

Enhancing Development Partnerships

Scaling Up Development Outcomes in Coordination with International Development Cooperation Organizations

● Issues in Recent Years

Japan and other donor countries, along with international agencies (hereinafter “donors”), have increased their efforts in recent years to address poverty reduction and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). International consensus on securing the necessary funds to achieve the MDGs was reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002, held in Monterrey, Mexico, and at the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development in 2008 in Doha, Qatar. However, there have also been demands for improving the quality of aid, as demonstrated by the debate generated by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (Paris Declaration) of 2005. Following up on the Accra Agenda for Action of 2008 in Accra, Ghana, donors also summarized the results of initiatives regarding aid effectiveness at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in 2011 in Busan, South Korea.

In recent years, however, development issues have become much more globalized and diverse. Such issues include equal and inclusive growth, support for conflict-affected and fragile states, climate change, food security, job creation for young people in particular (especially following the “Arab Spring”), and disaster risk management. Following the Lehman crisis, the amount of ODA provided by 28 member countries of OECD/DAC has generally been flat. Although ODA from DAC countries in 2013 reached a record high of \$134.8 billion, it is still far from satisfying the world’s development needs. Given the need to use limited funds for a broad array of development issues, there have been growing demands for donors to be accountable, and to focus more on results-based delivery and development outcomes.

A relatively recent phenomenon has been the rise of private-sector companies, foundations, NGOs, and emerging countries in global development cooperation. Considering that their financial inflows to developing countries go beyond that of traditional donors’ ODA, they have begun to take on a critical role in the field of global development. In fact, a frequent topic at the G20 and other international forums of late has been the diversification among the actors in development cooperation, and the debate about their role. It is essential for a development organization to constantly follow trends in the field of global development, and to strengthen its ability to gather and provide informed and current development information and agendas to international discussions. Furthermore, stronger efforts should be made to promote project collaboration with other donors and development cooperation bodies. All of these activities are vital to the efficient and effective implementation of development cooperation.

● Donor Coordination for Development Issues

JICA has been enjoying partnerships with, for example, European countries, the United States, and international organizations. At locations where development assistance is provided, JICA works with these partners to supply joint financing, technical cooperation, and other forms of support. To provide assistance more effectively

and efficiently at large-scale development projects, donors usually focus their assistance on fields or technologies where they have much expertise and in some cases collaboration is used when a single organization cannot provide the required assistance. JICA constantly monitors the trends of development cooperation by providing input to and receiving feedback from such discussions. This process is vital to grasp the development needs on the ground, which helps to determine JICA’s development cooperation policy. JICA actively participates in annual meetings and conducts mutual visits with donor executives of the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), African Development Bank (AfDB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and in recent years, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). Such dialogues make it possible to share a strategic approach to global development issues as well as to assistance strategies for specific regions and countries.

JICA executive officers attended the ADB Annual Meeting in last May [→ see the Case Study on page 125], as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank Spring Meeting in October of 2013. These officers gave keynote addresses, and served as panelists at many seminars on recent development issues where they explained JICA’s position, activities and policies. In addition, JICA President Akihiko Tanaka continues to nurture mutually beneficial relationships with think tanks in the U.S. and Europe, as well as with the United Nations, and has hosted seminars that covered such themes as TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development), international development goals after 2015 (Post-2015 Development Agenda), inclusive growth, and human security. All these activities are aimed at promoting a better understanding of JICA’s development principles among our donor and partner nations and organizations.

JICA has also significant involvement with and input to the World Development Report (WDR), which is issued every year by the World Bank (WB). WDR 2013 report, “Jobs,” incorporates case study reports written by the JICA Research Institute. JICA has also been sharing its thoughts with the WB on WDR 2014, “Managing Risk for Development,” since the initial preparation stage. JICA supplied numerous background papers and contributed to the substantial discussion.

Dr. Tanaka has been named to the advisory panel for the Human Development Report (HDR), which is issued every year by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This is one of the most influential reports in the field of international development. The panel includes prominent academics, politicians, development specialists, and others, including Nobel Laureates. Dr. Tanaka contributes to the preparation for next year’s HDR.

The United Nations has held a Global South-South Development Expo every year since 2008. In association with this Expo, JICA has co-organized High-level Forum of Directors-General for Development Cooperation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation each year. Donor countries, emerging countries, and developing countries share their views and experiences on

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation. This meeting is one of JICA's efforts to encourage these types of cooperation in the international communities. JICA received the South-South Cooperation Award in the 2012 Expo for its nearly four decades of activities in supporting South-South Cooperation and sharing knowledge, best practices and lessons learned in this field.

JICA periodically holds strategic discussions with some of its development partners. These discussions were held with international (regional) organizations, such as the WB, the ADB, the UNDP, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the EU, as well as with bilateral donors in other developed countries, including the French Development Agency (AFD) with regard to support for Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as well as climate change and sustainable urban development. We also engage and collaborate with: the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) on projects for the water sector in Africa; the German Development Bank (KfW) on various environmental programs; and the Australia Agency for International Development (AusAID) on development support for the Pacific and Africa. JICA is also engaged in strengthening collaboration with various donors, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Asia Foundation, the Aga Khan Foundation, and the Arab Coordination Group institutions. By using mutually complementary cooperation in areas of shared interest, JICA aims to provide assistance of an even higher quality.

● Partnerships with Emerging Countries

In recent years China, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, Turkey, and other emerging countries have become development cooperation providers. Discussions about global development cooperation can thus no longer take place without consideration of the new reality of the significant involvement of these countries. JICA has been sharing a variety of development approaches and issues with such emerging countries that reflect the experience of Japan as Asia's sole DAC donor, which it held for many years, as well as the knowledge gained from Japan's own domestic economic growth. In fact, JICA has led the Asian Development Forum every year, in order to deliver Asia's development experiences and serve as the voice of Asia. At the forum, Asian nations including emerging countries and international organizations share various topics, such as green growth, inclusive growth, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and approaches that seek to overcome development challenges in Asia.

On the other hand, JICA also has enhanced its partnerships with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Export-Import Bank of China, as well as with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Economic Development Cooperation Fund of Korea (EDCF). In addition, the joint seminar has been annually held among development finance organizations in Asia, including JICA, the Export-Import Bank of China, EDCF, and the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) of Thailand.

Case Study

Dissemination to the World in the wake of the Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank

Leading the Discussion on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was held in Delhi, India from May 2 to 5, 2013. As a panelist, JICA Vice-President Kiyoshi Kodera joined a seminar named, "Towards Developing and Implementing Integrated Disaster Risk Management in Asia and the Pacific," and led an active discussion.

"Forty percent of disasters reported worldwide occur in Asia and the Pacific regions. Sixty-three percent of global deaths, 90% of the affected, and 48% of global economic loss are concentrated in Asia," ADB Vice-President Stephan Groff stated in his opening address, "The scale and frequency of natural disasters have continued to rise in the past 40 years, and the economic loss would surpass the GDP growth." He also pointed out an increased risk of natural disasters in Asia.

With regard to the features of recent natural disasters, Mr. Groff mentioned, "Both the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, and the massive flood in Thailand are complex disasters that had a wide-ranging impact on the world through supply chain. To cope with such a problem, in addition to public financing, the role of private financing is critical for preparing for, as well as recovering from, disasters." He also emphasized the importance of NGOs and CSOs (Civil Society Organization).

Learning from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Massive Flood in Thailand

Taking the example of the massive flood in Thailand in 2011, together with reflections and insights from the Japanese experience of the 1960s and 1970s, Mr. Kodera spoke about the difficulty, as well as the critical importance, of prioritizing investment in disaster risk reduction. He emphasized that in the aftermath of the earthquake and flood, we can see that the following three elements are necessary in order to develop improved preparedness and prevention measures: (1) the importance of risk literacy for the general populace; (2) continuous and regular review of adaptation and response plans for environment change; and (3) a multiplicity of multilevel and redundant safety features incorporated into the structure of roads, bridges, and other built infrastructure, including with disaster prevention functionality.

Mr. Kodera also focused on the concept "Build



(From the left) Mr. Kodera (JICA Vice-President), Mr. Groff (ADB Vice-President), Dr. Kawai (ADB Institute Dean/Moderator), Mr. Reddy (India National Disaster Management Authority Vice Chairman), Mr. Watanabe (JBIC then-Executive Managing Director, COO) and Dr. Davis (Oxford University Professor) *Titles at time photo was taken (Photo credit: ADB)

Back Better," which would prevent the occurrence of repeated similar disasters by reducing vulnerabilities. This concept was also introduced to the post disaster needs assessment jointly conducted by the World Bank, the ADB, and JICA, following the occurrence of large-scale disasters.

"Some studies show that a one-dollar prevention investment is equivalent to a four- to seven-dollar ex-post individual investment. It is important to bring disaster prevention to the mainstream under government leadership. JICA will provide assistance through the newly established 'Stand-by Emergency Credit for Urgent Recovery (SECURE),' and the development of policy matrix aimed at strengthening disaster prevention response capacity," he also added.