

# Efforts toward the Global Environment

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 the Environmental Management System (EMS). 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 has been renewed afterward following annual inspections.

JICA has been implementing environmental activities which utilize the ISO 14001 framework, and these activities have become established as part of JICA's operations. As a result, JICA has made progress in the conservation of resources and energy and in other ways to lower environmental impact. In recent years, there have been even greater demands to properly fulfill social obligations such as compliance with environmental laws and regulations. In line with this trend, JICA needs to place even more importance on the conservation of resources and energy and compliance with laws and regulations. Therefore, JICA will switch to its own EMS after the expiration of the ISO 14001 certification on October 28, 2013 for the purpose of building a more efficient and effective EMS. The JICA EMS will facilitate even more environmental activities while still incorporating the fundamental principles of ISO 14001.

## Environmental Policy

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 resulting from JICA's activities, JICA will utilize an environmental management system and 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;
- ▶ Make efforts related to climate change [➡ See page 89 (Global Environment and Climate Change)]; and
- ▶ Mitigate any adverse environmental impacts of development programs and projects in accordance with the guidelines for environmental and social considerations [➡ See page 140].

### (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 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 activities, 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)