

## New ODA Charter of Japan

In August 2003, the Japanese government revised the ODA Charter, the core principle of its assistance policy, for the first time in 10 years. This was aimed at increasing the strategic nature, adaptability, transparency and efficiency of ODA in view of the need to respond to drastic changes in the international situation and new development challenges. The notable points in the new ODA Charter that are relevant to development in Vietnam are as follows. The Country Assistance Program for Vietnam is aligned to the ODA Charter and intended to realize basic policies of the ODA Charter in specific situation.

- **Priority issues:** Poverty reduction; sustainable growth; addressing global issues; and peace-building.

- **Basic Policies:** Partnership and collaboration with the international community; supporting self-help efforts of developing countries; perspective of human security; assurance of fairness; and utilization of Japan's experience and expertise.



- **Priority region:** Asia that has close relationship with Japan and could have a major impact on Japan's stability and prosperity is identified as a priority area. ODA will be utilized to forge stronger relations with the East Asian region, in particular with ASEAN countries, and to reduce disparities within this region.

- **Strengthening policy consultations and a focus on institutions and policies:** Japan will enhance policy consultation with developing countries. Japan will further support efforts by developing countries to improve their policies and institutions, while taking into account whether such efforts are sufficient in providing its assistance to them.

