

Ethio-Japan partnership Seminar

Proceeding

(January 22, 2008)



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Ethio-Japan Partnership Seminar

January 22, 2008

CRDA Conference Hall

Participants began to arrive at 8:30 a.m. and registration followed through 9:00.

Introduction & Opening remarks

The seminar began at 9:00 with warm greetings & welcome by the NGO-JICA Japan Desk Coordinator in CRDA Wz. Tsehay and she called upon Wz. Semira Acting Head of the CRDA. She made an opening remark with warm welcoming. In her speech she addressed the participants that this meeting is a continuation of the last year seminar, which will create an opportunity to create favourable conditions to strengthen the partnership of Ethiopian civil society and Japan government. She expressed her hope that this seminar will produce more productive points towards creating a more objective and meaningful results that the Japanese government will give due consideration for its future plan.

Wz. Tsehay, then called upon the seminar facilitator Mr. Million Alemayehu. Mr. Million introduced himself briefly to the audience and invited the **Japanese Embassy representative, Head of Economic cooperation Mr. Omoto** to deliver his presentation.

Presentations

I. Japan's ODA to Africa

Mr. Omoto began his discussion with the overview of historic emergence of TICAD, which emphasize on importance of "Africa's ownership", "partnership". TICAD, Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development, is a global framework for Asia and Africa to collaborate in promoting Africa's development and evoker for the attention of international society towards Africa. TICAD is co-hosted by UN and Japanese government. In the presentation it was mentioned that the third conference, TICAD III (Sep. 2003) reviewed the ten years

achievements and for the first time discussed the "New partnership for Africa". He also discussed the basic concept of TICAD, i.e. "Towards a Vibrant Africa: A Continent of Hope and Opportunity". The three priority area of TICAD IV, May 28-30, 2008 were introduced: Boosting economic Growth in Africa - i.e. self sustained projects, trade, investment, infrastructure etc., Ensuring "Human Security" that includes MDG - Consolidation of Peace and Democratization, Addressing Environmental issues and Climate change in which Mr. Omoto mentioned a bottleneck to development efforts and Africa is the most vulnerable continent.

The following were shared as cross-cutting elements: Enhancing coordination with AU/NEPAD, RECs, other donors like China and India, use of Asia's experience, Human resource development (basic to any developing countries), Diversity among African countries (need of country specific approaches), Support to improve governance and rule of law (not only political but also economic), collaboration with the private and civil society organizations (without which sustained economic development can't happen). Schedule leading to TICAD IV were also shared.

Mr. Omoto further shared briefly about the main themes of G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, July 7-9 2008, as; Development and Africa, Environment and Climate Change, World Economy, Political Issues including Non-proliferation. The theme "Development and Africa" was further discussed that by reviewing the achievements thus far it will focus on sending a message toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and discussion will build on the outcome of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV)

He further presented the Japan's ODA to Ethiopia, Country assistance to Ethiopia, that he mentioned it was 'practically introduced last year'. The Country Assistance to Ethiopia focuses on; policy framework (guiding principle of Japan's assistance in the medium-term, about five years), Establishing rationale for assistance to Ethiopia (section of development agenda with strategic approach),

Policy alignment to PASDEP (which was presented to the Ethiopian Government and approved for its alignment with PASDEP). Japan's major objective of assistance focuses on overcoming poverty through consolidation of food security enhancing food productivity and food purchasing power of Ethiopian people and improving food access through the market, which are believed to be the gateway for Ethiopia's sustainable economic growth. Referring the above mentioned major objective he acknowledged the good weather and food production for the past 3-4 years. It was also mentioned that the current marketing system of the country is not well organized that definitely will affect sustainable development.

The following five priority sectors in Japan's ODA's to Ethiopia were also discussed: Agriculture/rural development, Water resource, Socio-economic infrastructure, Education and Health. All these were shared by Mr. Omoto as important to the achievement of the MDGs and Human Security. As long term development strategy two focus areas were mentioned in the presentation: **a) non-agricultural income and urban industry** (privet sector) - promotion of large industry to get international market, and **b) conduct effect research and analyses** to help:

- Further development of economic infrastructures
- Utilization of natural resources
- Promotion of small and medium-sized enterprise

With this Mr. Omoto concluded his presentation passing his appreciation for the attention given.

The facilitator thanked Mr. Omoto for the very informative presentation and called upon the **second presenter Mr. Masuda, the second secretary to the Japan Embassy.**

Mr Masuda briefly introduced himself and the lady who is in charge of small grants in Japanese embassy.

II. Japan's ODA in Ethiopia

Second secretary to the Japan Embassy, Mr. Masuda, made a brief presentation on the Japanese ODA Program to Ethiopia. In his presentation, he elaborated the two ways the Japanese government offers assistance, which are a Bilateral assistance and through International Organization like the United Nations and the World bank. In the Bilateral Assistance Program, in which his area of presentation addresses, there are Grants that are delivered to assist development activities in Ethiopia through a program designed as Economic Development Assistance that include grant aid for general projects, structural adjustment support, emergency aid, Japanese NGO projects, and for grass roots and human security projects. As part of the Grants, the Technical Cooperation, which is part of the Grants, focuses on the Training Programs, dispatch of technical experts, making development surveys, Japanese Overseas Cooperation Program, and senior Overseas Volunteers Program. In the aid it delivers through International organization, it offers loans, to which the Ethiopian Government is not currently entitled to it.

He further explained on the many activities that the Japanese government is currently involved which includes the New Abay Bridge Construction, which is expected to be completed at the end of August 2008, whose opening ceremony will coincide with the end of the Ethiopian Millennium. Further describing the activities of Japanese Implementation Cooperative Agency (JICA), which focuses on rural infrastructure and water supply project, he outlined the regions and areas like Afar and Tigray where economic cooperation activities in Ethiopia is currently underway, and five main priority sectors in which different projects are being carried on, and these are: Agricultural, Education, Water Supply, Health sector, and Infrastructure projects.

In his deliberation, Mr. Masuda further elaborated on the works targeting on human resource development, which targets on developing skilled manpower – technicians and mechanics. It was also disclosed that there is a required need of human resources, which is numbered to 49,176. The need for strengthening

partnership with civil society was underlined by Mr. Masuda. As per his explanation, he said, one way is through international organization, where Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF), is channeled through the World Bank, which is granted to support pastoral community. The amount of funding for this particular activity was 1,877,660 USD in 2004. This was arranged to support a capacity building process aimed at facilitating direct and demand-driven investment to poor and vulnerable pastoralist communities in the lowland of Ethiopia. Explaining on Bilateral assistance, he mentioned the two type of grant assistance available and these are aids for grassroots and human security projects, and general projects, which are categorized under time and cost frameworks.

For projects that take few years and more than 880,000 USD, which requires exchange of notes with the government of Japan are categorized under Grant Aid for General Projects. Those grass root grants that require few weeks or months, grant contract with the Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia, and costs less than 88,000 USD are categorized under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security projects, according to Mr Masuda from the view point of Basic Human Needs and Human Security, he said, priority sectors were identified. These are Agriculture (irrigation), Water Supply (Digging Wells), Primary Education (school construction), Basic Medical care (Health Post Construction), etc. To make the Grant assistance for Grassroots more strategic, the synergism of value added approach projects, collaboration with other related projects, post conflict areas where there is no other related project, new issues beyond the country assistant plan, civic problems, environmental problems, etc. were discussed.

On conclusion, he said, there are 25 projects in 40 components assisted in 2007. These components are one on governance, one on infrastructure, two on business, two on environment, three on agriculture, nine on water, nine on health and thirteen on education. He asked the participants to submit any proposal filling the form, which he was already distributed, to the Japan

Embassy in Ethiopia for further consideration. He finally concluded his speech by saying, "We have enough room to work together with you, civil societies."



Presentation and Discussion

III. JICA and Japanese ODA Projects to Ethiopia

Presenter Mr. Nakamura - Residence Representative of JICA

JICA is primarily engaged in agricultural and rural development projects in selected target areas in Oromiya Region. Basically we are in charge of capacity building through technical cooperation, he said. Our beneficiaries are farmers, and we dispatched 20-30 Japanese experts to transfer our technology. He explained two major projects that are currently underway, One Village One Product Project, and Participatory Forest Management Project, which are established in the Oromiya regions.

The objective of this project is to create awareness to the farmers on how to make value added product. Meaning, "do not sell banana, just as banana, but add some kind of value to it, may be like a banana jam or banana candy", so that such practices can attract more market from buyers. This project was initially initiated in 1979 in Japan rural areas and had huge impact in those

areas, and then spread to Taiwan, Philippines, Mongolia, and then to Africa in Malawi and Ethiopia too. In addition to attracting market and more income to the farmer, this serves as community empowerment tool so that it will enhance confidence and help in setting good mind set within the community, as he disclosed. Further to this, he said, this project was introduced in the Farmers Festivals in Awassa town, which was organized by the Ethiopian government 10 days ago. In this display a paper craft made from banana tree, a well-packaged seed made by the research institute and other products were introduced.

The participatory Forest Management Project deals with consensus of building among forest users, in which sustainable forest management is carried out in sustainable manner by the local people in Belete-Gera RFLPA as he mentioned. Among few activities carried out in this project are, guideline, extension strategy, capacity building on local people, and other major works that improve the livelihood of farmers have been performed. In improving the livelihood of the farmer, the project facilitates in obtaining certification of coffee productivity so as to help the farmers obtain 25% premium incentives, and promotes exporters to buy those quality products from the farmers. The Beleta Gera projects performed three major tasks, which includes preparing easy documents or manuals that help as guide lines, introduction of livelihood of the farmers thru obtaining certificate of coffee productivity, and agro forestry productivity farmers field school, and cover all part of the populations of the village in the Belete Gera so as to avoid conflict that may arise due to such selection and separation.

In his brief intro speech, the program coordinator of the project to the area delivered introduction about the progress and activities JICA was carrying out in the area. He said JICA is highly effective and helpful to the farmers and to the area. It is a matter of knowledge to us that the 2% left over of the forest of the country is found only there, as we all know as he commented. And then he forwarded the session to the beneficiaries of the Project, delegated two farmers that came to attend the seminar. A farmer named, Hussein Abdi, presented a speech representing WaBUB farmers association, in Sebuke Debuye kebele. The

name WaBUB signifies 'Forest Management Association'. He reported on the activities the farmers were carrying out in his area. According to Hussein, WaBUB was established in 1996 E.C. with the help and coordination of the farmers residing in the area, representative of government offices in their respective area, which was comprised of Woreda agriculture and administration Offices. This is a project that makes the farmer live with the forest, as Hussein mentioned, and helps every one who lives there. They function by organizing committees who follow up and monitors on the activities bi-annually and reports top the respective government offices whether there was any damage occurred in the forest. This is fully done with full willingness and awareness of the farmers, he added. We were around 56 farmers when originally established, but now we reached to 158, he said. Another farmer who attended the seminar said JICA had made a lot of contribution to the farmers there. JICA made water available to the farmers, which were time and labor consuming to find and have water easily before. JICA has constructed warehouses for storing coffee products so as to help the farmer use in a way they need it.

Questions and Comments forwarded to the three speakers:

Q1. What is the level of participation and partnership of civil society in the programs of TICAD since its establishment in 1993?

Unfortunately civil society is not participating officially, and the government of Japan is trying to obtain comments from civil society with having consecutive meetings in the future.

Q2. Why is JSDF is channeled through the World Bank to assist the pastoralists in Ethiopia, instead of directly channeling through civil society or any other concerned party who is directly responsible for such program here in Ethiopia?

This is a different approach, in which the Japanese government earmarked funds to the World Bank so as to assist the pastoralist, and the selection in the funding process goes to the World Bank, which has its own rules and regulation with this regard. I think the World Bank in Washington Office contacted the World Bank

Addis office, and that fund is channeled in such way so as to help the pastoralists here.

Q3. Does TICAD support especial groups of society like women, children, youth and the like?

TICAD is not initially designed to implement activities for especial groups mentioned, but as part of the society those mentioned groups are directly and indirectly beneficiaries of the projects activated by TICAD.

Q4. How is the youth population mentioned and raised as challenge by your government?

Compared to China that has huge population, the youth population ration is not that much as taking into account the cases in Africa, where Africa has huge youth population, which is not that productive, and becomes threat to the economic growth, and issue for economic projects due to unemployment and other related issues connected to this.

Q5. What is your initiative regarding exploring minerals/natural resources for this is important for sustainable development? What is your contribution regarding improving technological capacity with this regard?

Japan's resource is limited, and we are forced to support on focusing priority sectors so that much can be done with that by concentrating on specific sectors and having set priorities.

We believe that we should transfer technological capacity and knowledge whose origin is of Japan to here, and we are doing this through our technical assistances, sharing basic ideas.

Q6. Do you cover costs for maintenance of roads construction?

The intention of funding projects is not to make the civil society entirely dependent up on us, but rather we want to see the sense of ownership by the civil societies and those beneficiaries in a way becoming self-sustainable and

self-sufficient. And thus we do not cover the maintenance costs after the completion of the constructions.

Q7. Do you have strategies to strengthen your partnership with the civil society?

We are now trying to strengthen our relationship by arranging particular meetings like this one, and will do the same in the future.

Q8. What is your opinion regarding the efficiency of civil society in Ethiopia?

Generally speaking, it is nice and it is very active. Nevertheless, there is always enough room to improve and work together.

Presentation continued

IV. TICAD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Presenter Mr. Kiyoshi Shiratori - Board member of the Forum

Mr. Shiratori commenced his speech by explaining the nature and character of TCSF. TCSF is a registered non-profit organization established in June 2004 in Japan, with the aim of making Japan's ODA to have effective impact on the needs of grassroots people in Africa through providing forum to discuss issues on African development program among various stakeholders. It has about 100 members, who are researchers, practitioners, students, ordinary citizens interested in Japan's ODA and or African development. TCSF also networks with Japanese NGOs, African diplomats in Tokyo, and the Civil Commission for Africa representing African civil societies.

To make realize Japan's ODA more people centered, TCSF has been carrying out several activities, out of which is to compile and publish white papers on Japan's Africa Policy since 2005, and so far two issues have been published, he said. Of the activities TCSF involved, advocacy is one of them, which aim at poverty

reduction, supportive of development by African people, channeling resources directly to grassroots level, achieving commitment of Japanese government to the ODA. He also mentioned that it is necessary that civil society should be an equal partner of TICAD so that it could be a forum where people of Africa and Japan discuss what the future has uphold for both.

TCSF also serves as voices of African and Japanese civil society, whose deliberation in October 2007, in its meeting held in Japan, Tokyo, voiced common genuine concern of African, Japanese, and other Asian civil society, and presented concrete suggestions and actionable recommendations to the Tokyo International Conference on African development (TICAD). These are the following:

- People centered; ownership and bottom-up approaches
- Community empowerment for sustainable impact
- Capacity enhancement for government and CSOs
- Involvement of CSOs throughout TICAD as equal partners.

He briefed that the recommendations will be further refined by Japanese and African NGOs and presented to Gabon Ministerial Conference on TICAD in March 2008. be constitutive part of the white paper published in March 2008, and presented to a civil society symposium in May 2008. Basic documents that outline and explain the activities and the recommendations were distributed to the participants for their further study and comments they may have, which he asked the participants to forward comments and suggestion they have on TICAD to him.

V. Civil Society in Ethiopia

Mr. Gizaw From Gudina Tumsa Foundation representing Ethiopian NGOs

Mr. Gizaw began his presentation sharing the general outline for his discussion. In his sharing of the background information about the Gudina Tumsa Foundation, he said that the foundation was established in the early 90s to carry on the vision of Rev. Gudina Tumsa who was assassinated in 1979 by the

Marxist military regime of Ethiopia. Since the time of its establishment the foundation mainly focused on securing the livelihood of marginalized and disadvantaged communities, especially the Karayu pastoralists. In the presentation there were pictures of the Karayu people demonstrating their every day life and it mentioned that this people are almost completely overlooked by contemporary development. Until recent days the Karayu people were self sufficient. However, nowadays their life style is more & more endangered as there are more resettlements & industrialization, which are destroying their life. In the discussion, the following were shared as areas of interventions in the land of Karayu; education, Inte-Pastoralists Community Capacity Building, Gudina Tumsa and His Legacy, Publication of Oromo Wisdom Literatures, graded Natural Resource Management, Livestock Development, Improving Livelihood, and Women's Promotion.

The education line of intervention has two major path, i.e. formal - both to children and adults, and non-formal - functional literacy and adult skill trainings. Pictures of the First School in the Karayu Land of Fantalle: " Dandi Gudina Primary School" and various activities in relation to school was shared. The primary school has a school feeding program too. In the presentation it was noted that some women organized themselves into groups and asked to be given literacy and numeric lessons together. And the foundation is now giving functional literacy training and the program is supported with exchange of experience through exchange visits to Borana where similar projects are being implemented. Elaborations to the intervention areas were given with the help of pictures shared.

Under the section of Environment protection and rehabilitation, Mr. Gizaw shared that in order to minimize adverse effects and maximize benefits in the arid Karayu land all GTF's projects considers grassroots knowledge and EIA as essential component. At this point he also mentioned his concern that ODA in its funding support doesn't address, as criteria, the EIA which is the major component for environment protection. Continuing his presentation on

'environment' he shared the following activities which GTF has spearheaded in the area of Karayu:

- GTF is the first NGO that has successful nursery site in the land of Karayu.
- GTF is the first successful NGO thus far to distributes seedlings and follow their status on the land of Karayu.
- GTF is successful in preparing drought resistant & Multi – purpose seedlings

Pictures of nursery sights, seedlings and afforestation - trees in the desert were also presented to elaborate the above explanations.

He further shared the foundation's experience in using the Grassroots Grant fund from the Japanese government. In doing so the following were presented:

Projects financed by Africa Rikai & Japan embassy

- Establishment of pedagogical & environmental center
- Enhancing girls education (sponsorship support for girls)
- Essay competition among pastoralist Karayu students
- Construction of additional classrooms & provision of furniture,
- Construction & provision of furniture for laboratory
- Construction and provision of furniture for library
- These projects financed by both benefactors worth around \$1,473,447.31USD.
- With these & other projects GTF benefited more than 1,156,878 pastoral people in the Karayu community

In addition, Christian Aid-UK, Oxfam-Canada, Alberta-Rotary West Lock, Bread for the World-Germany, and Rainbow for the future were mentioned as major benefactors. Mr. Gizaw in the presentation also shared the points he elaborated as "The pros and 'cons' of Grassroots Grants' accordingly the following points were listed as pros:

Pros:

- Accessible & Welcoming to work with
- Willing to go to the remote land of Karayu
- Willing to support the construction of infrastructures, (school) which other benefactors usually refuse

- Willing to support the education sector, which others consider as the duty of government
- Appreciates our people-centered approach & marginalized community empowerment
- Accountable to their promises
- Timely release of fund along with project monitoring and evaluation

Cons:

- Fail to cover administrative, VAT, & similar costs
- Not-flexible [fail to consider changes due to time such as market fluctuations]
- Does not require EIA
- Project life span should be greater than one year

The presentation further deliberated on the problems encountered by the foundation during the implementation of its activity. Most of the problem areas are mention to be experienced in relation with the local government or line government offices:

- Failure to see the possibility of win –win b/n environment and investment
- Limited capacity to implement the available laws, policies, and regulations (e.g.: EIA for projects)
- Focus only on daily bread (e.g. real estates around & in A.A, and people evicted due to projects)
- Failure to inflict budget meant for EIA in projects
- Focus only on the economic growth, not impacts on the environment
- Sometimes consider the efforts of NGOs/CSOs as if we are against development
- Limited knowledge of sustainable development (line offices)
- Limited time to hear NGOs/CSOs (line offices)
- Long and boring bureaucracy
- Government staff turnover
- Fear of unknowns, 'people could ask their rights' including Economic Justice

- Pollution in beyond the level of description (we lost one lake and we hope to lose one very soon)
- Lack of considering local knowledge
- Line offices fail to see that we are their to fill gaps in development
- Budgetary constraints for some of our projects (beneficiaries beyond expected number)

Finally Mr. Gizaw concluded his presentation by sharing a slid note in title: "OUR MESSAGE TO JAPANESE NGOs" and the message contained the following statement; *...in the challenge to challenge the challenges of poverty and environmental deterioration, transfer knowledge, skill, direct aid and experience based on the vision and interest of the marginalized & disadvantaged people living on the other side of the globe.*

DISCUSSION, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

Q1. The share of funds of the Japanese government is smaller when compared to that of the United States and Europe. Is there any possibility that this share can be increased?

More collaboration with local NGOs is needed as there is low participation, and we did not have long history with this respect like the US and EU. JICA is organizing training, and working with NGOs, and started the journey. 15 representatives of Japanese NGOs are studying the relationship and the condition here and will forward their comments to the Head Quarter in Japan.

Q2. Japan is the producer of millions of cars and I think they have enough second hand cars to give away. Is there any thing the Japan government can do with this regard to us so that we receive second hand cars from you?

Q3. Irregardless of environmental consequences it entails, there is a need to build housed in the rural areas, though this do have an adverse effect on the climate?

Clear misunderstanding on what the explanation was all about, Ato Gizaw commented. He said he was talking about those 6-7 storey buildings that took the life of many eucalyptus tress, which obviously have adverse effect on the environment.

Q4. Does JICA have any plan with the civil society?

Yes, we do have many plans as the relationship improves. And civil societies can submit their proposal to the Office, so that considerations can be made.

Q5. Projects by their very nature are time bound, unlike the Japan Embassy's consideration that is based on funding with time bound and budget sealing. How do you reconcile such aspects? The Japanese are more rigid, which inhibit us from performing our activities in a way we need. Can you be a little bit flexible?

Small grant donors will be benefited from such experiences, and with this regard very fast step goes to the beneficiaries. With regard to the budget sealing, the maximum budget goes to 880,000USD, which requires approval from the Japan government, which is difficult to get approval from the head quarter in Japan. Regarding time limit, we can do extension if there is a need for that. As said, we are rigid, which is true. In the mean time we are considering the possibilities of holding budget contingencies for the first general grant, not for grass root grant, and we are currently working on this matter. In fact things are improving with the Japanese government with relation to TICAD, though large portion of policy is made without consulting civil societies. But as it is there are lot of ideas and possibilities.

Q6. I had been to Japan for visit, and learnt and gained great experience from the expertise and as matter of my stay there. In my stay there I learnt that JICA send volunteers to share technical experiences and knowledge to countries like Nepal, and few African countries. Is there any plan JICA has for sending volunteers who can share technical expertise to the civil societies here? Is there any chance to human resource development, in which civil societies be offered training in Asian countries?

With regard to human resource development, thru the implementation of small scale projects, we hope that civil society could be helped.

Q7. Being happy to find environmental friendly and professional person in the kereyu area, is your organization interested in the scarce resource-wild life? How is the relationship between the wildlife and the people in relation to the natural resources?

We have 20 local species of plants, both exotic and indigenous types, and prepare and distribute them to the local people. And the survival rate of the indigenous species is like 30% and that of the exotic species is 10-15%.

Nothing significant has been done with regard to the wild life, and there is a controversy in those areas, and they could not go beyond further, and have constraints.

Q8. Are the farmers who reside in your areas displaced due to the implementation of this project? Is the life of the farmers taken care of?

The project was originally commenced with the involvements and knowledge off the farmers themselves. The farmers are well aware of what is going on, when they were organized in this project. And we know and understood that it was for our own benefit. The farmers live amid forests and plants, and produce coffee and help their livelihood. We were not and do not feel that we were deceived or cheated. And we are seeing that we are getting benefit out of it.

Q9. Does JICA take into account local knowledge and bylaws of the local people?

“Honestly speaking, no” was the answer given by Mr. Nakamura. We had no knowledge of such aspects of their lives, but currently we hire a local professional who has knowledge of such aspects, and are currently working on how to integrate local knowledge and bylaws into the project activities so as to come with better achievements and results as well.

The morning session was concluded at 12:45 with the announcement made by Wz. Tsehay reminding the continuation of the program in the afternoon with those who received the invitation for the session. Lunch was served at CRDA restaurant.

Afternoon Session

Mr. Shiratori welcomed the participants of the afternoon session and he briefed about the program to the afternoon session. The afternoon session was dedicated basically for group discussion. Before the group discussion began Mr. Shiratori called up on Ms. Kulwuha Tesfaye, to make brief presentation of her study on Japanese Aid effectiveness in Ethiopia.

OUTLINE to ODI STUDY on JAPANESE AID EFFECTIVENESS in ETHIOPIA

Presenter: Ms. Kulwuha Tesfaye

Ms. Kulwuha presented a brief outline of the ODI funded study on Japanese Aid Effectiveness, in which her organization. She described that the organization is conducting a research in five countries taking part in the study, Ghana, Bangladesh, Malawi, Vietnam and Zambia. The study uses evidence based approach with the context of Ethiopian government policy, and aims at generating and synthesizing research based evidence on Japanese assistance from the six plot countries with a view to influencing pro-poor policies, and the issues that are being dealt with are compliance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, thus assessing the extent to which Japanese Aid supports principles of mutual interest and accountability. The research will center around on Japan's development approach and priority sector in Ethiopia, whether these are in alignment with the priority areas set by the Government of Ethiopia, on mutual interest and accountability, through identifying who the stakeholders are and how they are involved. The study will be finalized towards mid February, and will be sharing the findings with all stakeholders involved, she concluded.

Introduction to the Group Discussion by Mr Shiratori,

The afternoon session began at 1:40 p.m. Mr. Shiratori, the facilitator for the afternoon session briefed participants about the session. As also indicated in the schedule the afternoon was dedicated for group discussion. The group discussion was advised to pursue the following three discussion points in addressing the issues in their respective group;

- What are the issues of grassroots people?
- What can civil society do for the issues?
- How Japanese ODA can facilitate the above efforts?

The grouping was organized into three in line with the three themes that are pillars of TICAD IV.

1. Accelerating economic development

- Is economic growth, in Ethiopian case, pro-poor?
- Private led investment and ODA
- International trade, opportunity for Ethiopia and poverty reduction
- More technical cooperation for economic development?



Group Work

2. Human security

2.1. MDGs

- MDG 1-8 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, universal primary education, gender equality and empower women, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environmental sustainability, and partnership for development)

- Right based approach
- Role of government and civil society (including non-NGO partners)
- Consideration on gender, minority, disabled, elders, etc.

2.2. Peace consolidation and good democratization

- Support to think tank/advocacy NGOs
- Refugees and returnees

3. Environment degradation and climate changes

- Environment and development/investment, natural resource management and livelihood
- Pastoralist and development
- EIA in development
- GMO, bio-fuel, natural resource exploitation

Cross cutting issues in terms of partnership between ODA and civil society

- Ownership (whose?), priority (whose?), accountability (to whom?)
- Holistic approach, linkage, partnership, programme approach
- People centered, poverty reduction
- Participation of civil society
- Flexibility of the assistance programme
- How to establish regular communication between Japanese ODA and civil society

Group Discussion presentations

Group One - Accelerating Economic Growth

1. Issues raised/to be considered in future activities:

- ⇒ Every project and activity should start with need assessment, i.e. based on community need

- ⇒ Projects should consider both the Rural and Urban poor; mostly the urban poor are overlooked.
- ⇒ Projects must be designed in such a way that products are diversified and market oriented
- ⇒ Strengthening partnership with line government sectors
- ⇒ Introduce microfinance & Income Generating Activities to improve the situation at house hold level. Consider providing seed money
- ⇒ Work on attitudinal change through capacity building because most of our problems are emanated from attitude problem
- ⇒ Assess impact and learning from past experiences
- ⇒ Consider to improve the life span of projects

2. to address the issues try to build close partnership with the government sectors

3. Japanese embassy, ODA and JICA

- ⇒ Consider the issues for funding
- ⇒ Closely work with CSOs

4. Recommendation

- ⇒ Establishment of forum that will help to make networking between
- ⇒ Develop flexibility in your side - extending the project cycle and amount of grant
- ⇒ Move from project based to programs
- ⇒ Include technical cooperation

Comments from the participants on group one presentation

- i. One participant seriously stressed and commented that extending the project cycle without a corresponding adjustment of grant for the implied administrative cost will create rather complication than a solution.

Group Two - Human Security

The issue of human security should consider the need of economic growth, investment and environment protection. Further to this it includes dignity and it is people centered. The group understands that human security is all about economic, political, social and cultural rights of the society and also respect for; gender balance, minority, disabled and children i.e. the marginalized ones in the society. Therefore, MDG can be achieved only if human security is realized.



Group Presentation

The group presenter following this introduction presented the group's discussion outcomes as follows:

MDG

What are the issues of the grassroots people?

- ⇒ All MDGs are the issues of the grassroots
- ⇒ All goals are interrelated and interdependent,
- ⇒ To meet the enumerated goals the capacity of all partners should be developed, i.e. Government, NGOs, and CBOs

- As to how to develop the capacity could be addressed through financial support, infrastructure, technical support, and provision of human resource.

The role of Civil Society

- ⇒ Civil society should be strong - be on its own
- ⇒ Work for the creation of assertive society, a society that can speak out its need.
- ⇒ Empowerment of the people to ask for their right,
- ⇒ Civil society must educate the society that the MDGs are not privileges rather their rights and encourage ask for it. (Right based approach)
- ⇒ Educate and empower the community on how to monitor the accountability of the government towards the realization of MDGs.
- ⇒ Should work for the capacity of the government at all levels.
- ⇒ Should empower the people (teach) about budget tracking at a woreda level.
- ⇒ CSOs should also focus on sustainable development using the local knowledge.

Right Based Approach

Issues:

- ⇒ Lack of knowledge about right issues among the community
- ⇒ People did not know that MDGs are rights not privileges and the community have the right to participate in the implementation.

CSOs: what should be done?

- ⇒ Teach the community that all MDGs are the social/economic and cultural rights of the people.
- ⇒ Create awareness about RBA
- ⇒ Participation of community in the policy making
- ⇒ Educate the people about the their right
- ⇒ CSO should also be accountable to the people where they intervene

Role of the Government

- ⇒ Recognize CSOs as development partners - the recent speech by the president about CSOs is encouraging
- ⇒ Give space to CSOs
- ⇒ Create forum for dialogue between CSOs & NGOs
- ⇒ Create enabling environment
- ⇒ Should participate CSOs/NGOs in the New NGO legislation

CSOs: Disabled, women, Children, elders

- ⇒ Create awareness among the community about gender equality, rights of the disabled
- ⇒ Advocate for the ratification of the international convention on the disabled.
- ⇒ Integrate the issue of the marginalized in their area of intervention
- ⇒ Create awareness about the issue of gender and disability

Peace consolidation/good democratization

Issues:

- ⇒ Natural resource (depletion)
- ⇒ Population pressure
- ⇒ Regional boarder
- ⇒ Conflict resolution local oriented

How can others help?

- ⇒ Information sharing
- ⇒ We are fragmented - there is a great number of CSOs in the country engaged in various and similar programs but it is not interconnected
- ⇒ Organize forums where CSOs can see ways to work together
- ⇒ Need of networking to create the interconnectedness with in the CSOs
- ⇒ CSOs projects and programs should not be donors driven so is Donors.

Recommendations (ODA?)

- ⇒ Understand the local reality; ODA should work in line with the interest of the community.
- ⇒ Allow flexibility in the process of grant management
- ⇒ Consolidate the existing best practices:
 - i. Pre approval visit to the site
 - ii. On going monitoring
 - iii. Willing to work in remote/inaccessible areas.

Group Three - Environment degradation and climate changes

Issues for grassroots in Ethiopia

1. Food insecurity works against environment
2. Inadequate awareness of local officials on environment policies
3. Conflicting interest between economic development and environmental conservation
4. High population growth
5. Improper utilization of agricultural resource
6. Climatic change
7. No EIA carried out in projects
8. Inadequate participation of local people in negotiation processes
9. Aggressive development of Bio-fuel with out EIA
10. Environmental pollution (urban)
11. Inadequate consideration to indigenous knowledge
12. Rapid forage degradation in pastoralist area
13. Lack of integrated watershed management practices
14. Threat of GMO on seed diversity

What can civil society do for the issues?

- ⇒ Community organization by laws
- ⇒ Environmental training and rehabilitation of endangered areas in the water share
- ⇒ Creating livelihood opportunities

- ⇒ Provide family planning service
- ⇒ Undertake land use planning
- ⇒ Integrate indigenous knowledge of the community
- ⇒ Community level management planning.
- ⇒ Advocacy
- ⇒ Local community government linkage
- ⇒ Economic culture mapping
- ⇒ Raise awareness
- ⇒ Capacity building facilitate community mobilization - food security

What Japan ODA can assist?

1. Provide Assistance in terms of
 - ⇒ Financing projects
 - ⇒ Strengthening institutional capacity
 - ⇒ Technical assistance
2. Support integrated watershed management projects
3. Popularize problems of environment and their solutions at international level; e.g.G8 submit
4. Assist Ethiopian leadership to be more environment conscious
5. promote further inter - agency collaboration (like JICA)

Discussions Comments and Questions

One of the participants raise question on how the issue of environment is related with ODA.

In response to the question the representative from the Japanese Embassy Mr. Omoto shared the point that there is no clear relationship to see the issue of environment in this sense. He further informed the group the new development in the Japanese government involvement to the environment protection that they are working into creating new approaches to support the developing countries in the environment protection.

Comment from participants:

One participant shared the direct relationship of environment degradation in the country to the challenge of the economic growth. In his sharing he add that Ethiopia is a country to be known some 40-50 years back 35% or so covered with forest and what we have now is only 2% remaining. This for sure will equally impact our global environment condition. So ODA should see how to support this aspect challenge in the country.

Another participant shared that blaming only the international community for the environment degradation will be a mistake. Every activity of human being have an impact on the environment. Ethiopia has lost one lake and another lake is vulnerable for same fate. This is greatly as a result of mismanagement of the natural resource by local people. Underestimation of this fact will have negative impact in our success for sustainable development.

The need to find out GMO in Ethiopia and share it with the Japan ODA was also mention to be of greater importance. In addition creating alternative energy resource to protect environment degradation was also suggested by the participants.

Following the last presentation and discussion Mr. Shiratori summarized the major focus of the group discussion as follows:

1. Awareness of our target people and the role of Civil Society Organization to wards creating the venue for awareness
2. Networking linkages and establishing of forums
 - i. Networking among NGOs/CSOs
 - ii. Networking between NGO and ODA

Mr. Shiratori also mentioned the possibility of seeking the Japan Embassy to allow a chance of discussion regarding the issues related with the environment situations. Further more he shared the importance of arranging such kind of seminars or stages to bring out better ways of support the community.

At last he shared the news of visit of the former prime minister of Japan to Ethiopia in the near future and requested the group for three volunteers to organize the overall out come of this one day seminar so as to share the dignitary the voices of Ethiopian Civil Society Organization.

The coordinator for NGO-JICA desk in CRDA, Wz. Tsehay took the opportunity and passed her gratefulness to all the participants for the success of the seminar and especial thanks to TICAD for initiating the organization of the seminar.

The seminar was closed at 5:30 p.m. with the following closing remark by Mr. Asfaw from DPPC.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Asfaw Mekuria, representative of DPPA was honored to close the seminar with his concluding remarks. In his brief speech, he thanked all the participants for their attentive and active participation in all the sessions. He also expressed his gratitude to the Japanese Embassy and CRDA for organizing such seminars that widen opportunity. He also said it is a good start to have such opportunities for civil societies and NGOs to work in collaboration with the Japanese government. It also created connection wit the Asian NGOs and Japanese government. He also urged the Japanese government to be more flexible in terms of strategies and policies with the conditions of Ethiopia to perform those joint tasks in expeditious manners. He also remarked the Ethiopian civil societies to exploit the fullest resources they obtain from the aid, and also look into local opportunities and possibilities that will help to execute the needed tasks independently and self-sufficiently.

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Ethiopia-Japan Partnership Seminar January 22, 2008 - CRDA conference hall

Time	Activity	Responsible
Open seminar – morning session Moderator – Ato Million Alemayehu		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	CRDA
9:00- 9:15	Opening Statement	W/z Semira – CRDA A/Head
9:15- 9:40	Japan's ODA/TICAD/G8	Mr. Omoto: Embassy of Japan
9:40-10:10	Japan's ODA programme in Ethiopia	Mr. Masuda: Embassy of Japan
10:10-10:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
10:30-11:00	JICA's Programme in Ethiopia	Mr. Ando/Mr. Nakamura: JICA Ethiopia Office
11:00-11:20	TCSF and TNnet activities towards TICAD IV and G8	Mr. Shiratori – TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF)
11:20-11:40	Civil Society in Ethiopian development and its possible partnership with Japan's ODA	Mr. Gizaw from Gudina Tumsa
11:40-12:20	Discussion	All
12:20-12:30	Closing remarks for the open seminar	Ato Asfaw Mekuria - DPPA
12:30-13:30	Lunch	CRDA Cafeteria
Closed workshop afternoon session Moderator – Mr. Kiyoshi Shiratori		
13:30-13:40	Introduction to the agenda for group discussion	Mr. Shiratori - TCSF
13:40-14:00	Introduction to ODI study	Wz Kulwuha Tesfaye: AVHA
14:00-15:00	Group discussion:	All
15:00-15:20	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:20-16:20	Group presentations and plenary discussions and Wrap up	Group representatives and all
16:20-16:30	Closing remarks	Mr. Omoto: Embassy of Japan

Voices of Ethiopian and Japanese Civil Society towards TICAD IV January 22nd, 2008

Introduction

Representatives of Ethiopian Civil Society gathered at the Ethiopia-Japan Partnership Seminar which was held in Addis Ababa on 22nd of January, 2008 discussed issues around development in Ethiopian context with particular emphasis on their impacts on grassroots people and the role of civil society and Japanese assistance to the effort rendered by the Ethiopian civil society. Based on the outputs from the seminar, this document has been compiled as recommendations to Japanese government for its better policy and assistance programme to Africa in closer collaboration with the civil society.

Ethiopian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) accounts 3,681 as registered with the government. They involve in wider roles in development and in dialogue with the government to support enabling pro-poor policies in place in an accountable and transparent manner. The partnership of CSOs/NGOs with government to engage more the civil society to the development arena proactively, preparation of the new legislation by the government is under way.

Ethiopian Civil Society has a knee interest to actively participate in TICAD and other forums to monitor their impacts regionally and globally, to voice concerns of grassroots people and to share available benefits of the forum being reached to legitimate beneficiary of the community..

Ethiopian Civil Society fully agrees the voices raised by other African Civil Society at different occasions towards TICAD to move from mere policy proposals and pronouncement to action oriented genuine and equal partnerships among all concerned stakeholder. Additionally, Ethiopian Civil Society would like to present its own recommendations to Japanese Government and TICAD.

1. Accelerating Economic Growth

Ethiopia along with some other African countries is experiencing relatively better economic growth. This is the result of PASDEP and the increase of foreign investment. The growth however has not translated into better livelihood of the majority of people and still many suffer from poverty.

Ethiopian Civil Society reckons that any economic development should consider grassroots people through providing them with micro-finance, market oriented production improvement, diversification of income sources, etc. Economic gap within the country is one of the primal concerns in economic development and urban poor should not be overlooked.

Recommendations to Japanese Government are as follows:

- ✓ Support to create forum between the government and the civil society.
- ✓ Establish forum that will help to make networking between Japanese ODA and Ethiopian Civil Society.
- ✓ Develop flexibility in the ODA schemes such as extended project period, amount ceiling and more responsiveness to changes of situation.
- ✓ Include technical cooperation in the support to civil society
- ✓ Understand the local reality and to be flexible accordingly in their grant policies, procedures, funding and monitoring development programs/projects.
- ✓ Closer collaboration with the civil society in ODA programme.

2. Human Security

The issue of human security should consider the need of economic growth, investment and environment protection. It also includes dignity, and people centred policy and development. The human security is all about economic, political social and cultural rights of the society and respects for marginalised people such as women, minority, disabled, young and elders. MDGs can not be realised without human security.

2-1. Millennium Development Goals

Ethiopia, a country of more than 80 million people and as of the poorest nation of the world, shares most socio-economic catastrophes such as high poverty rate, low literacy rate, high child mortality and HIV/AIDS. It is stressed that right based approach is an essential to

achieve MDGs and sense of responsibility and partnership, mutual respect and recognition should be developed among partners. Hence the civil society should be recognised well in implementing development programme as a equal partner to the government.

To ensure the grassroots people to reach MDGs, the civil society can:

- ✓ Empower people and community to be more assertive.
- ✓ Support community to monitor the government's programme towards MDGs.
- ✓ Support capacity building of the government.
- ✓ Promote sustainable development using local knowledge.
- ✓ Be more accountable to the community.
- ✓ Create awareness on gender, marginalised and disabled among the community.
- ✓ Integrate the issue of gender, marginalised and disabled in its own intervention.
- ✓ Ensure right based approach to development

2-2. Peace Consolidation and Democratisation

Lack of awareness, natural resource depletion, population pressure, regional and local boundary disputes, unstable political, social and economic conditions, poor governance, corruption, bureaucracy are considered as causes of conflict. So, the mere presence of good governance is taken as the best solution to maintain peace and prevent conflict. The important value of traditional and local oriented methods of conflict resolution was also sought as valuable potential in conflict resolution.

In this regard, Ethiopian Civil Society has acknowledged the need to work together with the government and community in maintaining peace and democracy. The need for establishment of networking, joint resource mobilization, sharing information, cooperation and collaboration are taken as decisive measures towards the realization of peace consolidation and MDGs.

Recommendations to Japanese Government are as follows:

- ✓ Recognise that MDGs are the issue of grassroots people.
- ✓ Assist capacity development of the government and civil society through financial and technical support, infrastructure development and provision of human resource.
- ✓ Work in line with the interest of the community. Grant shouldn't make people for slavery but serve for the solidarity of humans and partners.

- ✓ The existing good experiences, best practices and trends, such as donors' pre grant approval visits, on going monitoring, willing to work in remote/inaccessible areas and trying to reach the unreachable ones, one time grant release should continue.
- ✓ All the grants, loans and other foreign aids should be related directly to the attainment of MDGs.
- ✓ Assist the nature of the government to be popular and democratically elected that works with zero bureaucracy and without corruption.

3. Environment Degradation and Climate Changes

Ethiopia is one of the nations, which are facing severe challenges of environmental degradation, climate change, poverty, food insecurity and multifaceted socio economic problems. The existing economic and environmental drawbacks have hampered the country's effort to achieve the MDGs as it is scheduled.

During the seminar it was recognized that environmental degradation is the most outstanding problem of Ethiopia that affects socio economic performance in the country and also contributing to the global climatic problems. The problem is also more serious at grassroots level and thus it is wise to tackle this problem with clear planning at community level. The Ethiopian civil societies have expressed their eagerness to work hard to reverse the situation of land degradation and climate change. They have also requested the Japan Civil Society and ODA to back the effort through financial and technical assistance so as to alleviate local problems in one hand and address the global challenge on the other.

Environmental degradation and climate change are exacerbated in Ethiopia mainly by lack of capacity and adequate awareness at community and decision making levels; rapid population growth and dependence on natural resources for survival; conflicting interest between economic development and environmental conservation; weak integrated watershed management practices and unwise resource exploitation with lack of adequate partnership among stakeholders who works at different levels; focusing on immediate problem solving activities such as increasing food production at the expense environment.

To reverse the current land degradation and climate change the civil society can:

Focus on creating and strengthening community based organizations,

Conduct research on the impact of investment on environment,

Create livelihood opportunities to reduce dependence on natural resources,

Introduce environmentally friendly technologies,

Provide family planning services adequately,

Involve in advocacy and lobbying

Prepare local management plans at watershed level for environmental and development activities.

Recommendations to Japanese Government are as follows:

- ✓ Provide technical and financial assistance for integrated watershed management that address environmental and community problems simultaneously,
- ✓ Strengthening institutional capacity at grassroots level both for community based and government institutions,
- ✓ Popularize problems of environment and their solutions at international level,
- ✓ Assist Ethiopian Government to ratify/implement national environmental regulations and international conventions,
- ✓ Promote further inter - agency collaboration (e.g. JICA) and working in close collaboration with the Ethiopian Civil Society