

In order to improve the efficacy of ODA loan projects to developing countries, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) is placing emphasis on ex-post evaluation of development projects as well as on preliminary appraisal and in-progress monitoring of them. Majority of the ODA loan projects are infrastructure development projects, which require a minimum four to five years to complete after signing loan agreements. Furthermore, since an additional waiting period is required subsequent to completion to obtain a realistic assessment of any effects of the aid, JBIC conducts ex-post evaluation two years after the project completion.

JBIC has systematically carried out ex-post evaluation as an integral part of its ODA loan assistance program for more than 25 years. As the recent debate on ODA reform shows, the importance of ex-post evaluation is being emphasized now more than ever before. Accordingly, JBIC has placed high priority on evaluation, incorporating it as one of the major areas under the Medium-Term Strategy for Overseas Economic Cooperation Operations, which constitutes JBIC's fundamental policy on ODA. Additionally, in order to enhance the understanding of the Japanese public on ODA loan projects, JBIC has also made improvements in its evaluation methods and procedures. An illustration of this can be observed in the preliminary appraisal stage, where ex-ante evaluation is carried out. Here, project goals are set and evaluation plans clarified prior to project implementation to help improve the ex-post evaluation process.

In order to share the experience and lessons obtained from the ex-post evaluation not only within JBIC or with the Japanese people, but also with recipient countries, JBIC holds seminars and workshops in the recipient countries. Furthermore, JBIC arranges evaluation training programs in cooperation with JICA by inviting the project-related personnel from developing countries. Through this type of activity, we at JBIC are working to raise awareness of ODA loan projects on the part of the people of the developing countries concerned, and thereby to ensure that the quality of ODA continues to improve.

This "Ex-post Evaluation Report on ODA Loan Projects 2002" is an anthology of the 156 projects for ex-post evaluation implemented in fiscal 2001. Our goal for this report was to include ex-post evaluations of all projects completed two or more years ago. However, due to budget, time, and staff constraints as well as loss of data in the developing countries involved, JBIC believes there is still room for improvement with regard to some of the evaluations presented here, and there are areas in which further follow-up work is required. On a more positive note, JBIC has been able to further expand upon the component of third-party evaluation by NGOs, university professors, and so on, and thereby achieved a more refined level of detail and specialization. An additional feature of this report is that it emphasizes feedback on evaluation findings for the developing countries concerned. For the full-text versions of these reports, please refer to the JBIC Website at (<http://www.jbic.go.jp/English/index.php>). In closing, I hope that everyone will continue to provide us with opinions and suggestions in order to keep our ex-post evaluation work at the highest standard we can achieve.

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