

# 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 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 entire organization in Japan, including the head office, received ISO 14001 certification in fiscal 2005. Certification was renewed in fiscal 2010 and has been renewed afterward following annual inspections.

## 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 to consistently engage in activities that benefit the environment through the plan-do-check-action (PDCA) cycle.

## Environmental Efforts

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

### Basic Principles

As stated in the "Law on General Rules of Japan International Cooperation Agency," JICA's mission is 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," particularly to global environmental protection in compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Furthermore, in order to prevent and reduce negative environmental impacts that result from JICA's activities, JICA will utilize an environmental management system and shall work continuously to improve it. The system will be based on the following policies:

### (1) Promotion of environmental measures through international cooperation activities

Based on the Japanese government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) policies, JICA will promote cooperation activities for the protection and improvement of the environment. JICA will continue to:

- ▶ Promote international cooperation and projects that contribute to environmental protection in developing countries; and
- ▶ Efforts related to climate change [➡ See page 96 (Global Environment and Climate Change)]
- ▶ Mitigate any adverse environmental impacts of development

programs and projects in accordance with the guidelines for environmental and social considerations [➡ See page 146].

### (2) Promotion of activities for general environmental awareness

With the aim of raising public awareness, JICA collects information about environmental issues. JICA will continue to:

- ▶ Carry out promotional and educational activities by introducing JICA's programs on environmental issues;
- ▶ Conduct surveys and research on environmental issues, and develop relevant proposals; and
- ▶ Implement continuous training through seminars and guidance programs for JICA all employees and personnel engaged in JICA's activities.

### (3) Promotion of environmentally friendly activities within JICA offices and other JICA facilities

JICA promotes environmental programs to reduce any negative impacts caused by its activities at offices and other facilities. JICA will continue to:

- ▶ Promote waste reduction, resource and energy conservation, recycling; and
- ▶ Procure environmentally friendly products based on the "Law on Promoting Green Purchasing" and other relevant laws and regulations.

### (4) Compliance with environmental laws and regulations

JICA will consistently adhere to relevant environmental laws and regulations.

For details on other efforts, please refer to the following website: [http://www.jica.go.jp/english/operations/social\\_environmental/index.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/english/operations/social_environmental/index.html)