
Denmark tops list of those helping poor nations; Japan last

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Denmark topped a list of 21 wealthy nations for its efforts to help development in poor countries, with Japan last, the Center for Global Development, a US think tank, said.

Denmark was the best overall in a ranking based on policies on aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security and technology.

"The Danish foreign aid program is the best in the world in terms of quantity and quality weighted for country size," said the CGD report, published with Foreign Policy magazine.

"Denmark also contributes a large amount of personnel and finance to international peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions and has a strong environmental record," it said.

Japan ranked at the bottom of the 21 nations, and was seen as especially weak on matters of trade and migration.

"Japan's barriers to exports from developing countries are the highest in the (list) -- driven mainly by rice tariffs -- and its foreign aid is the smallest as a share of income," the report said. "Japan also has a poor environmental record from the perspective of poor countries and admits very few immigrants."

The number-two nation on the list was the Netherlands, followed by Sweden and Australia. Norway and New Zealand tied for fifth place, and Finland, Austria and Germany tied for seventh. Britain was ranked 10th, tied with Canada.

The United States placed 12th on the list. CGD said the United States scored well in trade, with relatively low agricultural barriers, but "finishes near the bottom of the rankings in both the foreign aid and environment components."

Switzerland and Portugal were listed in 13th place, with France 15th, followed by Belgium, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Japan. — AFP

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