

# Efforts to Improve Management of Organization and Operations

Based on the Medium-term Objectives and Plan, JICA has been working on improvement of the organizational management and operations. Above all, JICA has placed priorities on areas such as improvement of the mobility of organizational management and streamlining as well as rationalization of working procedures.

## ● Improvement of Mobility of Organizational Management

To cope with internal and external environmental changes, such as the diversified needs of developing countries and a change in aid priorities in Japanese ODA policies, JICA has made the following efforts at JICA headquarters and overseas offices.

At JICA headquarters, the jurisdictional affairs of individual departments and sections responsible for each issue were reorganized. Doing so will further facilitate the sharing and utilization of knowledge of development challenges and effectively respond to global initiatives in the fields of disaster control, food security, and the like. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the functions of overseas offices, organizational structure of overseas offices has been reviewed and fortified. Additionally, the headquarters strengthened its support system for overseas offices.

## ● Streamlining and Rationalization of Working Procedures

In fiscal 2012, the Committee for Operational Process

Improvement, chaired by the President, was formed within JICA. Under the leadership of the President, JICA has been working on drastic streamlining and simplification of operational processes, and formulated a plan to improve quality and speed of operations. Based on the plan, JICA worked on the following operational improvement in fiscal 2015.

- ▶ For more effective, efficient, and proper facility management of JICA domestic offices, JICA strengthened the technical support scheme to integrate facility management information and formulate the medium- to long-term renovation and maintenance plan.
- ▶ To reduce costs for system development and maintenance, improve convenience, and reinforce information system governance, improvement of information systems, such as construction of a shared database system, was conducted.
- ▶ With the aim of realizing more flexible and effective inputs and activities to produce positive outcomes in technical cooperation projects, operational guidelines related to experts' activity expenses, procurement of equipment, and overseas training were reviewed. Furthermore, operational processes were further streamlined by improving the estimation method for project planning and also by developing standard description samples.

# Efforts to Better Global Environment

On April 1, 2004, JICA announced the Environment Policy as the basic principle toward the environment and took the first step toward the implementation of the Environmental Management System (EMS). In recent years, there have been even greater demands to properly fulfill civic obligations such as compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Therefore, JICA has switched to its own EMS after ISO 14001 certification expired 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.

In particular, JICA will promote the following activities.

- ▶ Promotion of environmental measures 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.
- ▶ Promotion of activities for general environmental awareness
 

With the aim of raising public awareness, JICA collects information about environmental issues.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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:

→ [JICA website](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/social_environmental/index.html)

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our\\_work/social\\_environmental/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/social_environmental/index.html)