

Japan ranks worst in contribution to developing world

Japan ranked as the worst of the richest 21 countries for commitment to the developing world, according to a survey released Sunday by a U.S. think tank and the Foreign Policy magazine.

Japan placed last for the fourth straight year since the survey, known as the CGD/FP Commitment to Development Index, was started in 2003 by the Center for Global Development and the magazine.

Major countries' efforts to improve lives in developing countries were evaluated using seven criteria, including aid, trade, security and technology.

The Netherlands ranked top, scoring 6.6, followed by Denmark with 6.4. Japan received a rating of 3.1, significantly below 4.0 for Greece, which came 20th. The United States stood at 13th together with Ireland, with a score of 5.0.

Japan's bad score stemmed from the low ratio of its official government aid to gross domestic product, the lowest share among the countries surveyed. In addition, "Japan's barriers to exports from developing countries are the highest," due mainly to rice tariffs. Also, Japan "does not welcome foreign workers" and "rarely participates in international peacekeeping," according to the survey.

But Japan's score increased 0.4 point from the previous year, thanks to highly valued efforts in technology transfers and investments in the developing countries. (Jiji Press)

August 14, 2006

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