

HUMAN SETTLEMENT COUNTRY PROFILE

JAPAN

Decision-Making

Programmes and Projects

- A. Providing Adequate Shelter for All
- B. Improving Human Settlement Management
- C. Promoting Sustainable Land-Use Planning and Management
- D. Promoting the Integrated Provision of Environmental Infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management
- E. Promoting Sustainable Energy and Transport Systems in Human Settlements
- F. Promoting Human Settlement Planning and Management in Disaster-Prone Areas
- G. Promoting Sustainable Construction Activities
- H. Promoting Human Resource Development and Capacity-Building for Human Settlement Development

Status

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

Information

Financing

Cooperation

Decision-Making: Laws regarding changing consumption include the following: The Law for the Promotion of Utilization of Recyclable Resource: Based on the Law for the Promotion of Utilization of Recyclable Resources which came into effect in October 1991; Law concerning Special Measure for Promotion of Utilization of New Energy: Enacted to accelerate the introduction of new energy for achieving the FY 2010 targets.

A number of laws, regulations or directives are established regarding the transportation and traffic system including Law for Act concerning Special Measures for Improvement of Roads and Law for Act for Construction of Arterial Motorways for National Land Development. In accordance with the top Runner programme based on the Law Concerning the Rational Use of Energy, an improvement in fuel efficiency of gasoline passenger vehicles to more than 20% in comparison with FY1995 is targeted by FY2010.

The basic concept of national land use is designated in the National Land Use Planning Act. The National Land Use Plan provides the basic framework for all other national plans relating to the use of national land as well as serves as an umbrella plan for prefectural and municipal plans. It also sets comprehensive and long-term guidelines concerning land use. The Third National Land Use Plan was formulated in February 1996 for the purpose of ensuring the following concerning national land use: (i) safety and security , (ii) sustainability and coexistence with nature , and (iii) beauty and comfort. In essence, the National Land Use Plan is intended to ensure the balanced use of national land over the long term while giving priority to public welfare and the conservation of the natural environment. For example, the Plan stipulates that in rural villages where farmland and residential land mingle, it is desirable to promote systematic and appropriate land use, taking into account specific local situation.

Enactment of Law Concerning Promotion of the Use of New Energy(1997): We have enacted the law to actively promote the development and utilization of new energy.

In April 1994, the National Council for Sustainable Agriculture was formed by JA (a national organization of agricultural cooperatives) in cooperation with Nisseikyo (a national body of consumer cooperatives) to promote various actions to achieve the targets of Sustainable Agriculture. The members of the Council are farmers, consumers and distributors. The Basic Law on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas, was enacted in July 1999. The multifunctional roles recognized in this law consist of the conservation of national land, and the natural environment by the formation of a good landscape and the maintenance of cultural traditions.

Programmes and Projects:

A. Providing Adequate Shelter for All: The Japanese Government has established “The 8th Housing Construction Five-Year Program”, planned for the fiscal years from 2001 through 2005, as a measure for dealing with housing-related problems. This program aims to realize comfortable life for the 21st century by ensuring that every person can choose and realize his/her way of living to suit his/her life plan from a diverse range of options. Its basic concepts are as follows: development of high-quality housing stock to meet the diverse needs of the people, development of residential environment to support the revitalization of society with a low birthrate and an aged population, development of housing and living environment which contributes to promotion of urban settlement and regional revitalization, and development of a housing market that is readily accessible by consumers.

B. Improving Human Settlement Management: *Eco-Mark Programme* is designed to enhance consumers to choose environmentally sound products through provision of product information on environmental aspect. A product allowed to bear the Eco-Mark shall satisfy the qualification that the burden on environment passed through each stage of manufacturing, using and disposing of this particular product is less compared to the other similar products. Working groups composed of experts, establish criteria for qualification.

Forest Kids Club Project: The Forest Kids Club Project aims at enhancing children's vitality and promoting forest environmental education for better understanding of forest management and cyclic use of forest resources, In FY 2000 about 51 thousand children are estimated to have participated in this Project in 235 towns and villages.

C. Promoting Sustainable Land-Use Planning and Management: The Agricultural and Rural Development Project has contributed to reducing labor hours for farming and for increasing productivity of agricultural production through implementing such measures as enlargement of farmland, arrangement of irrigation and drainage, construction of agricultural roads and improvements of soil conditions in order to introduce middle- and large-sized machinery to farms. Currently, the same Project is shifting from developing agricultural production to the improvement of infrastructure in rural areas in budgetary terms. The budget allocated to rural sewerage projects has been increasing in order to enable these areas to catch up with medium-sized cities with regard to the sewerage penetration ratio. Based on the Land Improvement Law established in 1949, the government has been carrying out Land Improvement Projects which in turn lead to stable agricultural productivity. Agricultural water resources have been developed as part of these projects in coordination with comprehensive planning for water use.

D. Promoting the Integrated Provision of Environmental Infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management: See under Freshwater and Sanitation Profiles.

E. Promoting Sustainable Energy and Transport Systems in Human Settlements: No information available.

F. Promoting Human Settlement Planning and Management in Disaster-Prone Areas: No information available.

G. Promoting Sustainable Construction Activities: No information available.

H. Promoting Human Resource Development and Capacity-Building for Human Settlement Development: No information available.

Status: Almost all households, as well as industrial complexes, are assured of the access to electricity. “New energy”, such as photovoltaic power generation, wind power generation, biomass energy etc.,

which are expected to play a significant role, still remain a small component of all energy supply, 1.2% in 2001. The comparatively higher cost of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power generation than that of conventional energy sources is a barrier preventing the introduction of them into households and local societies.

Planted forests make up 10 million hectares accounting for 41% and natural forests and others make up 15 million hectares accounting for 59%. The current growing stock is about 3.8 billion m³ with an average annual growth of 80 million m³ consisting mainly of planted forest.

The role played by farmers is of great significance to sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Farmers created an independent Agricultural Cooperation, which decided at its 1991 Conference to promote environmentally friendly agriculture.

The survey by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in 1994 shows the extended income effect of tourism as 24.5 trillion yen (GDP by tourism industry) and the extended employment effect, at 4.1 million persons. On a more negative side, tourism also causes littering, and increase in environmental pollution load around tourists' spots caused by effluent and garbage discharged from facilities including tourist establishment located in tourism areas; traffic congestion, and nuisance to local communities in tourism areas.

Capacity Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: *Green Aid Plan* is a cooperative programme aiming at transferring and spreading energy conservation based on Japan's experiences, and thereby supporting self-efforts made by developing countries to protect their environment.

The diffusion of solar batteries was promoted by governmental subsidy in particular for the installation of solar panel on household roof so that the total subsidy amounted to 113.8 billion yen, for the generation of 421k W from 1994 to 2002. The number of wind power generation plants is rapidly increasing in recent years to about 576 in 2002.

Financing: The FY 2004 budget for the introduction of New Energy is 161.3 billion yen. Budget for Introduction of New Energy: Most of the subsidies are financed by the national budgets. Remitted taxation is also used as effective means to supply economical merits.

Cooperation: Japan also works directly in the field of Forest Conservation and Combating Desertification, where it conducts afforestation projects with the participation of local authorities and relieves the poverty of the local population in Nepal, Thailand, Tanzania, Senegal, and Kenya.

Regarding international cooperation in the area of shelter, Japan has conducted various activities based on the "Policy for Long-Term Action in the Area of Shelter (approved by the Board for the Promotion of the 1988 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless)".

So far, there are two major activities Japan has taken as follow-ups for the World Food Summit's Plan of Action. One is providing support to the development of the food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system (FIVIMS) in Asia. The other is sponsoring and supporting various activities under the FAO's TeleFood Campaign which mobilizes resources to fund small grass-roots development projects aimed at helping people free themselves from hunger by raising awareness of the scourge of hunger. Some projects for ensuring the settlements of urban poor have been supposed through the small-scale grant aid.

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