

JICA's Path for Development Activities

JICA's Path for Development Activities in Fiscal 2012

Based on JICA's missions as the implementing agency of Japan's ODA ((1) addressing the global agenda, (2) reducing poverty through equitable growth, (3) improving governance, and (4) achieving human security), JICA will formulate and implement programs that address seven priority issues in accordance with the items listed below, while ensuring consistency with the policies of the Japanese government (e.g., "ODA Review Final Report," Priority Policy Issues for International Cooperation, the New Growth Strategy, Strategies to Revitalize Japan, and other items).

The current instability in the global economy and labor markets is expected to continue. Furthermore, prices of resources, energy and food continue to increase rapidly. The result is growing pressure on low-income countries and vulnerable people. Consequently, there is a need for more inclusive development in programs to promote human security.

ODA is a means for pursuing the shared interests of the world. Bearing this in mind, JICA must target global issues like environmental problems that can impede economic growth.

In addition, JICA will work even harder on "win-win" cooperation that utilizes alliances with private-sector Japanese companies that plan to start overseas operations. This cooperation will reflect the current status of Japan's economy and be consistent with the overriding premise of contributing to poverty reduction and sustained economic growth in developing countries. To provide this cooperation, JICA will aggressively consider the use of Technical Cooperation and financial cooperation (Development Policy Loans (DRL), etc.) that contribute to revisions to policies and systems needed to improve the investment climate.

Furthermore, the positions of traditional partners are declining because of the European economic crisis and tight government budgets. On the other hand, the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that was held in Busan, South Korea, in November 2011 spotlighted the growing importance of emerging countries and the need to strengthen dialogues with these countries. From the standpoint of development effectiveness and efficiency as well, there is an urgent need to build effective relationships based on partnerships and cooperation through dialogues and support for partnerships with emerging countries. At the same time, assistance alliances with traditional partners will continue to be strengthened.

When implementing these programs, research and other activities will be used for the effective creation, sharing, provision and accumulation of knowledge across the entire organization. The aim is to use this knowledge to help solve problems in developing countries.

Priority Issues

1. As part of assistance for reducing poverty and achieving sustainable economic growth in developing countries, incorporate the New Growth Strategy, particularly the consideration of alliances with Japanese companies, primarily SMEs planning on starting overseas operations. In addition, increase aid in the Asia-Pacific region based on the 4th Mekong-Japan Summit, 15th Japan-ASEAN Summit and 6th Pacific Islands Summit in the current fiscal year.
2. Environmental and climate change measures based on the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change
3. Cooperation for disaster preparedness, including support for establishing infrastructures that can withstand natural disasters
4. Achievement of MDGs with a focus on assistance to Africa since 2012 is the target year for achieving the TICAD IV pledge
5. Support for peacebuilding in Afghanistan and other countries
6. Support for democratization and new nation-building following the Arab Spring movement in the Middle East
7. Other priorities

In addition to the above priorities, one significant item is support for democratization in Myanmar, a process that is beginning to advance rapidly, in order to achieve regional stability. The primary standpoint is the reduction of poverty. Extending aid to Myanmar is also important from the standpoints of promoting alliances with Japanese companies and supplying aid in concert with ASEAN. While closely monitoring the political status of Myanmar, JICA will study the formulation of projects and business plans that are timely and effective as well as reflect the policies of Japan.