

Scaling Up South-South and Triangular Cooperation

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JICA Research Institute

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Preface

With the Busan High Level Forum behind us and with just two years ahead of us until the 2015 MDG target year, all around we see examples of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) attracting ever-mounting levels of global attention. Indeed, that increasing attention on SSC/TrC seems quite justified. The global landscape is rapidly changing with the appearance of numerous new and diverse actors on the one hand and the enormous challenges that we must collectively face in the decades to come on the other. Faced with these “tectonic” changes, obviously, we definitely need to devise new and better modes of international cooperation. And SSC/TrC must be one of our very promising assets upon which we can develop tomorrow’s international cooperation.

This volume has been compiled by a study group on SSC/TrC formed at JICA Research Institute, comprising researchers at JICA-RI as well as JICA staff with experience and interest in SSC/TrC. The team embarked on a project expecting that it would be a fairly straightforward job, given our ample experience in and vast information on SSC and TrC. The work turned out, however, to be much more challenging than we first thought: we found that statistics on SSC/TrC are not collected in a very systematic manner, perhaps, in part, due to SSC/TrC’s broad definition; we found that SSC/TrC projects tend to receive diverse valuations from different people, who, depending on where they are, view them from a different perspective; given the large number of stakeholders inevitably involved in an SSC/TrC project, it was sometimes difficult to have a unified view upon even a small project; efforts to evaluate their impacts are still underway. And importantly, given SSC/TrC’s broad scope, we should have taken up a wider variety of cases including, for example, cases of financial arrangements and those involving the private sector, which remained untouched.

So, much remains to be done, but this has been a very useful exercise for us, and we would welcome any feedback from the readers; we are determined to continue our work to shed light to the various aspects of SSC and also invite any interested parties to join us in deepening our analytical inquiry into the possibilities of SSC/TrC.

In concluding, on behalf of the study team, I would like graciously acknowledge the support, information and comments that we received from many of our colleagues, both within and outside JICA. While we did our best to incorporate such information and comments, the individual authors are responsible for the views expressed therein as well as for any errors and omissions that may remain.

On behalf of the SSC/TrC Study Team,

Tokyo, November 2012
Hiroshi Kato
Senior Special Advisor
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