

Development Partnership

Taking Roles for Aid Effectiveness and Scaling-Up Development Outcomes



The opening ceremony for TICAD IV

JICA, in cooperation with the Japanese Government, has been actively participating in the collective efforts for aid effectiveness by OECD/DAC members and developing countries, and has been delivering constructive messages for improving ODA.

JICA also actively pursues partnerships with other donors and international institutions as a means of scaling-up development effects on the ground. Partnership with other institutions notably increased following merger with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Operations of the former JBIC (OEKO/JBIC) in October 2008.

Global Context around Development Assistance

Dynamism of global changes has affected development assistance for a decade. Donors and developing countries have closely worked together for economic growth and poverty reduction in terms of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), securing development finance, and increasing effectiveness of development assistance.

During the Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000, the United Nations adopted the UN Millennium Declaration as a set of goals for the international community in the 21st century. Based on the Declaration, the UN consolidated the targets of major international development conferences and summits to establish the MDGs, a set of eight development objectives for the international community to achieve by 2015.

Also, recognizing that securing development finance would be vital to achieve these goals, in March 2002 the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico) was held under the guidance of the UN, adopting the Monterrey Consensus. Under the Monterrey Consensus, the World Bank and the UN agreed to a substantial increase (doubling) of assistance to help meet the MDGs by 2015, and called on donor nations to implement similar measures.

In addition to goals and financial issues, the effective use of ODA is also crucial. In March 2005 OECD/DAC endorsed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (Paris Declaration) in association with donors, international institutions and developing nations. The Paris Declaration calls on the countries and institutions that signed the Declaration to work together toward effective and efficient development and development assistance by 2010.

At the same time, frameworks, issues and approaches of development assistance have rapidly evolved in recent years. For instance, new actors such as non-DAC countries and private foundations have showed a bigger presence in development. There have also been emerging new development issues like climate change and fragility which require a new framework and approach of ODA.

In the global context, New JICA has actively taken actions on the ground to support these international agenda and been leading debate on emerging issues, with a background in its ample knowledge, experience and diversified modalities from volunteers in the field to significant development policy lending (DPL).

In response to these international agenda for development, Japan has experienced a major reform of its ODA. The establishment of New JICA is one of the milestones of the reform. Three schemes of Japanese ODA Loan, Grant Aid, and Technical Cooperation are now effectively implemented by JICA. In addition, New JICA has actively been participating in international debates on newly rising issues such as climate change and partnership with non-DAC countries.

Disseminating Views on Development Issues and Effective Development Assistance

During the High Level Forum held in Accra, Ghana in September 2008 (the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effec-

tiveness), representatives of more than 120 countries, and more than 60 international organizations gathered to discuss the progress of the Paris Declaration. JICA has conducted a research on the country ownership and Capacity Development (CD), and presented the research outcomes in a roundtable meeting of the Forum together with other development organizations, namely the World Bank, UNDP, the Asian Development Bank, GTZ and DfID as well as 11 developing countries. Key messages of importance of the country ownership and CD were highly welcomed, and reflected the Forum's final action plan, the Accra Action Plan for Aid Effectiveness.

In this context, JICA has been more actively strengthening the relationship with other bilateral and multilateral organizations for disseminating its views and outcomes of research activities on frameworks, issues and approaches of development. These issues include climate change, capacity development, development effectiveness, fragility/post-conflict, and etc.

Scaling-Up Development Outcomes

Since its launch in October 2008, JICA has been one of the largest bilateral development agencies with a variety of cooperation schemes as well as the research function by the JICA Research Institute. This vastly expands JICA's potential for partnership with other donors from the research and strategy levels to the concrete project level. JICA, therefore, has been actively seeking partnership with other OECD/DAC donors as well as non-DAC donors, and multilateral organizations.

One of the good cases of JICA's partnership with other donors is its initiative for the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD). The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) was hosted by the Government of Japan, UNDP, and the World Bank, inviting many African

Main Points of the Accra High Level Forum and Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

The Accra High Level Forum was held in Accra, Ghana, in September 2008. The Forum established an agenda for donors and developing countries to pursue as the basis for securing progress toward targets set by the Paris Declaration, and adopted the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). AAA calls for ownership of developing countries, enhanced coordination among donors, and increased accountability among donors and developing countries.

* Paris Declaration

The Paris Declaration specifies measures for developing countries and donors in five issues: 1) ownership of the developing countries; 2) alignment that entails donors' support for development plans of developing countries, and donors' utilization of the financial/procurement systems of developing countries; 3) harmonization that encompasses the sharing of information and coordination among donors; 4) managing for results to ensure proper utilization to the next development plans; and 5) mutual accountability for development results by donors and developing countries.

exchanged views on global issues such as climate change, fragile states, and development of Africa. Furthermore, not only co-financing and partnership on the concrete project level but also strategic dialogues in regions, countries and development issues between concerned departments have been deepened. It is also expected that the newly established JICA Research Institute will strengthen partnership with the World Bank in its research priority.

JICA has also tried to strengthen its partnership with the emerging Asian donors based on a good relation between the former OEKO/JBIC and these donors. For instance, JICA is organizing an annual workshop with the export and import bank of China and the Republic of Korea to share practice and knowledge regarding ODA loan projects. Given the long-term stable development of Asian countries that has resulted in increasing their importance in the world, partnership with these emerging Asian donors is significant to disseminate the Asian development experience to the least developed countries in other parts of the world.

leaders, senior officials from donor countries, and multilateral organizations, in May 2008 in Yokohama. During TICAD IV, the Government of Japan and JICA launched the CARD initiative which provides a multilateral platform for doubling the rice production in Africa with the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). While the number of member organizations of the Coali-

tion has increased since its launch, JICA has played a leading role among other organizations.

Opportunities for partnership with other organizations have also been expanded. The World Bank, especially, becomes one of the most important broad-based partner organizations. The top-level managements of JICA and the World Bank have frequently

From Humanitarian Aid to Reconstruction and Development: UNHCR and JICA Collaboration

There are more than 40 million refugees, displaced persons and returnees in the world today. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the UN body charged under international law with the responsibility to protect those people forced to flee their homes or countries. Nearly all the refugees or displaced persons are from fragile and weak states, and four out of five are living as refugees in neighboring countries, which are also developing and poor. Thus, population displacement often requires emergency humanitarian aid (providing housing, health and other services). At the same time, since the protection as well as the return and reintegration of refugees and the displaced are closely connected with the stability and development of the target region, a long-term developmental approach is indispensable for the solution of the problem.

Partnership on the ground between agencies with different characteristics as JICA and UNHCR could be awkward at first. Nevertheless, regular exchange of information will help both agencies broaden their perspectives and grasp the overall situation of the region. I trust that the value of the partnership is for each agency to exercise its own and different expertise and strengths in a coordinated manner so as to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region or country in a holistic way. There are about 70 countries in the world where both JICA and UNHCR have their offices. Sharing ideas and thoughts between the two offices on the ground is the key to synergy and aid effectiveness.



More than 300,000 Sudanese refugees returned to the south following the 2005 peace treaty. Ms. Oda surveyed the status of infrastructure in the city of Juba, while also monitoring the transit center for returnees. These children arriving from the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya are excited to arrive in their own country, despite the two-day bus trip.

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Ms. Oda is currently on assignment as a Senior Advisor from JICA through a personnel exchange with UNHCR.