

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

International

Netherlands tops 2006 CDI

Washington, Aug 13 Netherlands has topped the 2006 commitment to development index (CDI), which ranks the world's 21 richest countries according to how well their policies help improve lives in the developing world.

Denmark has come in second followed by Sweden, Norway, and New Zealand. The United States has taken the 13th spot and Japan is last on the list of nations. The CGD/FP commitment to development index is released annually by the Center for Global Development (CGD) and Foreign Policy magazine.

According to a release by the Center for Global Development the index of CDI assigns points in seven policy areas: aid (both quantity as a share of income and quality), trade, investment, migration, environment, security, and technology and within each component, countries receive points for policies and actions that support poor countries in their efforts to build prosperity, good government, and security. The points adjusts the size, leveling the playing field for large and small nations.

“Overall, the new scorings show a slow but steady improvement in the commitment of rich countries to growth and poverty reduction in poor countries but fall far short of leaders’ soaring rhetoric in 2005, the so-called year of development,” CGD president Nancy Birdsall says.

The 2006 survey has found that two-thirds of these countries have improved since the CDI was first issued in 2003 but seven have slipped backwards with Netherlands only a more than average in four of the seven areas analysed.

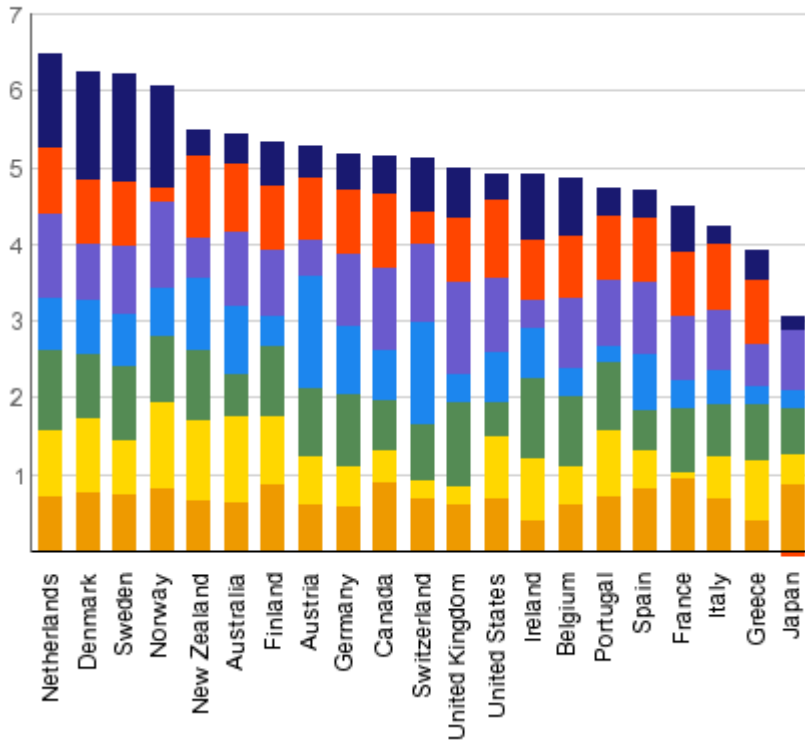
What is being pointed out is that the Danes, who have historically been among the index’s best performers, registered the largest drop in overall score of any nation since 2003. Denmark was hurt by shrinking of its foreign aid spending by 14% between 2001 and 2004, while its economy grew by 9%.

The score of the US has remained unchanged from last year but still remains on the 13th place. “While the US is the world’s largest aid donor in absolute terms, its aid is small relative to the size of its economy”, the CGD has said.

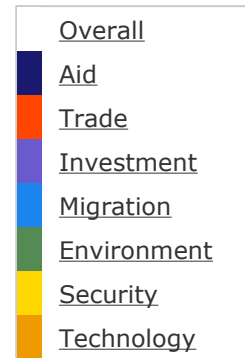
Japan continues to rank last on the CDI due to a combination of higher barriers to goods and people from developing countries, low aid, and minimal security contributions, it said.

—PTI

Commitment to Development Index 2006



Components



Countries

Choose Country