

Enhancing Development Partnerships

Scaling Up Development Outcomes in Coordination with International Development Assistance Organizations

JICA has been actively promoting partnerships with international development assistance organizations and other bilateral donors to scale up development outcomes and to effectively tackle global development issues. JICA has been delivering messages to the broad international community on development initiatives and effective aid implementation by actively engaging in the discussions of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as well as participating in and holding international conferences together with the Japanese government.

Shifting Development Challenges

Less than five years remain until the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were compiled according to the United Nations (UN) Millennium Declaration adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The necessary funds to achieve the MDGs were appealed at the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002 and the Doha Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development in November 2008. A substantial increase in the amount of aid through donors, the World Bank and UN agencies have been agreed to since the Gleneagles Summit in 2005.

Meanwhile, achieving the MDGs requires not only increased aid volumes, but also improvement in the quality of assistance. With the adoption of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in March 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action in September 2008, progress towards the realization of more effective assistance is being monitored and evaluated.

In addition to these international initiatives, globalization and emerging global issues (e.g., climate change, infectious diseases, conflicts, food shortages) have had considerable impact on the modality of development assistance. Following the global financial and economic crisis in 2008, private companies and foundations, charity groups and emerging countries have heightened their presence in development arena in place of developed countries suffering from dire financial situations. The diversification of development players and development modality are now discussed more frequently at international conferences, such as the G20. Having a thorough understanding of these trends is critical for advancing development assistance.

Development Agenda Initiatives and Strategic Dialogues

According to the outcome document of the MDGs UN Summit in September 2010, progress towards the achievement of the MDGs varies by country and further efforts are needed, and JICA will thus continue to promote and work towards the achievement of

the MDGs. In order to cope with the changes in the international development environment, JICA has been increasing its effort to share its country and thematic strategies and field experience at international conferences as well as working closely together with international development assistance organizations and other bilateral donors through strategic dialogues and implementation of collaborative projects.

When adopting the Accra Agenda for Action, for instance, the Japanese government and JICA stressed the importance of Capacity Development (CD) and South-South cooperation in ensuring the ownership of the partner countries, and this was reflected in the action plan document. Since then, JICA has shared case studies and know-how with the international community through international conferences and scoping studies, and the importance of CD and South-South cooperation are often raised at OECD DAC and UN forums, as well as at the field level in developing countries.

At the High-Level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation co-hosted with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in November 2010, JICA's Project for Strengthening Nursing Education and In-service Training in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic was commended as an outstanding case study [→ See the Case Study on page 64]. JICA also played a leading role at the International Workshop on CD co-hosted with DAC and the Government of Egypt in March 2011, contributing to the compilation of the Cairo Consensus on CD.

The Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4), for reviewing the aid effectiveness initiatives set out in the Paris Declaration and the framework for future international cooperation is scheduled to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2011, and active discussions are taking place around the world leading up to the meeting. Against this backdrop, JICA, the Brookings Institution and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) published a joint research report titled "A New Vision for Aid" that presents a set of policy recommendations on the aid framework and the role of development cooperation. This report was utilized at the HLF4 preparatory meeting held in Seoul in November 2010 and contributed significantly to the discussions on the new development assistance framework.

Furthermore, JICA was involved in the drafting of the World Bank's World Development Report 2011 on organizational violence and conflict since the preparatory stage, serving as a key member of the Advisory Council, and providing the human security perspective and JICA case studies.

Maximizing Development Outcomes

Development issues are increasingly becoming transboundary

and more diverse. To meet these needs, it is vital to build strong partnerships among development assistance organizations and scale up project outcomes by implementing effective and efficient assistance through strategic partnerships and cooperation.

In addition to traditional donors such as OECD DAC member countries including the United States, France and Germany, UN agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), JICA has been strengthening partnerships with emerging countries, namely the Republic of Korea, which formally became a DAC member in 2010, as well as China, Thailand and other countries, and also the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) which has had an increasing presence in recent years.

With partners such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), JICA holds comprehensive discussions on global development issues at regional and country levels through participation in their annual meetings and mutual visits, as well as through personnel exchanges with some of the organizations. As a result of these discussions, the sharing of development strategies and partnerships for specific activities in the field have been promoted, which has been contributing to enhancing aid effectiveness and efficiency.

For example, at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in October 2010, JICA, the World Bank and ADB presented the joint research, "Climate Risks and Adaptation in Asian Coastal Megacities," and its utility was highly recognized. In 2010, JICA, the World Bank, European Investment Bank, French Development Agency (AFD) and German Development Bank (KfW) began co-financing a power generation expansion project in the Olkaria geothermal power production district in Kenya. In February 2011, JICA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) to strengthen coordination for assistance in the water and sanitation sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. Based on the MOU, the two organizations are implementing initiatives with the aim of scaling up projects and ensuring efficient implementation in five countries, including Zambia. Through staff exchanges, partnerships with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have deepened in the areas of assistance for refugees returning to conflict-affected countries and assistance for host communities.

Moreover, JICA continues to hold occasions to exchange information on development priorities and approaches with other organizations such as the European Commission (EC) and IsDB, and is considering possible areas of cooperation.

■ Strengthening Partnership with Emerging Countries

Partnerships with the emerging countries in Asia have entered a new dimension in fiscal 2010. So far, JICA had held regular consultative meetings with the Economic Development



Joint seminar among the development agencies of the four Asian countries (Japan, China, Republic of Korea, and Thailand)

Cooperation Fund of the Export-Import Bank of Korea (EDCF) and Export-Import Bank of China, respectively. Taking advantage of the sound trust and partnerships that had been formed among these organizations and to further enhance coordination with various agencies including the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) of Thailand, the four organizations including JICA held a joint seminar on environmental and social considerations in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2010.

In November 2010, the Asian Development Cooperation Meeting hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea was held in Seoul. The finance ministries, IFIs and research institutions from Asian countries assembled and discussed each country's ODA policy, South-South cooperation, and initiatives for tackling global issues. Though many of the participants were financial aid agencies this was perhaps the first time that Asian donors had an opportunity to gather at one place. The second meeting is expected to be held in Japan in 2011.

JICA is also strengthening information sharing with China, as its foreign development activities have been drawing global attention, through regular meetings with the Export-Import Bank of China, the holding of the aforementioned Asian Development Cooperation Meeting, participation in China-DAC Study Group meetings, etc. The China-DAC Study Group meetings were held with the aim of advancing mutual understanding and dialogue between China and DAC members to share experiences on poverty reduction initiatives in Africa. The meetings have been held four times since 2009 in African countries and Beijing, and JICA has been participating in this process from the beginning. Through these initiatives, JICA promotes dialogue with the Chinese authorities.

Thailand and Malaysia are also increasingly providing support to other developing countries. With a view to scaling up development effectiveness, JICA will also build and deepen partnerships with these emerging countries.