

Efforts toward ISO Certification

JICA is active in its efforts to address environmental problems, striving for a level of environmental conservation that envelops all of human life in concert with sustainable development. On April 1, 2004, JICA's president announced details of the Agency's Environment Policy, as a first step toward the full-scale implementation of its environmental management system. As a part of its ongoing environmental endeavors, JICA's domestic organization achieved ISO 14001 certification in 2005.

About ISO 14001

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) formulated ISO 14001 as a global standard for the construction and operation of environmental management systems. It was established against the recent background of enormous concern over environmental issues. The standard calls for organizations to prevent and reduce the environmental burden generated by their activities and, through the PDCA (Plan → Do → Check → Act) cycle, to consistently engage in activities that benefit the environment.

Environmental Efforts

JICA places the utmost importance on efforts that incorporate concerns for the environment. This emphasis is the linchpin of its Environment Policy.

Basic Principles

Based on the mission outlined under the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency—Japan International Cooperation Agency—“to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation and to the sound development of Japan and the international socioeconomy by contributing to the development or reconstruction of the economy and society, or economic stability of overseas regions which are in the developing stage”—and in conjunction with contributions made toward preservation of the global environment while strictly observing environmental laws and regulations, JICA will implement and continually improve its environmental management systems in order to prevent and lessen the environ-

mental burden generated by its activities.

Promotion of Environmental Measures through International Cooperation

As an organization that provides ODA, JICA promotes Technical Cooperation projects, based on Japan's aid policies that contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment.

- Efforts related to climate change (details on page 109)
- Promotion of international cooperation that contributes to environmental conservation in developing countries
- Reduction of the environmental impact of development projects through adherence to guidelines that take into consideration environmental society

Promotion of Environmental Education

JICA strives to accumulate knowledge and information related to the environment and to increase people's environmental awareness.

- ▶ Educational and awareness activities through an introduction to JICA's environmental efforts
- ▶ Proposal and implementation of ongoing surveys and research regarding environmental issues
- ▶ Provision of ongoing education and training through seminars and briefings for JICA's directors, officers, employees, and persons engaged in the Agency's work, and promotion of environmentally conscious activities in offices

Promotion of Environmentally Conscious Activities in Offices and Facilities

JICA promotes environmentally conscious activities in an effort to reduce the environmental burden generated by its work and projects.

- ▶ Promotion of waste reduction, resource and energy conservation and resource recycling activities
- ▶ Promotion of the environmentally conscious procurement of goods under systems such as the Law on Promoting Green Purchasing

Adherence to Environmental Laws and Regulations

JICA has established a system that ensures strict adherence to laws and regulations. In this context, the Agency has created a “Register of Environmental Laws and Regulations” that outlines the legal and other requirements specific to the environmental aspects of its activities.

For details on other efforts, please refer to the following website: <http://www.jica.go.jp/environment/index.html>.