

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)







United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

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Editorial Team in JICA-RI

Editors in Chief: Hiroshi Kato Shunichiro Honda

Managing Editor: Yasuhiko Sato

Editors:	Yukiko Aida
	Jun Kawaguchi
	Mihoko Sakai
	Yukimi Shimoda

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JICA Research Institute

10-5 Ichigaya Honmura-cho Shinjuku-ku Tokyo 162-8433, JAPAN TEL: +81-3-3269-2357 FAX: +81-3-3269-2054 Copyright ©2013 Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute All rights reserved. ISBN: 978-4-86357-056-6

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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

Hiroshi Kato Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Director, JICA Research Institute

List of Contributors

Executive Summary

Hiroshi Kato	Director, JICA Research Institute
Part I	
Tubagus A. Choesni	Director for International Development Cooperation, National Development Planning Agency, the Republic of Indonesia (BAPPENAS)
Shunichiro Honda	Research Fellow, JICA Research Institute
Akio Hosono	Senior Research Advisor, JICA Research Institute
Tomoko Nishimoto	Director and Special Adviser to the Executive Director on South-South Cooperation, United
NT: 1 NT () 11	Nations Environment Programme
Nick Nuttall	Director of Communications and Public Information, United Nations Environment
	Programme
Nils-Sjard Schulz	Policy Advisor at MultiPolar (on behalf of the World
,	Bank)
Yiping Zhou	Director, United Nations Office for South-South
	Cooperation
Part II	
Jürgen Baumann	Project Coordinator, CONAGUA-GIZ, Comisión Nacional del Agua
Karen Bernard	Programme Specialist, United Nations Development
	Programme Pacific Centre
Marianella Feoli	General Manager, Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible
Nira Gautam	Former Intern, Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible
Motohiro Hasegawa	Senior Advisor, JICA
Lingxiao He	Intern, United Nations Development Programme Pacific Centre
Shunichiro Honda	Research Fellow, JICA Research Institute
Hiromichi Kano	Assistant Director, JICA (Project Coordinator of J-PRISM until October 2013)
Jun Kawaguchi	Research Fellow, JICA Research Institute
Mary Luz Moreno	Researcher, International Centre of Economic Policy
Carolina Reyes	for Sustainable Development (CINPE), Costa Rica
	Project Officer, Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible