

COLUMN 2

More Efficient and Effective Operations: Collaboration with JICA

The technical cooperation project, The Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection, which is cooperating with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), worked together with JBIC on the thematic evaluation entitled "China: Assistance for Environmental Improvement". Mr. Naoki Mori, a JICA Expert assigned to China's State Environmental Protection Administration, noted, "While on the one hand we were able to quantitatively grasp the environmental improvements and contributions that resulted from many ODA loan projects, I felt that it was difficult to grasp the ripple effects of ODA loans on China's environmental policies and systems without a solid methodology." In the project evaluation of Bangkok Water



JICA expert played an important role in improving the evaluation capabilities of Thailand's Ministry of Finance. Equipped with this knowledge and experience, it is anticipated that the Ministry will autonomously develop its evaluation and monitoring system.

Supply Project in Thailand, Hachiro Ida, a JICA expert assigned to Public Debt Management Office of Thailand's Ministry of Finance, propelled a joint evaluation as a part of practical training in conducting ex-post evaluations. Mr. Ida commented, "I think flexibility and inventiveness in response to the conditions are important when conducting evaluations. The joint evaluation with JBIC was a good opportunity to experience this." Moreover, of the 40 projects undergoing project evaluations this fiscal year, 4 of the projects were implemented as ODA loan projects based on feasibility studies prepared by JICA. Concerning this timely and appropriate cooperation at various stages and by various methods, Mr. Noriaki Niwa, Director of the Operations Coordination Group, Planning and Coordination Department, JICA, commented, "This is the result of active utilization of information sharing and opinion exchanges on a regular basis by both institutions, both in Japan and overseas. From here forward, I'd like to make an effort to further deepen cooperation." Ms. Satoko Miwa, Director of the Project Evaluation Group, sums it up "When promoting cooperation for efficient and effective ODA, it is valuable to deepen understanding of each other's operations through joint evaluations and to share the experiences and lessons learned through cooperation."

Response to International Trends in Development Assistance through Evaluation Activities

The High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness co-organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) and multilateral development banks was held in February 2005 in Paris. In order to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), aid effectiveness should be further improved, and donors and developing countries need to promote harmonization of the policy aspects as well as the institutional aspects, based on ownership of the developing countries for the development goals. It is also important to strengthen management with an emphasis on development results (i.e., development results management). Based on this understanding, the forum adopted the Paris Declaration, which incorporate a commitment to concrete actions by the donors and developing countries. Moreover, as an initiative in keeping with the tenor of the Paris



Universal primary education is one goal of the MDGs.



For stable provision of education and public health services, it is necessary to improve access by developing transportation infrastructure.

Declaration, the relationship between infrastructure and poverty reduction is being debated by the OECD-DAC Network on Poverty Reduction. In particular, research is being promoted on methods for evaluating the impact of infrastructure assistance on poverty reduction.

Given these international trends, JBIC is supporting greater ownership by the developing countries and improvement of their evaluation systems by conducting joint evaluations, together with pursuing improvements in its own evaluation methods. By agreeing, at the time of the ex-post evaluation, with the developing countries concerning the ex-post monitoring indicators to be used, JBIC is promoting the strengthening of development results management that is led by the developing countries. Through these efforts, JBIC is aiming toward evaluations that are conducted by the developing countries themselves.