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On Japan's Official Development Aid

by John Neagle

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According to a Feb. 16 statement by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Japan will be the world's biggest aid donor in fiscal 1989 for the second consecutive year, with 1,369.8 billion yen budgeted for official development assistance (ODA). The sum is equivalent to \$11.1 billion at a rate of 123 yen per dollar, up 1.6% from FY1988 due to end on March 31, according to the ministry. Ministry officials said the sum surpasses the \$9.5 billion in ODA requested for the fiscal 1989-90 budget by the US administration. Officials said 159.6 billion yen (\$1.3 billion) in the draft budget are earmarked for economic development grants, and 223.7 billion (\$1.8 billion) for technical cooperation which is focused on training people in Third World nations. Next, a total of 284.6 billion yen (\$2.3 billion) is earmarked for donations and investments in international organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank. (Basic data from Notimex, AFP, 02/16/89)

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