

Other Global Issues

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Japanese Policy on Global Issues: Combining Strength and Controversy

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Introduction

Shaping national policy requires the balancing of the goals of hundreds of societal, corporate, and governmental groups. Shaping national policy concerning global issues seems to raise the number of groups in consideration to a million. As an economic powerhouse, Japan has made a place of increasing importance for itself and its policies among world leaders. However, Japanese governmental leaders are the first to recognize that more than money is needed to be welcomed at the table of global power. A leader protects, teaches, provides, and assists. These roles are performed through taking stances and forming policies concerning issues that are crucial to global well-being.

There is no question that Japan has earned its recognition as a world power. As a nation, it is a leading provider of foreign aid and development assistance. At times during the past decade, Japan has led the world in providing financial foreign aid. It unselfishly uses its economic and technological strengths to teach, build, and provide in developing countries. With aid and development missions extending to all populated continents, Japan is now regarded as an important source of assistance, both financial and technological.

However, the Japanese image in the global mirror is not free from blemishes. Just as often as Japan is praised for its international aid directed towards development, it is berated for its harsh treatment of the environment and its soft national policies on human rights. Japan has experienced serious environmental crises in its past, but still it lags behind other world leaders where effective environmental protection policy is concerned. Improvement in such areas as air pollution and waste management have been badly needed, yet it is only as of late that Japan has begun to take small steps to improve its treatment of the environment. Furthermore, though Japan crusades for equal rights and gender equality in developing countries, its own national policies contain loop holes allowing for discrimination and other human rights violations.

In order to better understand the recognition of Japan as a world leader, this paper takes a closer look at Japanese national policy on global issues. Specifically, Japanese efforts in foreign aid, development, environmental protection, and human rights administration will be examined. These particular topics have been chosen precisely because they are at the extremes of world opinion concerning Japanese policy on global issues. In general, this paper finds that while being acclaimed for its foreign aid and development efforts, Japan remains notorious for its disrespect for both the environment and human rights.

Foreign Aid

Economic strength is an essential tool used by the Japanese to make their presence known on the international scene. Their ability to provide aid to countries in need has made them a leading source of financial support in today's world. In order to better

manage its assistance efforts, Japan has established various projects and programs which respond to diverse international needs.

Grant Aid

Grant Aid is the most prevalent type of financial assistance offered by Japan to countries in need. Its purpose, as defined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is to reduce the debt which accumulates in recipient countries when they undertake humanitarian projects or rebuilding. This form of aid is principally used for projects which assist basic human needs (BHN) and Global Issues Initiatives (GII). Such endeavors include population growth control, improving health care including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, supplying safe drinking water, and providing primary education. Under no circumstances may Grant Aid be used for military purposes.

By preventing the increase of the developing country's debt, Japan assists in the implementation of economic and social development projects within that country. However, the Grant Aid program insists upon the self-help of the recipient country. This means that the recipient country is required to pay all standard and maintenance costs of the newly-established programs. In this manner, Japan encourages self-reliance within the developing country. Several other rules are important to the effectiveness of this aid program. For example, all of the project's consultants and contractors must be Japanese nationals. This rule allows Japan to oversee the construction and development of each grant aid project. Furthermore, it benefits the Japanese economy. In addition, projects must be completed within a previously allotted time period. Usually this period is defined

as the same Japanese fiscal year in which the Japanese cabinet approved the project, although some past projects have extended into the following year.

In general terms, Grant Aid is financed by a portion of the national budget that is provided by Japanese taxpayers. In order that the recipient country does not accrue debt, funds are not rendered to the recipient country in cash. Rather, the recipient country opens an account in a Japanese foreign exchange bank through which the Japanese contractor is provided sufficient funds. It is through this bank that the governments of Japan and the developing country maintain constant contact.

Disaster Prevention

The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning in 1990, has seen an increase in Japanese efforts to reduce and prevent damage caused by natural disasters in developing countries. In 1995, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced international exchange cooperation projects focused on the following four areas:

- Assistance for the improvement and diffusion of science and technology related to natural disaster reduction, training of personnel, and improvement of the counter-disaster systems, etc., through technical cooperation in such areas as training activities, joint research, dispatch of experts, supply of equipment, etc.
- Assistance to projects conducive to the reduction of natural disasters.
- Promotion of the transference of Japan's experience and knowledge, and mutual exchanges of experiences and knowledge of each country through holding international conferences, etc.
- Enhancement of international emergency relief assistance.¹

In accordance with these plans, Japan has offered support for erosion and sediment control in Indonesia. Due to the accumulation of economic assets in that country over the past decade, there is an increased risk for sediment disasters. Japan has provided financial assistance to projects which seek to reduce volcanic disasters, erosion and sediment control projects, as well as providing grant aid to the Volcanic Sabo Technical Center. In

addition to these donations, Japan has assisted in the development of human resources and technologies by establishing Project-Type Technical Cooperation which allows for three areas of collaboration in disaster prevention: acceptance of trainees, dispatch of experts, and provision of equipment.

Disaster Relief

Through a network involving international emergency relief systems and its national government, Japan provides emergency financial, personnel, and material assistance to damaged countries and international organizations. The key to this network is the Japan Disaster Relief Teams. Through its web of assistance, Japan can dispatch a rescue team within 24 hours of receiving a request for help and a medical team within 48 hours. In addition, Japan has prepared relief materials at several storage centers located in Narita (Japan), Singapore, Mexico City, Pisa (Italy) and the surroundings of Washington D.C. Japan dispatched 23 disaster relief teams consisting of a total of 254 members to 17 sites between 1987 and 1995. In addition, about 2.8 billion yen in material assistance was provided to more than a hundred countries.²

One example of the Japanese outreach to disaster-stricken nations could be seen following the crippling cyclone which hit Bangladesh in 1991. Along with a loan for emergency items and the restoration of roads and other facilities, Japan provided grant aid for the construction of more than 30 shelters. Housing about 2,000 people each, these shelters contributed to the spread of education in Bangladesh and became symbols of reconstruction efforts there.

Support of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Japan, along with many other countries, recognizes the advantages of supporting the activities of non-governmental organizations in developing countries. These advantages include the expediency with which NGOs can respond to emergencies such as disasters and food crises, distinct provision of very specific assistance for smaller projects, and direct implementation of grassroots-level development cooperation projects which encourage self-reliance within the developing countries. The Japanese government established the Subsidy System for NGO Projects in 1989 which has since been managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In discussing the conveniences of the Subsidy System for NGO Projects, the ministry of foreign affairs cites the following four advantages:

- Implementation of fine assistance which directly focuses on the actual need
- Redistribution of the manpower of NGOs hitherto required for fund raising to actual aid activities in developing countries
- Reinforcement of the financial base of Japanese NGOs
- Assistance for private sector-led aid activities in countries for which the provision of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) is difficult³

Recent budgets for this system have been as high as 1,000 million yen. In practice, the amount of subsidy for each project is at least half a million yen with a limit of approximately fifteen million yen. No recipient shall receive a subsidy which exceeds half of the total cost of the project. Eligible projects for NGO project subsidies include agricultural/fishing village development projects, manpower development projects, women's self-reliance assistance projects, health and hygiene projects, environmental conservation projects, and improvement of local industries projects.

Development

Japanese commitment to aid developing countries has made Japan the world's leading development donor. More than 150 developing countries and regions have benefited from Japanese aid including Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Middle East. In all, Japan has spent over \$70 billion in financial aid over the past five years.⁴

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

In keeping with Japan's commitment to aid, the ODA charter is constructed around four basic principles which guide Japan in assisting developing countries. The first principle demands compatibility between preservation of the environment and development ventures. Secondly, use of ODA for military purposes including aggravation of international conflicts must be avoided at all costs. Thirdly, military spending, development and production of weapons of mass destruction, and the export or import of weapons within the developing country should be closely supervised. Finally, the promotion of democratization and the introduction of a market-oriented economy should be monitored, as should the security of basic human rights and freedoms in the recipient country.⁵

With these four principles in mind, Japanese ODA strives to promote self-reliance efforts by a developing country through the strengthening of the country's social infrastructure and the cultivation of human resources. Actions are taken to ensure good governance within a developing country which allows for the efficient and fair distribution of resources. Great emphasis is placed on working towards globally sustainable development while improving environmental conditions within a developing region. In

addition, Japan consistently stresses its Women in Development (WID) program which, among other initiatives, assists developing countries in achieving gender equality.

Along with WID, there are several other extended organizational institutions within ODA. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is a multilateral funding system established in 1991 to help developing countries in their efforts to handle global environmental problems. Another institution within the ODA, the Common Agenda for Cooperation in a Global Perspective, originated in 1993 under the Japan-U.S. Framework for a New Economic Partnership. This organ discusses possible actions regarding important global issues in various subjects including health and population, narcotic drug trafficking, and technology. As a further advancement of collaboration within this institution, in 1996, Japan and the United States pledged six new areas of cooperation. A final organizational body of ODA is the Global Issues Initiative (GII). This measure, announced by Japan in 1994, calls for the provision of \$3 billion in ODA between 1994 and 2000 to aid developing countries in the areas of AIDS, family planning, and maternal and infant health.⁶

A Specific Example of Aid: Latin American Development

Japanese cooperation in Latin America has been very successful over the past decade. Three areas of aid have been specifically targeted by Japan. The first is democratization and economic reform. Japan has supported the democratic trend in Latin America by providing funds and personnel, including election observers, as well as cooperating in the development of seminars on election administration techniques. Furthermore, Japan has promoted economic progress in the region through support of market-oriented reform policies.

The second targeted area is the environment and population. Latin America faces serious environmental problems concerning the depletion of the Amazon rain forest, urban air pollution, water pollution, as well as problems associated with overpopulation in cities such as the spread of slums and drug abuse. Japan has provided both technical and financial assistance in the battle against such problems. One example of aid is the financial assistance being provided to the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control and to the United Nations Drug Control Program.

Finally, Japan is focused on the future of developing countries in Latin America. Meeting infrastructure requirements, cooperating with grass-roots movements, and promoting further South-South collaboration are among the most important initiatives for the future of Japanese ODA in Latin America. While continuing to provide ODA, Japan intends to support private sector assistance within the developing country as a means of upholding basic infrastructure programs which have been implemented by the developing country's government. Also, Japan is establishing grass-roots endorsement grants of about \$50,000-\$100,000 each which will be used for social development projects managed by non-governmental organizations and local governments. This plan is particularly welcome in developing countries because, though it is on a smaller scale, it is highly flexible. Finally, through third-country training programs, Japan intends to actively support technical cooperation among developing countries. A similar program, the third-country experts program, will dispatch Japanese experts together with experts of one developing country to other developing countries in an effort to share valuable knowledge and technology.⁷

Women in Development (WID)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan believes strongly that prolonged, balanced economic and social development cannot be achieved without the participation of women on equal terms with men. Because half of the world's population is women, economic and social development will not be considered successful until women can fully benefit from the process of development alongside men. Although the primary responsibility for establishing gender equality resides with the government of the developing country, Japan has supported self-help efforts through assistance for development programs that take into consideration gender equality. To illustrate, Official Development Assistance commitments to WID have exceeded \$500 million per year in the latter half of the 1990s.⁸

The Japanese initiative on WID is based upon three priority areas: education, health, and economic and social participation. In achieving women's empowerment and gender equality, Japanese efforts carefully consider all stages of women's lives including training, work, and giving birth.

Because gender disparity in education, particularly primary education, adversely affects the economic and social development of a country, it is necessary to guarantee equal educational opportunities for girls. Japanese support for the establishment of facilities for training and education for use by girls and literacy training for adult women are two examples of Japanese efforts to promote education for women in developing countries.

In order to fully participate in economic and social development women need to be healthy. In societies where the role of women is seen as bearing children, reproductive rights of women need to be protected so that unwanted pregnancies can be prevented and women can participate in and benefit from development. Japan has been working towards reducing the maternal mortality rate in developing countries below 200 per 100,000 births by the year 2010. Furthermore, provision of maternal health services such as regular medical examinations for babies and promotion of basic education on sanitation and nutrition have been part of Japanese efforts to promote healthy lifestyles of women.

Lastly, labor burden must be lessened to give women extra time and energy for economic and social participation. Job skills training needs to be made available to women in developing countries to ensure their active involvement in society. One way to enhance job skills training for women is to support micro-enterprises that are often managed by women. To this end, Japan has provided loan assistance to the Small-Scale Industries Development Program in India as well as Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, both of which advise and help in the establishment of micro-enterprises.

Environment

Japan has become notorious on an international level for its inadequate environmental policies. Unlike in the area of development, Japan has been consistently slandered for its environmental policies, or rather, its lack of effective environmental policies.

National Policies

In an attempt to repair the wounded reputation of Japan, global environmental protection was a top policy issue in Japan in 1998. A more structured policy was developed at that time which reiterated much of what other world powers had established up to ten years earlier. In general terms, Japanese policy is aimed at the three “Es”: economic growth, energy supply, and environmental protection. Japanese officials hope to reform the supply and demand structure of their energy market. Plans include a “front-runner system” through which enterprises are expected to improve the energy efficiency of their products. As for supply, the construction of nuclear power plants and the introduction of liquefied natural gas are anticipated to provide popular new energy sources. Also, Japan recognizes the need for technological innovation and international cooperation in the environmental sector. However, much of the criticism directed at Japan is focused on Japanese society. Therefore national changes must be made to shift the current economic system which is based on mass production, mass consumption, and mass waste. To this end the government has vowed to improve public consciousness through environmental education.

Although these policy measures are consistent with global pressures, Japan is receiving little praise for its environmental efforts. Rather, many are pointing out that policy changes similar to those made recently in Japan were made years ago in other countries, particularly Germany. The Environmental Research Institute, Inc., a Tokyo-based environmental think tank, blames the lack of environmental policy in the past on the government’s strong affinity for economic development.⁹ In 1997, this same agency proposed an Environmental Policy Act modeled after the law passed in the United States in 1969. The proposal was rejected by the Ministry of International Trade and Investment

which was more concerned about economic development. Japan is currently the only country among the 29 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that does not have an environmental assessment law.

Perhaps consequently, the wildlife of Japan is experiencing considerable destruction. An article in *Japan Quarterly* earlier this decade explained the seriousness of the situation. “That virtually one quarter of all vertebrate populations in Japan can be regarded as at risk in one way or another is... a terribly sad reflection of the downside of Japan’s enormous economic success.”¹⁰ The article went on to attribute the dire straits of Japanese wildlife to the destruction of habitat and the introduction of alien species to Japan, both of which could be regulated through environmental policy.

In a similar article published several years earlier, Japan is accused of such environmental crimes as whaling, driftnet fishing, enormous importation of tropical logs and endangered wildlife, and substantial contributions to pollution problems in other countries through international corporations. The author of the article charged a lack of effective communication between the government and corporations and the government and citizens’ groups as the cause of these crimes. In addition, the absence of an intern system inhibits the involvement of Japanese citizens in non-governmental environmental organizations.¹¹

On the other hand, Japan has been praised for its relatively recent decrease of pollution. The Kyoto Protocol, created in December 1997, called for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 6 percent from 1990 levels by the year 2000. Also, when it was reported that the density of dioxin, a carcinogenic agent, is over 200 percent higher in Japan than in European countries, new regulations were activated under the Waste

Disposal Law which are expected to cut dioxin emissions by 90 percent by the end of 2002. In addition to these legislative measures, the Japanese government is responding to legal complaints of citizens of damaging air pollution. Last year, residents of Nishi Yodogawa Ward, Osaka, settled their pollution damage suit outside of court after the government agreed to take steps to reduce pollution in that area through the use of innovative road surfacing and guardrails.¹²

However, a growing environmental protection movement in Japan feels that more policy is needed. The Central Environmental Council, an advisory body to the prime minister, stated in a report submitted to the Cabinet in 1997 that “the country’s environment policy lacks a framework that unifies various environmental measures so that a tangible result can be produced.” The Environment Agency is an additional organization working to encourage cooperation among local governments, companies, and consumers to promote conservation movements. In a country where consumer movements are traditionally weak, it is difficult for consumers to gather information without governmental regulation and support.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

There is an international consensus that Japan needs to take more environmental responsibility than it has in the past. As a global economic power, Japan has been accused of shirking its responsibility to protect the environment. This is considered doubly offensive considering the environmental prices Japan has paid in the past. Many feel that it is in a unique position to influence its Asian neighbors through sharing the lessons it has learned in the past on such problems as pollution and waste management. In addition to these justifications for Japanese environmental leadership, the international community

feels that because Japan cannot be active in international security efforts, global environmental initiative is particularly well-suited to Japan. In short, it would be a channel through which Japan could effectively display its international power.

Improvements in industry have also been suggested. Further technological innovation is needed and should be implemented worldwide by Japanese companies, not just at national sites. In addition, Japanese industry needs to formulate rules and standards on environmental protection. Companies should communicate with policymakers on traditional environmental issues like global warming and recycling, but also on new dangers such as dioxins and bio-toxic materials. Major industries should also actively participate in environmental education and actions of non-governmental organizations to improve communications between local governments and industry leaders.¹³

Global Environmental Efforts

The most recognized international environmental effort made by Japan is the aforementioned Kyoto Protocol, signed in late 1997. The United Nations' treaty, actively backed by Japan, received ample amounts of both praise and criticism. Complaints of the treaty were centered on several issues. In particular to Japan was its government's plan to trade for emissions credits with developing countries. This proposal called for the ability of countries that exceed their target for reducing emissions to sell their "savings" or "credits" to countries that are falling short of meeting their reduction targets. This provision was simply unacceptable to many international environmental organizations, including Greenpeace.

In addition to this stipulation, the Kyoto Protocol came under fire from the United States Vice President Al Gore for a lack of enforcement. The treaty included no specifics

on how violators will be punished or how each country will report its greenhouse gas emissions. Also, Vice President Gore complained that the treaty places the compliance burden on countries that have already worked to clean up their industries, while giving countries such as China, Brazil and India (which together represent 40 percent of the world's population) a free pass to pollute.

Perhaps in response to these drawbacks in the Kyoto treaty, and certainly in response to the calls throughout the last decade for an independent environmental organization in Japan, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) was launched in April 1998. Focusing primarily on the Asia-Pacific region, this think tank has been designed to take the initiative in proposing global environmental policies. The organization is expected to address such issues as how to tackle the complicated subject of the global environment, what kind of policies are necessary to solve the problems involved, and how research should be conducted to organize effective measures.

As a nonprofit organization, the IGES is targeting five areas: prevention of global warming, the quality of urban life, forestry conservation, environmental education and, environmental governance. International workshops and symposiums are being planned to allow for the participation of foreign researchers, journalists, and industry representatives.¹⁴ The actions of this newly-formed institution are being followed closely in the hopes that it will provide an avenue for Japanese environmental leadership on a global scale. Whether or not these dreams are realized, no one can deny that Japan has been instrumental in the development of global environmental awareness. In the last decade, Japan has provided more than 980 billion yen in global environmental aid.¹⁵

Human Rights

Most human rights issues in Japan are centered on the discrimination of various societal groups. In particular, the outdated treatment of women in Japan is surprising when one considers the extensive Japanese efforts to improve the societal position of women in developing countries. Additional problems regarding the discrimination of minority groups and prison practices are less extraordinary, as similar difficulties are present in the societies of other world powers.

National Policies

Gender inequality is a prevalent problem in Japan, especially where women in the workforce are concerned. In Japan there is a two-track job recruitment system. The first track, *sôgô-shoku*, is followed by people, typically students, searching for career-track jobs. The other track, *ippan-shoku*, terminates at secretarial and non-career positions. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Labor in October 1995 found that only 4.7% of 6000 companies recruited women for career-track jobs.¹⁶ These results reflect that discriminatory hiring methods are still practiced today in Japan.

In response to earlier complaints from women, the government passed the Equal Employment Opportunity Law for Men and Women in 1986. However, the law does not mandate the hiring of women and therefore still provides loopholes for companies who refuse to be fair. A 1994 study that questioned recent college graduates reported that “the number of female students who found work is an anemic 56% of that of male students.”¹⁷

Sadly, even after finding work, women continue to face discrimination in the workforce. More than half of Japanese women over the age of 15 work outside the home today. Typically, these women work for a few years, say until age 24 or 25, before they

get married. Most employers expect their female employees to resign when they marry or at the time of the birth of their first child. If neither of these events takes place, women are widely expected to leave their jobs by the age of 30. These unwritten rules allow employers to keep wages low and also prevent the need for any real company commitment to its female employees. Such strong elements of discrimination have discouraged women from joining the workforce in the past and are a continued source of grief for women today.

A second societal group that has constantly faced discrimination is Koreans living in Japan. More than 620,000 Koreans live permanently in Japan today, of which 85% were born there. Shameless prejudice for non-nationals leads to a lack of rights for non-citizen minority groups. The rights of minority groups are primarily limited in three ways. First, Koreans and other groups are made to live in constant fear of deportation. Oftentimes a non-national can be sent back to his native country for a minor infringement of the law. Secondly, all minorities are fingerprinted for Alien Registration Certificate purposes. This is a blatant form of discrimination when one considers that only Japanese criminals are required to have their fingerprints on record. Lastly, Koreans and other minority groups are restricted from employment in civil service fields or public schools.¹⁸ Recently, an organization of Korean residents petitioned the Osaka municipal government for the right to take examinations for general administrative positions. Although the petition provoked small amounts of reform, any jobs involving decision making or the exercise of public authority remain exclusive to Japanese nationals.

Perhaps the most acknowledged discrimination is directed towards the burakumin, an underprivileged class of Japanese society. The population of 3 million burakumin is

forced to live in about 6,000 communities called buraku, or dōwa districts, and suffer from lower daily living standards such as poor housing, roads, sewage, and water supply. Expectedly, these people face substantial discrimination in the job market and also in marriage. Efforts to alleviate these forms of discrimination are led by the Buraku Liberation League and the All Japan Liberation Dōwa Association, but reform has come as slowly for these people as it has for other minority groups in Japan.

Apart from discrimination, Japanese human rights have been internationally criticized, particularly in regards to the treatment of prisoners. The London-based human rights organization Amnesty International has led the campaign against Japanese prisons. Claiming that “human rights violations are not simply accidents, but the result of the detention system in Japan,” Amnesty believes that the obsession with rules in prison regulations is to blame for the mistreatment of prisoners. For example, a copy of regulations for the Fuchu prison near Tokyo revealed regulations on how prisoners should sit, walk, write, and eat. Failure to adhere to these regulations often results in cruel and abusive treatment.¹⁹

On the other hand, Japan’s prison system is impressive as well. Assaults or rapes among prisoners are rare, drugs and weapons are virtually nonexistent within prison walls, and many prisoners are released early for good behavior that prevents the common problem of overcrowding. Japanese officials acknowledge that prison rules are strict, but they emphasize that these rules build discipline and teach inmates the importance of obeying the rules of society. International human rights groups, however, continue to feel that obsession of rules and arbitrary punishment are not safe means of rehabilitating criminals.

Global Policies

In 1994, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed the need for a regional framework to handle human rights issues in Asia. This call for a new form of structure followed a U.N. roundtable discussion in which Asia's role in human rights activities was addressed. An official from the Japanese department of foreign ministry defended Asia against common derogatory views held by Western nations. "It is not true that Asia has its own definition of human rights and challenges universal values stated in the final declaration of the Vienna Conference. I think Asia has a consensus on universal values. Merely, each country in Asia may not take the same approach to solving its individual problems."²⁰

Two years later, at the second meeting of the Symposium on Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the relationship of human rights and economic development was a focus of discussion. There was general agreement around the statement that economic development does not necessarily lead to improved human rights, although human rights enhancement can contribute to sustainable development. The symposium also addressed the issue of "Asian human rights" and collectively denied the existence of a set of human rights values different from those of Western countries. In sum, the representatives of governments and human rights organizations agreed on the need for gradual improvement of human rights conditions according to universal standards.

Conclusion

Japan has risen to the status of a world power, mainly as a result of its enormous economic growth throughout the latter half of this century. But maintaining that status has required more than the simple provision of financial assistance to countries in need. Stepping up its international involvement, Japan has constructed elaborate programs of development aid that include the dispatch of experts, educators, and rescue personnel. In this manner, Japan has shown itself to be more than just a global loan administrator.

However, in examining Japan's national policies concerning global issues, there is definite room for improvement. While providing solid and effective aid to developing countries to improve human rights and environmental violations there, Japan has neglected its own abuse of the environment and of minorities. Although it has taken more responsibility over the past few years, the Japanese government needs to dramatically increase measures to ensure the protection of non-nationals. Likewise, blatant disrespect of the environment in Japan has tested the tolerance of international environmentalist groups for decades and must be ended as soon as possible.

Because being a world leader requires more than economic might, Japan must look to drastically improve its national policies on certain global issues, such as the environment and human rights, before the patience of its peers is drawn too thin. Once fellow world powers lose tolerance for national policies in Japan, they are sure to lose respect for the country as a whole. It is painfully obvious what changes need to occur. By making the necessary amends, Japan can seal its position as a world power for years to come.

Endnotes

¹ MOFA website - disaster prevention

² MOFA website - disaster relief

³ MOFA website - NGO aid

⁴ MOFA - development assistance webpage

⁵ MOFA - introduction to aid webpage

⁶ MOFA - development assistance webpage

⁷ MOFA - Latin American assistance webpage

⁸ MOFA - WID webpage

⁹ Sasamoto, "Japan's," 19

¹⁰ Brazil, 333

¹¹ Holliman, 287

¹² "Osaka Pollution," 1

¹³ Fukukawa, 6

¹⁴ Okajima, 5

¹⁵ MOFA- environmental economic cooperation webpage

¹⁶ Kazue, 55

¹⁷ Keiko, 156

¹⁸ Keitarō 426-28

¹⁹ Hindell, A9

²⁰ Ishida, 3

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