



Tackling Global Challenges Through Triangular Cooperation

**Achieving Sustainable Development and
Eradicating Poverty Through the Green Economy**

**Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute
(JICA-RI)**

in collaboration with
The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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Preface

South-South cooperation (SSC) and triangular cooperation (TrC) are often discussed together, as both of them encourage cooperation among developing countries. The only difference is that TrC involves a Northern partner, while SSC does not. These two types of cooperation are continuing to evolve, however, so that the distinction between the two is blurring. For example, there are a number of SSC projects already in place that have a “triangular” structure involving three or more actors, and some TrC projects in which countries in the South are helping one another without much direct involvement from the North. And if we look at the world more broadly, the traditional dichotomy of the “North” and the “South” will become increasingly pointless in the coming decades. Given these changes, it is highly possible that, pretty soon, we will no longer be discussing SSC and TrC separately.

However, we are not there yet. SSC must be promoted further to include more actors beyond the emerging middle-income countries. TrC, too, is still quite underdeveloped, with a relatively small number of active partners—even among the DAC member countries—engaged in the movement. To encourage both SSC and TrC, much remains to be done.

It was with this in mind, and especially the need to engage more partners in TrC, that this volume has been compiled. It explores the role that TrC can play in international development and addresses the actions and considerations necessary for implementing TrC projects. I hope that this volume will add to the discussions on these subjects at various fora including, particularly, the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Initiated by the JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) as part of its continuous inquiry into SSC and TrC*, this volume is an outcome of a

*The current volume is the JICA-RI's second publication of its work on SSC and TrC, following the 2012 publication entitled “Scaling Up South-South and Triangular Cooperation.”

joint work of an international team of experts working on SSC and TrC. This project has been made possible by tremendous support of its collaborators and contributors. My thanks go first to Mr. Yiping Zhou of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and to Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto of the United Nations Environment Programme, who not only supported the project generally but also contributed a chapter of his/her own. I am also appreciative to all the contributors, who, despite the severe time constraints, kindly shared their rich experiences and insightful views.

Finally, I would like to add that the views and opinions expressed in the chapters do not necessarily represent the official views or positions of the organizations the authors work for or are affiliated with.

Tokyo, October 2013

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