Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) to China and recent activities

History of ODA to China

Dec 1979: then PM Ohira’s visit to China and start of first Japan’s ODA to China

“We believe that more prosperous China will contribute to making the world a better place. Japan strongly commits to providing assistance to China and its efforts to modernization, based upon such expectation from around the world.” (then PM Ohira’s speech during his visit to China, original text in Japanese)

1980’s  Solving bottlenecks to economic development
- Japan’s ODA loans to large-scale economic infrastructure construction projects
  - Qinhuangdao Port and Datong – Qinhuangdao Railway (coal transport from inland to coastal areas)
  - Lianyun Port, Qingdao Port, Tianshengqiao Hydropower Station, etc.
- Industrial modernization of state-owned enterprises (119 projects)
- Sino-Japan Friendship Hospital (construction, equipment, human resource dev’t)

1990’s  Dealing with new development issues
- Rapid urbanization
  - Beijing (Subway Line 1, water supply and wastewater treatment plants)
  - Economic infrastructure in order to respond to rapid economic development
  - Hainan Island development, Beijing Capital Airport (T2), Shanghai Pudong Airport, etc.
- Emergence of environmental problems
  - Sino-Japan Friendship Center for Environmental Protection (grant aid for construction and technical assistance in environmental protection)
- Poverty reduction (gaps between coastal and inland areas, and between urban and rural areas was enlarging)

2001  “Economic Cooperation Program for China”
- Refining target areas of Japan’s ODA to China
- Shift from infrastructure construction in coastal areas to environmental protection and human resource dev’t in inland areas
- Priority areas:
  - Environmental and other global issues, open and reform policy, mutual understanding, poverty alleviation, private sector activities, and multilateral cooperation

2007  Decision of no new commitment of Japan’s ODA loans

Operational Results

ODA Loan
- Cumulative approved amount: 3,317bil yen, 231 projects
  - Grant Aid (E/N) (JICA portion)
    - FY2014: 72mil yen; cumulative 140bil yen
  - Technical Cooperation (JICA portion*)
    - FY2014: 839mil yen; cumulative 138bil yen

Recent Activities

Air pollution control and combat against infectious diseases
- Studies and technical transfer for air pollution control, especially PM10 and PM2.5
- Policy dialogue (e.g. Japan-China Friendship Environmental Protection Center)
- Assistance in combating against tuberculosis, polio, avian influenza, etc.

2) Strengthening governance
- Legislation (assistance in drafting code of civil procedure, environmental protection law, food safety law, etc.)
- International tax (capacity building in areas such as international taxation and taxpayer service delivery)
- Workplace safety (setting and enforcing labor standards, thus preventing labors’ health hazard and unnecessary lawsuits)

3) Other emerging issues in China
- Ageing society (a new project aiming at introducing Japanese history, policy and techniques regarding ageing society is expected.)
- Environment-friendly agriculture (a new project aiming at transferring techniques reducing pesticide to minimum while increasing yield is expected.)

4) Cooperation between local governments (twin cities)
- Obihiro City, Hokkaido & Chaoyang City, Liaoning (Supporting women in rural area)
- Shiga & Hunan (Improving wastewater treatment)
- Shimane & Ningxia (Sludge recycling techniques)

Present  Dealing with common issues that both countries face
- Further refining target areas in the context of China’s rapid economic development
- Technical cooperation in areas such as transboundary pollution, infectious diseases, and food safety that have direct influence on Japanese people’s daily life.
  - On-going project examples:
    - The Project for Environmental Friendly Society Building (Apr 2016 – Apr 2021)
    - The Project on Legal Development for Improvement of Market Economy and People’s Wellbeing (June 2014 – June 2017)

Haze-covered Beijing (photo taken at 9am)