

Enhancing Development Partnerships

Scaling Up Development Outcomes in Coordination with International Development Cooperation Organizations

Issues in Recent Years

Since the beginning of the 21st century, Japan and other donor countries along with international agencies (“donors” hereafter) have increased their efforts for tackling poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). International consensus was reached at the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002 and the Doha Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development in 2008, to secure the necessary funds to achieve the MDGs. A substantial increase in the amount of aid through donors has been agreed to since the Gleneagles Summit in 2005. There are also demands for improving the quality of aid in order to achieve the MDGs. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (Paris Declaration) of 2005 increased the debate concerning the effectiveness of assistance. Donors have accelerated the promotion of aid effectiveness initiatives since the Accra Agenda for Action of 2008.

However, donors’ development assistances are changing in many ways. According to the outcome document of the UN MDG Summit of 2010, more needs to be done because of differences in progress toward achieving the MDGs in different countries. Furthermore, the development issues have become much more globalized and diversified. Such issues include the role of economic growth in reducing poverty, support to conflict-affected and fragile states, climate change, food security, job creation – especially following the Arab Spring –, and disaster risk management.

Following the Lehman crisis, the amount of ODA provided by OECD/DAC member countries has been generally flat. Due to the need to use limited funds for a broad array of development issues, there are increasing demands for donors to be accountable and give more focus on results-based delivery. The Busan Partnership Document of December 2011, which serves as a compilation of implementing the Paris Declaration, takes the debate about aid in new directions. Dealing with new aid architecture is one issue. Development issues are becoming more diverse and a broader range of actors, such as emerging countries, private-sector and foundations, etc., are also playing active roles in development agendas. Another new direction is placing more emphasis on development effectiveness rather than on measuring aid effectiveness.

Private-sector companies, foundations, NGOs and emerging countries have been playing a vital role in development cooperation in recent years. The diversification in the primary sources of development cooperation and debate about their role have become a frequent subject at G20 and other international forums. Against this backdrop, it is essential for a development organization to constantly monitor trends in the global development issues, and to strengthen the ability to gather, partner and provide up-to-date development agendas at international forums. Furthermore, more efforts should be made to promote project collaboration with other donors and to make intellectual contributions to the donor community. All of these activities are vital to the efficient and effective implementation of development cooperation.

How JICA Is Responding

With less than four years remaining until the MDG deadline, discussions about beyond 2015 are gradually increasing. JICA is participating in this post-2015 debate by sharing with others its experience, good practices and knowledge of development cooperation. JICA and the Japanese government jointly held the MDGs Follow-up Conference in June 2011 with the participation of other donors and recipient countries.

The main focus is to increase the scale of development outcomes by promoting strategic alliances and cooperation to conduct development cooperation effectively and efficiently. For this reason, JICA has been enjoying partnerships with, for example, the United States, European donor countries and international organizations. JICA participates in annual meetings of and conduct mutual visits with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), African Development Bank (AfDB) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Strategic approach to global development issues as well as assistance strategies on specific regions and countries are shared through such dialogues. Taking these steps allows effective and efficient approach, such as co-financing and collaboration of specific projects and programs.

For instance, JICA joined with the ADB and French Development Agency (AFD) to hold a seminar on climate change at the ADB Annual Meeting. Sadako Ogata, then-President of JICA, participated in the Program of Seminars “Closing the Loop: Integrated Action for Disaster Resilience” at the 2011 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings. In addition, JICA provided insights on human security, an issue that JICA supports, as a member of the advisory committee for the preparation of the World Bank’s World Development Report (WDR) 2011 “Conflict, Security, and Development”. JICA also held a joint seminar with the World Bank at the launching event of the WDR 2011 that included the original research program on conflict prevention and state building performed by JICA Research Institute (RI). JICA RI is also contributing to the preparation of the WDR 2012; another way to contribute to setting important development agendas.

JICA has started a new partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). JICA and the IMF held their first joint seminar with the participation of high-ranking members of the finance ministries and central banks from the low-income Asian countries. Fruitful discussions at the event included macroeconomic stability, infrastructure investments and development of financial sector. Such dialogues with the IMF will benefit JICA to strengthen its strategy for development cooperation from the macroeconomic scope.

JICA also works with the United Nations organizations. JICA holds regular consultations with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and jointly organizes the annual director-level meeting on South-South cooperation. The meeting is intended to strengthen sharing of knowledge and good practices on South-South cooperation and triangular

cooperation among donors, emerging countries and developing countries. Another collaboration with UNDP includes the joint first consultation meeting in East Asia for the preparation of its Human Development Report. Development experts and academia from various countries attended this event to discuss potential issues for the new report. JICA has been working with the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for many years providing support to returning refugees and host communities. This year, JICA partnered with UNHCR while the former provided emergency supplies for the victims of the severe drought in the Horn of Africa, and the latter transported and distributed them to the refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. JICA also dispatched a joint study team with UNHCR to prepare aid programs in Tunisia and Ivory Coast.

High-level dialogues with the bilateral donors also form JICA's efforts to implement development cooperation programs in many countries. For example, JICA cooperates with the United States in a program to support victims of the Horn of Africa drought, co-finances the Climate Change Program Loan with France in Indonesia and Vietnam, and cooperates with Germany in a water sector program in Africa.

JICA is a member of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC), a global network formed in September 2011 by 19 national and sub-regional development banks to support sustainable improvements in economic, environmental, social and human development. JICA is also a member of the club's steering group. IDFC members made a joint statement at COP17 (2011) and are involved with other international conferences regarding their participation in financing for initiatives to combat climate change and plans for future activities.

In 2011, JICA established new cooperation agreements with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Australia Agency for International Development (AusAID), the international NGO BRAC, the Aga Khan Development Network, and other development

organizations. These new horizons will allow JICA to conduct its programs more strategically with various potential approaches.

Partnerships with Emerging Countries

Emerging countries are playing an increasingly important role as providers of development cooperation. For example, South Korea joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2010 and hosted the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in 2011. China released its first white paper on foreign development activities. Furthermore, the number of countries promoting South-South cooperation is growing, such as Indonesia, Thailand and Brazil. No longer can emerging countries be overlooked when holding discussions about development cooperation. As Japan had been the sole Asian DAC donor for many years, JICA showcases Japan's experience in economic development and the efforts made in providing development support. The aim is to share with these countries the knowledge about a variety of approaches for development activities and how to tackle development issues. Taking stock of the participation in the First Asian Development Cooperation Meeting, which took place in South Korea in 2010, the Government of Japan and JICA jointly held the Second Asia Development Forum in June 2011 in Tokyo. The discussions included the roles of cooperation providers in Asia and development issues to be focused in Asia. Participants included the Governments of China, South Korea, Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries, as well as development organizations, such as European and US donors.

JICA holds regular and joint meetings with development agencies in China, South Korea and Thailand. Mutual visits and discussions deepen partnerships among the agencies and are expected to bring about future discussions into view on global challenges such as green growth and individual cooperative programs.

Working Towards a Paradigm Shift from Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness

South Korea hosts the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (HLF4)

Approximately 3,500 people gathered in Busan, South Korea, in November 2011 for a cabinet-level international conference to discuss effective methods for supplying development cooperation and other subjects. Forum participants included leaders and other representatives of 156 countries, about 40 international agencies and NGOs, and many other organizations. The forum reviewed the outcomes of the Paris Declaration of 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action of 2008. Discussions then covered new issues for further improving the development effectiveness such as South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation, Public-Private Partnerships and climate change. Participants approved the Busan Partnership Document as the outcome document, which also had the support of emerging countries and NGOs.

South-South cooperation is a means for enabling developing countries to use their own experience in development projects to help other developing countries. Triangular cooperation brings together a developed

country, international agency and developing country in order to provide cooperation to the developing country. The two approaches have attracted much attention in that they contribute to enhance support provided by developed countries to developing countries in a more quantitative and qualitative way. The recent economic growth in emerging countries and other middle-income countries gave themselves a supportive push to promote these approaches if social and cultural background of a developing country were deemed similar to theirs.

JICA proactively participated in this Forum and co-hosted several seminars to share its knowledge about South-South cooperation that Japan experienced since the accession to the Colombo Plan in 1954. Lessons learned from South-South and triangular cooperation along with the importance of utilizing these forms of cooperation were discussed.

Many dignitaries attended the opening ceremony, including South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton, who gave the keynote address, noted the importance of cooperation among emerging countries like China and Brazil. As a prime illustration of this cooperation, she noted the triangular cooperation project for agricultural development in Mozambique that has started with the initiatives of Japan and Brazil.

HLF4 shed light on a perspective that went beyond cooperation that is provided by developed countries to developing countries and its effectiveness (aid effectiveness). Participants instead turned their attention to the importance of participation in development programs, inclusive of various actors, and the results achieved from those programs (development effectiveness).



The Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness