

Enhancing Development Partnerships

Contributing for Setting Development Agenda in Collaboration with Development Cooperation Agencies in the World

● Issues in Recent Years

Japan and other developed countries, along with international development cooperation agencies (hereinafter “donors”), have increased their efforts to address poverty reduction under the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a target completion date of 2015. While some goals are left unachieved, such as reduction of the under-five mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, many developing countries have made remarkable progress in poverty reduction, as can be seen in the impoverished population rate, and the Human Development Index.

To follow up on these efforts, “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015. The agenda sets forth “the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” as guidelines to materialize poverty eradication and sustainable development by 2030, and calls for actions to tackle new issues that were not subject to the MDGs, such as expansion of disparities, climate change and natural disasters, while paying due efforts toward unfinished business of the MDGs.

Meanwhile, the agenda also calls for actions by all countries, not only developing countries, but also developed countries, and emphasizes the importance of cooperation by all parties involved, against the backdrop of the increasing roles of private corporations and civil society. Furthermore, in order to respond to diversified development challenges including new issues such as climate change, financing on the level of trillions of dollars, rather than billions of dollars for the MDGs, is necessary. The agenda necessitates a wide variety of financing and resources, not limited to ODA, directed to contribute to sustainable development.

In response to this situation, the modernization of definitions of ODA and development finance has been discussed in OECD DAC for the first time in about four decades to mobilize more development finance with quality. With regard to the quest for aid effectiveness that was started in the early 2000s, following the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011, discussions are ongoing, with a focus on enhancement of the effects of even broader development cooperation with the involvement of civil society, the private sector, and South-South 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



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark (left) and President Shinichi Kitaoka held talks at JICA headquarters in November 2015.

in technical cooperation, and the like. For achievement of the SDGs in particular, a necessary level of financing and its efficient use are required. 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 Group (WBG), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), African Development Bank (AfDB), and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and conducts mutual visits with executives of donor agencies.

JICA attended the WBG/International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings in April and the Annual Meetings in October, the ADB Annual Meetings and the AfDB Annual Meetings in May, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July, as well as the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in December of 2015. JICA executive officers gave keynote addresses and spoke as panelists at many side events on recent development issues where they explained JICA’s position, activities and policies. In addition, at the United Nations Summit in September, JICA’s then President Akihiko Tanaka attended sessions on human security, global health, and disaster risk reduction, and he stated opinions based on JICA’s knowledge and contributed to the discussions [→ see the Case Study on page 123].

In fiscal 2015, with regard to the fields of South-South and triangular cooperation, JICA shared its knowledge, experiences, and good practices with international community at several

international conferences that were attended by a large number of UN-related personnel, such as the High-Level Meeting on South-South Triangular Cooperation in the Post 2015 Development Agenda, and the United Nations–hosted High-Level Multi-Stakeholders Strategy Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

JICA regularly holds strategic discussions with some of its development partners. In fiscal 2015, the Second High-Level Dialogue between the presidents of the World Bank Group and of JICA was held for strategic-level discussions on subjects including health and the Asia and Africa regions. JICA also had annual or regular discussions with other international organizations, such as the ADB, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In addition, JICA had a discussion with the French Development Agency (AFD) on topics including climate change and sustainable cities.

Furthermore, JICA aims to deliver cooperation with higher quality through reinforcement of collaboration with nonconventional providers, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Aga Khan Foundation, and the Asia 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, and 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 that was Asia's sole DAC member for many years.

JICA leads 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 inclusive growth and SDGs.

JICA continues to hold periodic 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 institutions.

Case Study Stating Opinions at Meetings of the UN Sustainable Development Summit

Contribution to Discussions on Topics Including Key Challenges in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

At the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, JICA cosponsored various side events with multiple partners, in anticipation of some important meetings to be held the following year. JICA's president appeared on those events as a keynote speaker or as a presenter, and expressed JICA's views.

Promotion of UHC and African Development

JICA attended a side event on global health that was cosponsored by five countries, including Japan, along with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and the Global Fund. Through the event, a message was expressed that health was a core of the 2030 Agenda and that universal health coverage (UHC)* was effective in solving various health problems. JICA addressed the concept of UHC that JICA aims to achieve a health system that can not only provide maternal and child health care but also can serve as an underlying measure against infectious diseases such as Ebola pandemics. JICA also mentioned the importance of cooperation among the parties involved, such as governments and donors.

Meanwhile, as one of the pre-events of the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August 2016, JICA took the lead to host a side event together with partners, including the Japanese government, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and Columbia University. JICA introduced its insights on Africa, including the necessity of industrial development as an effort to promote structural transformation and strengthening resilience, the feasibility to apply experiences in Asia to Africa, and the achievements of industrial policy dialogue and Kaizen projects in Ethiopia. Many other speakers also expressed their opinions on the importance of industrial development in Africa, which also caught the participants' attention as a suitable theme for TICAD VI.

Furthermore, to lay the foundation for the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, a side event on the financing of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation was held. Discussions in this meeting addressed that humanitarian crises have increased and protracted, and they were deeply related to poverty eradication, so an integral approach to humanitarian assistance and development



JICA's then President Tanaka emphasized the importance of an integral approach to humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, as well as the concept of "build back better," at a side event.

cooperation was necessary. The discussions also touched on topics such as expectations in innovative financing that include the private sector mobilization. JICA emphasized the importance of the mechanism in which humanitarian and development agencies could participate in discussion at the early stage of a crisis to support attempts towards the integrated approach.

* WHO defines UHC as "ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship."