

Advisory Committee on Evaluation

JICA established the Advisory Committee on Evaluation to enhance evaluation quality, strengthen feedback of evaluation results and ensure accountability.

The Committee, chaired by Motoki Takahashi, Professor at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University, includes experts in international cooperation and evaluation from international organizations, academia, NGOs, media and private sector groups.

In two meetings held in FY2016, various activities related to JICA's operations evaluation, JICA's responses to advice and recommendations provided in the past meetings were discussed. Major activities which JICA had in response to the main points discussed in the meetings in FY 2016 were outlined as below.

Chairperson	
Motoki Takahashi	Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University
Acting Chairperson	
Akifumi Kuchiki	Professor, College of Bioresource Sciences, Nihon University
Members	
Tetsuo Kondo	Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Representation Office in Tokyo
Yasuyuki Sawada	Professor, Faculty of Economics, Graduate School of Economics, The University of Tokyo
Hisashi Takanashi	Executive Managing Director, Engineering and Consulting Firms Association, Japan (ECFA)
Toyokazu Nakata	Chairperson, Muranomirai (NPO)
Masaishi Nosaka	Senior Deputy Chief Officer, Yomiuri Research Institute, The Yomiuri Shimbun
Yoshiko Homma	Lawyer (Yoshiko Homma Law Office) / Professor, The Graduate School of Law, Soka University
Kiyotaka Morita	Senior Manager, International Cooperation Bureau, Keidanren (Japanese Business Federation)
Kiyoshi Yamaya	Professor, Doshisha University Graduate School of Policy and Management

(as of January 2017)

Suggestions and Recommendations from the Committee.	Actions Taken by JICA
Further consideration on public relations	
The Annual Evaluation Reports are too technical and complicated for the general public to understand. Further consideration should be given to simplifying them, for example, by using compelling illustrations.	Apart from the Annual Evaluation Reports, JICA published an online brochure so that people who are unfamiliar with operations evaluation and development cooperation can understand how and what JICA does in its operations evaluations. ▶ https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/evaluation/index.html
Strengthening the strategic focus of ex-post evaluation	
JICA should develop an evaluation strategy and select projects to be evaluated. Some projects need to be evaluated in detail, while others need not. It is important to explain logically and rationally how to select subjects for evaluation.	JICA has been trying to reduce workload to deal with the increasing number of ex-post evaluations (internal evaluations). At the same time, JICA has been selectively conducting deeper analyses which focus on learning. In FY2016, the reports of internal ex-post evaluations were simplified and the relevant procedures were changed to be more efficient.
It is essential to further strengthen the learning from evaluations.	In FY2016, JICA established an Advisory Panel on Enhancement of Ex-post Evaluation comprising external experts, to further strengthen the learning from evaluations. The Panel has been examining the way to deepen the analysis of the process of generating project outcomes (Refer to p. 48).
It is critical to promote collaboration with various parties in ex-post external evaluations.	JICA involved experts from domestic and overseas universities and NGOs in three of the ex-post evaluations started in FY2015 to take more specialized and diverse perspectives into account. These projects were evaluated not only from the perspective of the conventional Five DAC Criteria but also from the viewpoints of the approaches and effects of the projects and environmental and social considerations (Refer to p. 18 for the evaluation results). Some of the external evaluations launched in FY2016 also include additional analyses by academics and experienced practitioners.

In addition, the suggestions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee were reflected in various efforts to improve the JICA's operations evaluation. Please refer to "Efforts to Improve Operations Evaluation" (p. 7) for more details.

Related links:

The past suggestions and recommendations from the Committee are available on the JICA website.
▶ https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/evaluation/advisory/index.html

