

Efforts to Better Global Environment

JICA is active in its efforts to address environmental problems, striving for a level of environmental conservation and sustainable development. On April 1, 2004, JICA announced the Environment Policy as the basic principle toward the environment and took our first step toward the implementation of the Environmental Management System (EMS). JICA's entire organization in Japan, including the head office, received ISO 14001 certification in fiscal 2005. Certification has been renewed following annual inspections.

JICA has implemented environmental activities utilizing the ISO 14001 framework, and these activities have become an established part of JICA's operations. As a result, JICA has made progress in conservation of resources and energy and decrease environmental impact. In recent years, there have been even greater demands to properly fulfill civic obligations such as compliance with environmental laws and regulations. With this trend, JICA needs to place higher importance on the conservation of resources and energy and compliance with laws and regulations. Therefore, JICA has switched to its own EMS after ISO 14001 certification expires in 2013 for the purpose of building a more efficient and effective EMS. The JICA EMS aims to facilitate environmental protection 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. Key points of the Environment Policy are 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." This global environmental protection will be conducted 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 continuously work to improve it. The system will be based on the following policies:

● Promotion of environmental protection through international cooperation activities

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

- ▶ Promote international cooperation projects that contribute to environmental protection in developing countries
- ▶ Efforts related to climate change
- ▶ Mitigate in any adverse environmental impacts from

development programs and projects in accordance with the guidelines for environmental and social considerations.

● 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
- ▶ Provide continuous training through seminars and guidance programs for all employees and personnel engaged in JICA's activities.

● Promotion of environmentally friendly activities within JICA offices and facilities

JICA promotes environmental programs to reduce any negative impacts caused by its activities in all facilities. JICA will continue to:

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

● 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/our_work/social_environmental/index.html