

Advisory Committee on Evaluation

JICA set up an Advisory Committee on Evaluation to seek advice on project evaluation to improve the quality of evaluation, strengthen feedback of evaluation results, and ensure accountability. The Committee consists of international cooperation experts and evaluation specialists from various sectors, including academia, private sector groups, NGOs, media, and international organizations.

The Committee holds discussions, exchanges views, and makes recommendations on JICA's project evaluation efforts and responses to recommendations and advice previously made by the Committee.

Table List of Committee Members (as of February 2021)

Chairperson	Motoki Takahashi	Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University
Acting Chairperson	Yuriko Minamoto	Professor, Graduate School of Governance Studies, Public Policy School, Meiji University
Members	Jun Ishimoto	Vice-Chairman, Engineering and Consulting Firms Association, Japan (ECFA)
	Katsuji Imata	Board Chair, CSO Network Japan
	Mariko Kinai	National Director, World Vision Japan
	Takashi Kurosaki	Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University
	Satoko Kono	President, ARUN LLC
	Tesuo Kondo	Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Representation Office in Tokyo
	Reiji Takehara	Director, International Cooperation Bureau, Keidanren (Japanese Business Federation)
	Mika Funakoshi	Journalist

Discussions on revisions of JICA's evaluation criteria

In FY2020, the Committee mainly discussed revisions of JICA's evaluation criteria. Based on this discussion, JICA refined the evaluation criteria in the finalization process. These new criteria will be applied to projects to be evaluated from FY2021 onwards (See pp. 54-55 for details of JICA's revised evaluation criteria).

Key comments from Committee Members are summarized below.

★ A new criterion of "coherence" will be added to the evaluation criteria to require a more careful assessment of the consistency of each project with various policies, including Japan's development cooperation policies, the Official Development Assistance Charter, and the SDGs. It will be important to consider how to adapt JICA projects to recipient countries by taking into account their development strategies and plans and different stakeholders' needs. This will affect how Japan will support development in developing countries. I would like to suggest that Japan's official development assistance should stick to its principle of contributing to the benefits of recipient countries after the evaluation criteria are revised.

★ The addition of "coherence" to the evaluation criteria will make the definition of the existing criterion of "relevance" much clearer. Coherence assessment will enable ex-post evaluators to draw appropriate and detailed lessons regarding project design and to examine and evaluate the effectiveness of the project's interventions more easily. This revision should be highly appreciated.

★ The draft of revisions to the evaluation criteria has been carefully prepared and seems to particularly emphasize the sustainability of outcomes. In addition, some good attempts are made to elaborate the evaluation criteria, such as shifting the criteria rating (sub-rating)

system from a three-level to a four-level scale. Although those who work to the full potential to deliver outcomes should be highly appreciated, given that only projects that "achieved better outcomes than planned" can receive the highest rating of 4 under the combination of "effectiveness" and "impact", attention should be paid so that no excessive efforts will be made to deliver greater outcomes than planned, because a particular emphasis is placed on sustainability in the present times.

★ New evaluation items of "adaptation/contribution" and "added/created value" have been added in the revision process though they are not included in overall ratings. These items are important because they are directly related to the success and added-value of other future projects. Going forward, these items should be properly assessed to draw lessons and recommendations so that they can be compiled and organized within the organization and applied and reflected in future projects. I think this is substantial and more important than reflecting overall ratings and scoring marks.

★ When sharing the results of ex-post evaluations, they should be correctly understood by key recipients in developing countries. To this end, it will be essential to develop human resources and enhance their capacity to appropriately understand the definitions of the revised criteria. I would like to suggest that necessary budget should be allocated to promote and facilitate such capacity building. Moreover, Japanese citizens and taxpayers should be able to access easy-to-understand explanations of evaluation results as well as changes made by JICA projects to developing countries and improvements made in the quality of people's life there.

Performance evaluation

Following the Act on General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies, JICA is obliged to prepare a medium-term plan for achieving the medium-term objectives assigned by the competent minister, evaluate the annual plan yearly and conduct self-evaluation, as distinct from individual project evaluations. Accordingly, JICA has conducted performance evaluation and published the results since 2003, with the current medium-term plan covering the period from FY2017 to FY2021. JICA has also established an advisory committee on performance evaluation separating from the Advisory Committee on Evaluation.

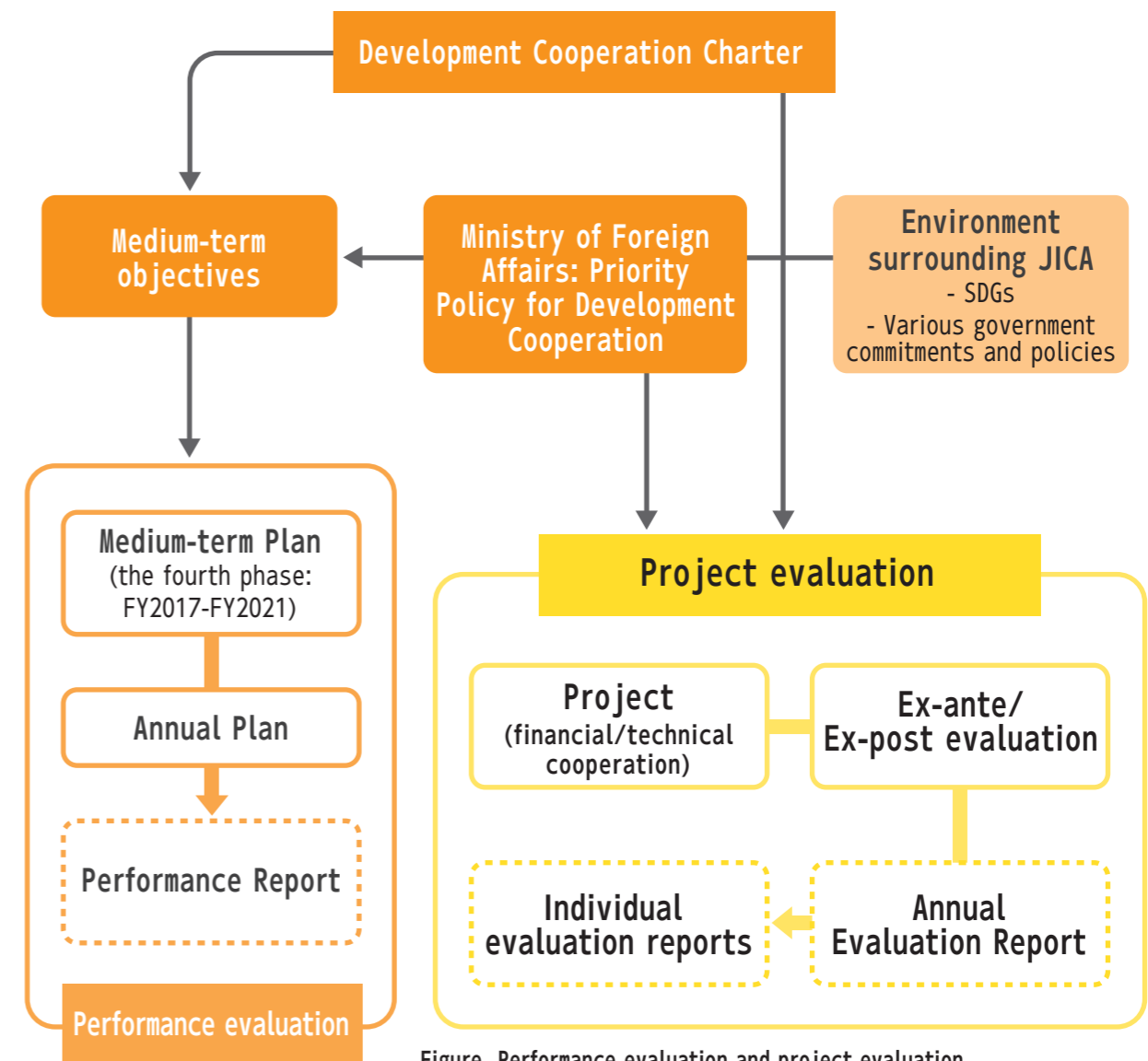


Figure Performance evaluation and project evaluation

Link to relevant reports (in Japanese) → <https://www.jica.go.jp/disc/jisseki/index.html>