## Preface



## **Evaluation activities for ODA loan projects**

The Millennium Development Goals set forth by the global community advocate poverty reduction and securing of safe water supplies. However, an increasing number of people are living on less than a dollar day, including more than 700 million people in Asia and 300 million people in Africa. More than 1 billion people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water. This results in gaps in living standards that are believed to be one of the root causes of terrorism and regional conflict. Moreover, people living in poverty face greater risks from natural disasters such as tsunami, earthquakes, and droughts. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, it is indispensable that the developing countries themselves evaluate and attempt to improve the development policies and development projects and that donors including Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) support the earnest efforts of these countries.

JBIC's Overseas Economic Cooperation Operations is taking up the challenges for poverty reduction, foundation for sustained growth, respond to global issues and peace-building, achieve human resource development, etc., by providing ODA loans to developing countries. JBIC has been making even greater use of the evaluation process as a means of promoting higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness in project implementation and as a means of fulfilling its responsibility to be fully accountable for ODA loans. Ex-ante evaluation reports, where quantitative outcome targets are set ahead of implementation, are published for all ODA loan projects, while the ex-post evaluations, undertaken by third-party evaluation experts, assess the projects' efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability on the basis of international evaluation criteria. Moreover, JBIC has introduced verification procedures for the midterm stage and for the ex-post evaluation to strengthen the consistency of evaluation activity. The results of the evaluations are reflected in all of JBIC's operations as well as in the Medium-Term Strategy for Overseas Economic Cooperation Operations that is formulated every three years. In addition, all information relating to evaluation is made available to the public - both in Japan and overseas - via feedback seminars and the JBIC website. We look forward to your ongoing understanding and cooperation as we attempt to affect further improvements in our evaluation procedures while also promoting the participation of developing countries so as to achieve even higher levels of efficiency and transparency in the provision of ODA loans.

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