

Climate Change Measures

Climate Change: A Serious Threat to Humanity

Climate change has the potential to undermine our planet's ability to support human life. Ecosystems, human society, economies and human security may already be threatened in many places. Slowing down climate change requires close cooperation between developed and developing countries. Since the impact of climate change is likely to be more severe in developing countries, an increasing level of international cooperation is needed to ensure that poverty reduction and peacebuilding efforts already under way are not substantially impaired by climate change.

International Framework to Address Climate Change

Apparent signs of the effects of climate change have already begun to emerge. These include coastal erosion from rising sea levels, increasing droughts and other abnormal weather patterns and the growing size of tropical storms. Furthermore, there are concerns about declining food production, depleting water resources and an increase in infectious disease outbreaks.

Climate change is a serious threat to all humanity. The international community must band together under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" and recognize climate change as a critical issue that has to be addressed. Developing countries, however, lack the technology and funds to address the effects of climate change on their own and require extensive technology transfers and financial support.

Against this backdrop, a negotiating process for a new post-Kyoto Protocol framework was decided at the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 13) in December 2007. The next framework, which includes Technical Assistance and financial support for climate change programs in developing countries, has been discussed and will be adopted by mutual agreement at COP15 to be held in December 2009. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) prepared the Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation: Policy Guidance in collaboration with the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC). Furthermore, the appropriate

role of development aid in climate change programs as a whole is scheduled for debate based on decisions reached at COP13.

The Japanese Government's Commitment: Building the Cool Earth Partnership

After the announcement in 1997 of the Kyoto Initiative, which was adopted by the Kyoto Protocol, Japan actively supported climate change programs for developing countries. In January 2008, at the World Economic Forum (Davos Meeting) in Switzerland, as a measure to assist developing countries that are trying to contribute to climate stabilization by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while promoting economic growth, Japan announced the Cool Earth Partnership, a funding mechanism that makes US\$10 billion (¥1.25 trillion) in funds available for use over a five year period starting from 2008.

As a part of this, the Japanese government established the Program Grant Aid for Environment and Climate Change (GAEC) to help developing countries undertake adaptation measures against climate change and improve such countries' access to clean energy. It also established the Climate Change Japanese ODA Loan program primarily to assist climate change mitigation through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Since the partnership program was launched, 76 countries have joined Japan's Cool Earth Partnership. As of March 27, 2009, Japan had already implemented specific assistance measures under these programs with 39 countries.

JICA's Initiatives

When New JICA was launched in October 2008, it established the Office for Climate Change as an independent unit within JICA. The Agency supports initiatives that address climate change in accordance with Japanese government policies. Its activities focus on minimizing climate change risks from the viewpoint of human security for socially vulnerable people. It also aims to effectively utilize Japan's past achievements in development assistance as well as draw on a wealth of public and private sector expertise and technology.

In its assistance programs to mitigate the effects of climate change, JICA undertakes cooperation that offers the co-benefits of greenhouse gas reduction and sustainable development. Such a balanced approach is important for developing countries, which are concerned about the risk of environmental regulations inhibiting economic growth.

Two ODA loans from Japan to Bangladesh, provided under the Climate Change Program Loan mechanism, were approved in February 2009. These loans were for the New Haripur Power Plant Development Project and the Central Zone Power Distribution

Project, which both contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions and the stable supply of electric power. The Dhaka Low-Carbon Waste Management Plan—supported with GAEC to Bangladesh—seeks to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve the environment for city residents by introducing natural gas-powered vehicles for waste collection. CO₂ emissions from these vehicles are low compared with conventional vehicles.

Although mitigation efforts are important, some level of climate change and accompanying impacts are unavoidable. For this reason, JICA supports adaptation measures against climate change through the practical application of Technical Cooperation, Loan Aid and Grant Aid. Such programs aim to fully utilize JICA's accumulated expertise.

For example, in response to constant flood damage in the West Nyando River Basin in Kenya, JICA conducted the Nyando River Basin Flood Disaster Management Program Survey to promote community-based flood management and to formulate a flood management master plan, which will be supported with GAEC.

In Bangladesh, with 80% of the country's land lying at an elevation of nine meters or lower, JICA provided Grant Aid to build cyclone shelters that double as elementary schools, and improve flood warning capabilities by overhauling some of the country's meteorological radar systems. Bangladesh has in the past suffered enormous damage from rainy season flooding and tropical cyclones. Immediately after Bangladesh suffered extensive damage from a tropical cyclone in the November 2007, JICA provided emergency relief supplies and emergency Grant Aid assistance. The following month, JICA conducted a needs assessment for cyclone reconstruction assistance. In light of the results, an emergency disaster recovery project funded by ODA loans was approved and ongoing support provided.

For regions around the world suffering from climate change-induced flooding and droughts, JICA is implementing the Programme for Emergency Water Supply for Addressing Climate Change. In Ethiopia, Senegal, Nigeria and Mozambique this program is helping to supply safe and sanitary drinking water.

Example

Indonesia Climate Change Program Loan (ODA Loan)

Support for Comprehensive Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Measures

Indonesia ranks eleventh in the world for greenhouse gas emissions. However, when the forest sector is factored in, Indonesia rises to third place behind China and the United States. This is principally attributable to emissions associated with deforestation, peatland devastation and forest fires.

Indonesia served as the conference chair at COP13 and coordinated the Bali Action Plan,

which aims to build a post-Kyoto Protocol framework after 2013. It also took a proactive approach to institute on its own a national action plan to combat climate change.

As a result of a policy dialogue between the Japanese government, JICA and the Indonesian government concerning climate change programs, in September 2008 the first ODA loan was approved under the Climate Change Program Loan mechanism. Subsequently, in November 2008, Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD: the French Development Agency) became a participant in the provision of this Climate Change Program Loan.

JICA and AFD dispatched teams of experts to the field to jointly monitor and evaluate the results of climate change programs instituted by the Indonesian government. The teams also give advice on future climate change programs based on the experience of Japan and other countries. The Climate Change Program Loan to Indonesia has attracted the attention of other developing countries and donors as an effective means of building climate change policy planning and implementation into aid programs. It is hoped that the results of this cooperation will have a positive impact on surrounding countries and regions.