

# Enhancing Development Partnerships

## Contributing for Setting for Development Agenda in Collaboration with International Development Cooperation Agencies

### ● Issues in Recent Years

Japan and other developed countries, along with international development cooperation agencies (hereinafter “donors”), have increased their efforts in recent years to address poverty reduction under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While some goals seem to be difficult to achieve, many countries have made remarkable progress in poverty reduction and the Human Development Index, including a decline in the impoverished population rate.

In recent years, however, development issues have increasingly been globalized and diverse. Such issues include equal and inclusive growth, support for conflict-affected and fragile states, climate change, food security, job creation and access to social services that are the remote cause of the Arab Spring, and disaster risk reduction. Following the Lehman crisis, the amount of ODA provided by 28 member countries of OECD/DAC has generally been flat. Although the amount of ODA from DAC countries in 2014, \$135.2 billion, remained as high as the level of the highest recorded in 2013, it is still far from satisfying the world’s development needs. A relatively recent phenomenon has been the rise of private-sector companies, foundations, NGOs, and emerging countries in global development cooperation. Considering that private 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 response to this situation, the modernization of definitions of ODA and development finance has been discussed in DAC for the first time in about four decades to mobilize more development finance with quality. In the international community, active discussions have been made on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), new development goals for after 2015, the final year of MDGs, as well as on how to mobilize necessary resources to achieve the goals [→ see the Case Study on page 131]. With regard to the discussion on aid effectiveness that was started in the early 2000s, following the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011, even broader development cooperation with the involvement of civil society, the private sector, and South-South cooperation has been increasingly expected to enhance the effects of the cooperation. It is essential for a development agency to constantly follow trends or changes in global development landscape, and to strengthen its ability to deliver its voice and contribute to international discussions. Furthermore, stronger efforts should be made to promote field level collaboration with other donors. All of these activities are vital to the effective and efficient implementation of development cooperation.

### ● Donor Coordination for Development Cooperation

JICA has established strong partnerships with, for example, European countries, the United States, and international organizations, in such ways as co-financing, collaboration in technical cooperation, and the like. To materialize more effective

and efficient cooperation, collaboration among donors enables to bring different set of expertise and technologies. And to support large-scale development projects, collaboration could be a solution when a single organization cannot meet the required needs. Dissemination of JICA’s experience and knowledge through participation in international discussions on development cooperation will not only improve the quality of international initiatives, but also increase the understanding and raise the profile of Japan’s experiences, approaches and ODA principles.

JICA actively participates in annual meetings 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 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and conducts mutual visits with executives of donor agencies. Such dialogues make it possible to share strategic approaches to global development issues as well as to strategies for specific regions and countries.

JICA attended the ADB Annual Meeting in May as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) / World Bank Spring Meeting in April and Annual Meeting in October of 2014. JICA executive officers gave keynote addresses, and served as panelists at many side events on recent development issues where they explained JICA’s position, activities and policies. In addition, JICA President Akihiko Tanaka further enhanced relationships with think tanks in the United States and Europe, as well as with the United Nations, and occasionally provided lectures that covered the themes of SDGs, quality growth, which includes inclusiveness, resilience, and sustainability, and human security in respective events. All these activities are aimed at promoting a better understanding of JICA’s development principles. Jointly with several member institutions of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC)<sup>1</sup> to which JICA belongs, JICA introduced the respective efforts of IDFC and JICA at the UN Climate Summit held in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in September.

In fiscal 2014, with regard to the fields of south-south and triangular cooperation, JICA shared its knowledge, experiences, and good practices with the international community at several international conferences, such as the First High-Level Meeting on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, a high-level event hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly, and the UN Global South-South Development Expo.

JICA regularly holds strategic discussions with some of its development partners. In the fiscal year 2014, the first High-Level Dialogue headed by the presidents of the World Bank and of JICA was held to discuss health, disaster risk reduction and climate change at strategic level. JICA also had annual or regular discussions with other international (regional) organizations, such as the ADB, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and

1. An international network composed of 22 national (emerging and developed countries) and sub-regional development finance institutions (as of 2014). Mainly focusing on the green finance, the network provides opportunities for mutual learning and joint projects among members and also is engaged in advocacy campaigns toward the international community.

the European Union (EU). In addition, JICA had discussions with bilateral agencies as well; on health care and gender with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and on disaster risk reduction, climate change, and sustainable urban development with the French Development Agency (AFD).

Furthermore, JICA aims to deliver cooperation with higher quality through reinforcement of collaboration with nonconventional providers, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Aga Khan Foundation, as well as with the Arab Coordination Group, to which 10 Arab donors belong.

### ● Partnerships with Emerging Countries

In recent years, emerging countries such as China, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, Turkey have become development cooperation providers. JICA has attached much value in sharing a variety of development approaches and issues with such emerging countries based on the experience of Japan as Asia's sole DAC member for many years.

In fact, JICA has led the Asian Development Forum every

year, in order to conceptualize Asia's development experiences and share them with international community as the "voice of Asia." Through the Forum, Asian countries including emerging countries and international organizations exchange views and experiences on various topics, such as green growth, inclusive growth, mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, SDGs, and the middle-income trap.<sup>2</sup>

JICA continues to hold bilateral discussions with development partners in China and the Republic of Korea, namely the Export-Import Bank of China, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Economic Development Cooperation Fund of the Export-Import Bank of Korea (EDCF). In addition, JICA, together with the Export-Import Bank of China, the EDCF, and the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) of Thailand, holds quadripartite discussions among Asian development finance organizations.

2. A situation where a country that has overcome poverty and reached the middle-income level loses its competitiveness due to rising wages and other reasons.

#### Case Study

#### Symposium on Sustainable Future Cities Jointly Hosted at the UN Headquarters

### Contributing for Setting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**On January 6, 2014, JICA held a symposium at the UN Headquarters under the theme "Sustainable Future Cities We Want." Jointly hosted with Japanese government, the French government, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and seven other UN organizations\*, this symposium contributed for setting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), new development goals for after 2015.**

#### Disseminating the Importance of Sustainable Urban Development

This discussion was held with more than 15 panelists from JICA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kitakyushu City, foreign governments, and international organizations, as well as around 100 participants. The discussion details were summarized as the chair's summary by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN), the representative of which served as moderator for this event. The summary was

widely shared at the Seventh Open Working Group on SDGs, held at the UN Headquarters.

Various opinions on sustainable future cities were reflected in the chair's summary, such as "cities where all people are satisfied and happy under inclusive and equal opportunities," "the importance of both the scope (quantity) and quality of services provided by cities," and "the necessity to provide well-balanced services from economic, social and environmental dimensions." In the end, the message "It is important

to include sustainable urban development in SDGs" was disseminated to the world.

#### Reflecting Human Security and Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in the Policy Document

The Open Working Group on SDGs was established to draw up the SDGs. The working group's outcome document, summarized in July 2014 had been regarded as one of the important bases for negotiations among SDG member countries.

Finally, 17 goals came up for the outcome document. With the concept "sustainable urban development" adopted as a single goal, the outcome document fully contains the details and elements of the foregoing chair's summary.

Other than sustainable urban development, JICA also cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and encouraged the heads of international organizations to include "human security" as a guiding principle as well as "mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction" and "universal health coverage (UHC)" as main issues in the SDGs. Thanks to these efforts, these concepts were successfully incorporated in the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report of December 2014, released as the policy document for drawing up the SDGs.



Active discussions held at the UN Headquarters

\* Seven organizations, including the UN Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the UN Development Program (UNDP), the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN).