

**Learning Mutually and Acting Jointly to build resilient society:
Leveraging South-South and Triangular Partnership**



JICA held an official seminar on Leveraging South-South and Triangular Partnership on June 1, 2013 at the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental as a side event of TICAD V. Approximately 140 participants from the general public as well as the delegations from a variety of countries attended. Panelists from Africa included Moroccan Foreign Minister Saad Dine El Otmani, Ethiopian

Minister of Industry Mekonnen Manyazewal, and Commissioner of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Christophe Dabire. Panelists from Asia included Thai Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nopadol Gunavibool, Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director General Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, and Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning Senior Policy Adviser Penny Lukito.

The chair, Masato Watanabe, Vice-President of JICA, explained in his opening remarks, the significance of exchanging knowledge between Asia and Africa, and that of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC). Under facilitation by Yiping Zhou, Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, the panel discussions followed by open discussion with participants were held with three key questions: 1) the critical challenges facing African countries for sustainable growth, 2) the experience and knowledge that are relevant to address the said challenges, and 3) the question of how SSC and TrC can bring about a change and ensure developmental results.

The panelists identified key areas of challenge with, 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 broad range of measures including education, health and sanitation, and, 3) infrastructure development, for which the private sector plays an important role.

Gunavibool shared Thai expertise in agriculture, fishing industries, urban development, effective use of energy resource and disaster risk management. Lukito shared Indonesian knowledge in poverty reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure development, good governance, peace building, and micro-finance. Minister El Otmani explained Moroccan cooperation with francophone countries in the areas of maternal

health, water resource management, banking and vocational training. Minister Manyazewal explained knowledge exchange on export promotion and private sector investment with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, which have been organized by JICA. The participants reached a common understanding that well-planned, preparation for incidence of external shocks that may jeopardize development efforts is essential, and that development efforts need to be comprehensive addressing both economic and social aspects.

The participants also shared that results-oriented mutual learning and practice will make SSC and TrC more meaningful. This will call on the beneficiary country to understand what their own policies and priorities, the knowledge available to be modified and adjusted to local conditions, and monitoring and evaluation to ensure change will happen on the ground.

Ideas and suggestions shared in this event have much to contribute to the international discussions including the post-2015 and the post-Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation agenda.

■ Event Speakers

Panelists:

- Christophe Dabire, President of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA),
- Makonnen Manyazewal, Ethiopian Minister of Industry
- Saad Dine El Othmani, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Nopadol Gunavibool, Thai Deputy Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
- Mohammad Azhar, Deputy Director General, Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Penny Lukito, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry for National Development Planning Indonesia

Chairman:

- Masato Watanabe, Vice President JICA

Moderator:

- Yiping ZHOU, Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation