

Chair's Summary

Learning Mutually and Acting Jointly to Build Resilient Society: *Leveraging South-South and Triangular Partnerships*

The said seminar was held on June 1st, 2013 at Yokohama, as an official side event on the occasion of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). 140 participants from countries, international organizations, media, private companies and NGOs/CSOs attended.

Under the chairmanship of Masato Watanabe, Vice President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the seminar began with discussion among six eminent panelists representing Africa and Asia, namely H.E. Saad dine El Otmani, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; H.E. Mekonnen Manyazewal, Ethiopian Minister of Industry; Mr. Christophe Dabire, Commissioner of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA); Mr. Nopadol Gunavibool, Deputy Secretary of Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, Deputy Director General of Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Ms. Penny Kusumastuti Lukito, Senior Policy Advisor of Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning. Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) moderated panel discussions around three key questions.

Regarding the critical challenges facing African countries as development advances (key question one), the panelists identified key areas: 1) economic transformation from reliance on agriculture and mining to a more diverse, industrialized economy with increased capacity to cope with external shocks such as volatile commodity markets and climatic events, 2) human resources development, through a broad range of measures including primary education, vocational training, health and sanitation, and, 3) infrastructure development, for which the private sector plays an important role.

Regarding the experience and knowledge that are relevant to address the said challenges (key question two), expertise of Southern partners and good practices of knowledge exchange were shared, which included: agriculture, fishing industries, urban development, effective use of energy resource and disaster risk management (Thailand), poverty reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure development, good governance, peace building, and micro-finance (Indonesia), maternal health, water resource management, banking and vocational training (Morocco), and knowledge exchange on export promotion and private sector investment with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand (Ethiopia).

Regarding the third question of how South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) can bring about a change and ensure developmental results, the panelists commonly stressed the following points:

- ❖ Ownership and leadership of Africa: African countries cannot copy someone's success model. African countries need to know what their own policies and priorities are. Successful models and experiences must be modified and adapted to local conditions.
- ❖ Mutual learning: Informed dialogue on challenges, policies and available Southern experiences are essential. There is a need for a repository of development practices and lessons.
- ❖ Implementation and Measuring results: It is good to learn, but more important is to translate learning into action. Any project without monitoring and evaluation will become a "white elephant."

The moderator and the chair concluded by reaffirming the importance of ownership by African countries (beneficiary countries), a demand-driven approach, results-orientated mutual learning and practice, and also the need of a global mechanism to match needs with available solutions.

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