

## Support in Education to Developing Countries and Global Warm

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The then Prime Minister Jun'ichiro Koizumi announced 'Japan's Climate Change Initiative' as Japan's contribution to the implementation of the G8 action plan. As mentioned above, developing countries, which must contend with problems such as poverty and hunger, and emerging economies, which tend to prioritize economic growth, have difficulty taking effective measures to address environmental problems such as global warming. However, as is clear from Japan's experience during the era of high economic growth when serious pollution problems developed into social issues, the failure to take environmental measures can result in enormous costs and affect the global environment.

For this reason, Japan provides support to boost the capacity of developing countries, especially emerging economies, to deal with environmental problems through assistance for establishing systems for human resource development, policymaking, and environmental monitoring. As an example of this support, Japan helps to improve developing countries' capacity to deal with environmental problems by supporting the policy-makers of developing countries acquire knowledge and understanding of environmental problems through assistance based on 'environment centers'. Japan has supported the establishment of environment centers in six countries-Thailand, Indonesia, China, Mexico, Chile, and Egypt-which are staffed by Japanese experts who provide training in environmental technology. At the same time, these experts exchange information with experts and policy-makers of these countries on a daily basis. Functioning as bases of regional cooperation in these countries, these environment centers distribute environmental information and technology to neighboring countries. These activities are expected to expand.

Thailand, which was the first among the six countries to launch an Environment Center Project, received grant aid and technical assistance from Japan, and in 1989 established an Environmental Research and Training Center, which opened in 1992. This center gathers monitoring data concerning environmental pollution, contributing to the policies and activities of the Thai Government's Pollution Countermeasures Bureau. In the ten years since this environmental research and training center opened, one third of the 5,027 trainees are local public officials who help to distribute information and technology to their provinces. Japanese experts have also been dispatched to this center as instructors and provide training in measures against acid rain to trainees from surrounding countries. The center thus acts as a base for distributing information and technology for the environment to the Southeast Asian region.