

Japan's International Cooperation

Panel 1g – Regional update: trends and issues in Asian development cooperation



Nhat Tan Bridge, built with
Japan's ODA (Vietnam, 2015)

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker and do not represent the official positions of either speaker's affiliation or JASID.

I. Introduction: Speaker

- A researcher working for a semi-governmental research institute, the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), under the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).
- Member, Wise Men Committee for Evaluation Feedback on Japan's ODA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan, 2006-2010 (Madagascar, 2006; Nicaragua, 2007; Water and Sanitation, 2008; India, 2009).
- Head, Evaluation Teams on Japan's Aid (Aid for Trade, 2011; MDGs in Health, 2014; Vietnam 2015; Paraguay 2016), MOFA.
- President, Japan Society for International Development (JASID) for 2017-2020.

I. Introduction: JASID

- A multidisciplinary academic society
 - Economics, management, political science, sociology, anthropology, agriculture, engineering and medicine among others.
- Establishment: 1990.
- Members: 1,644 as of Nov. 2017.
- Collaboration with the Korean Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC) since 2008.
- A member of the North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum with UNESCAP, CIDRN (China), KAIDEC (Korea) and RAIDAE (Russia).

Structure

- I. Introduction: Speaker and JASID
- II. Recent highlights of Japan's cooperation
 1. Development Cooperation Charter
 2. Partnership for Quality Infrastructure
 3. Principles / Measures for SDGs
- III. Concluding remarks
 - Inward-orientation: SDGs and Japan
 - Effects of China's advancement
 - Approaches to India with ASEAN countries

II. Recent highlights of Japan's cooperation

1. Development Cooperation Charter

- *Development Cooperation Charter* replaced *ODA Charter* in Feb. 2015.
 1. The importance of participation of the private sector.
 2. Pursuit for “world peace” with non-military purpose.
 3. Spelling out "national interests" through cooperation.
 4. Government of Japan as a catalyst (rather than driving force) (Kharas, Makino and Jung 2011)
 - ✓ Burden sharing with "affiliated agencies" such as private firms; philanthropy funds; NGOs; and local governments.

Domain of *Development Cooperation*

		Contributors	
		Government of Japan	Private Sector / Local Government / NGO
Recipients	Developing Countries	ODA	Development Cooperation
	Middle / High Income Countries		
	Japanese SMEs		

Source: Yamagata (2016).

2. Partnership for Quality Infrastructure (2016)

1. Expansion and Improvement of ODA

- USD 200 billion for 2016-20.
- Speeding up project approval procedure (1.5 years till beginning of construction).

2. Collaboration with ADB and Inter-American Dev. Bank

- Helping ADB increase lending capacity.
- Initiating USD 5 million fund at IDB for research of infrastructure.

3. Enhancement of the function of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

- Securing around USD 2 billion ceiling for higher risk profiles (loans without a guarantee from the recipient government).
- More flexible operations (loan in local currencies and longer maturity than one year).

3. Principles / Measures for SDGs

- SDGs Promotion HQ chaired by PM (May 2016).
- Japan's "Principles/Measures" for SDGs were released (Dec. 2016).
 - Supplementary cooperation policies were also released at the same time.
- "SDGs Action Plan 2018" released (Dec. 2017)
 - How Japan to prosper.
 - Japan SDGs Award was granted to Japanese firms / organizations (Dec. 2017).

Japan's SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles

1. Empowerment of all people
2. Achievement of good health and longevity
3. Creating growth market, revitalization of rural areas and promoting technological innovation
4. Sustainable and resilient land use; promoting quality infrastructure
5. Energy conservation, renewable energy, climate change measures and sound material cycle society

Japan's SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles (continued)

6. Conservation of environment, including biodiversity, forests and oceans
7. Achieving peaceful, safe and secure societies
8. Strengthening the means and frameworks of the implementation of the SDGs

Note that most of the measures are domestic policies directed to the Japanese nationals.

Supplementary Cooperation Policies

[Dec. 22, 2016](#)

1. Promoting international health.
 - In line with human security.
 - Providing 400 million USD to international health.
2. Addressing refugee Issues
 - New financial assistance, 500 million USD.
3. The realization of a society in which all women shine.
 - Funding initiatives valued at 3 billion USD by 2018.

III. Concluding remarks

Inward orientation: SDGs and Japan

(Yamagata 2016)

- SDGs is broad and flexible.
 - Universality principle: Not only the poor but also the non-poor can be beneficiaries.
 - Japan's SDGs action plan is largely directed to the Japanese nationals.
- Easy to contribute to some of 17 goals.
 - Nobody assumes one can contribute to all 17 goals.
 - International cooperation is downplayed.

China and India

- China's advancement as a donor inspires Japan's further contribution.
 - Japan's business sector wants Japan to participate in AIIB and “Belt Road Initiative” (Japan Association of Corporate Executives [*Keizai Doyukai*]: see Nikkei [2016]).
- Japan approaches to India with Asia-Africa Growth Corridor initiative.
 - Cooperation with Indian Ocean countries.

References

- Homi Kharas, Koji Makino, and Woojin Jung, eds. [2011] *Catalyzing Development: A New Vision for Aid*, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.
- *The Nikkei* [2016]「アジア投資銀に「日本も」 同友会代表幹事」(“Japan should join AIIB” by Chairman of Keizai Doyukai), January 19.
- Yamagata, Tatsufumi [2016] "Sustainable Development Goals and Japan: Sustainability Overshadow Poverty Reduction," *Asia-Pacific Development Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Dec., pp. 1-17.