries. It was next to the last day of the training course. To celebrate the victory, the Argentinean offered a bouquet to the Brazilian lady. Congratulations, Brazilians!