



Brazil: the Amazonian rain forest, called "the lungs of the earth." (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)

Director General's Message



Efforts in Line with the New Framework of 2015 for the Fields of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, and Water Resources

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The year 2015 will be a major milestone for the international community. A new framework will be formulated at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Sendai, Japan, new goals will be determined at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21), and a new framework after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be formulated. JICA is making efforts with a focus on 2015.

In the field of DRR, at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013, JICA proposed the importance of DRR investment in development projects. What is notable in this field is that JICA has developed DR²AD, a model that quantitatively evaluates the impact of DRR investment on GDP growth; the validation results of this model were featured in the "United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013." In 2014, working with the international community, JICA will utilize this model to verify the effect of DRR investment.

As for climate change, in response to the agreement by COP19, which was held in 2013, JICA will strengthen support for comprehensive disaster risk management, including prevention and mitigation for the sake of countries vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. As part of reinforcing cooperation with East Asia,¹ JICA initiated cooperation for the Climate Change International Technical and Training Center in Thailand in order to develop human resources in charge of climate change in the ASEAN region.

In the field of environmental management, JICA carried out surveys on the promotion of waste management in African countries as a priority goal of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). On the basis of the results, JICA is planning cooperation

for improving comprehensive capabilities regarding administrative waste control in Nigeria.

In the field of natural conservation, by promoting REDD-plus as mitigation of global warming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by forestation, JICA has supported construction of information systems, such as establishing forest inventories that measure accumulated amounts of carbon, utilizing Japan's satellite data in eleven countries. JICA also supports regional organizations in central and southern Africa in order to cope with cross-border issues such as management of natural protected areas.

In the fields of water and sanitation, in 2013 JICA provided assistance primarily for access to safe water for the purpose of achieving MDGs in 2015. As a top donor in this field, JICA has contributed to water supplies for about 50 million people for a decade up to 2010. Specifically, the water supplies in major Asian cities can be said to be an achievement of Japan's 60-year ODA contributions. JICA will continue to support overseas activities of local governments and the private sector, with their abundant experience, technologies, and know-how in the field of water supply and sewerage as well as waste management.

1. The region including countries that participated in the East Asia Summit (EAS): the 10 ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, and the United States.