



REPORT ON

JAPAN AND MALAWI CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP SEMINAR



JANUARY 2007



Report

Date: Tuesday, 9 January 2007

Venue: JICA Malawi Office, Lilongwe

Time: 8:30 AM-14:00 PM

Main organizers: Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN), ActionAid, International Malawi, and, TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF)

Cooperation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malawi Office

Form of Seminar: TV Conference through JICA-Net

Participants: Organisations from Civil Society and Government Sector in Malawi, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JICA Malawi Office, and TCSF

Record Keeper: Patrick Mawaya, Prime Consultancy Services (P.O. BOX 20393, Kawale, Lilongwe 2, Malawi) and Ms. Midori Yajima, Researcher (University of Malawi, Bunda College / Wageningen University)

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List of Abbreviations

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAS	Development Assistance Strategy
FPAM	Family Planning Association of Malawi
G8	Group Eight
GOM	Government of Malawi
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JOCV	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEJN	Malawi Economic Justice Network
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
OVOP	One Village One Product
ROC	Republic of China
TCSF	TICAD Civil Society Forum
TICAD	Toyo International Conference for African Development

1. Introductions

A one-day televised Seminar on Japan and Africa Civil Society Partnership took place at JICA Malawi Office in Lilongwe and JICA Tokyo International Centre connected by using TV conference facility of JICA-Net on 9th January 2007. It was attended by representatives from the public sector, private sector, and civil society organisations in Lilongwe, Malawi and Tokyo in Japan. The Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) facilitated the seminar. It was co-facilitated by TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF) in Japan. A full list of participants in seminar is included in Appendix 1 of this report, and a seminar program is in Appendix 2.

2. Seminar Objectives

The seminar objectives were outlined by Mr. Kurokochi from TCSF and these were:

- (i) To bring a thorough understanding of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) to civil society in Malawi
- (ii) To exchange opinions between African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Japanese officials in charge of ODA to Africa in order to improve Japanese ODA
- (iii) To build a stronger partnership of civil society between Malawi and Japan.

3. Sessions

The presentation materials and reference materials are attached in Appendix 3.

3.1 Session 1: Opening

(1) Opening Statement

Remarks by Mr. Andrew Kumbatira, Executive Director, MEJN

Mr. Kumbatira welcomed all the participants to the seminar. He said the seminar was an opportunity for civil society in Malawi to interact with Japan by sharing results of the evaluation study conducted by a consultant to MEJN and funded by TCSF.

Remarks by Mr. Collins Magalasi, Head of Policy, ActionAid International Malawi

Mr. Collins Magalasi, Head of Policy and Deputy Director of ActionAid said that development aid was a challenge. ActionAid had in fact gone to the extent of assessing the effectiveness of development aid. One report by ActionAid looked at the reality of aid by assessing the effectiveness of development aid.

Regarding the Japanese ODA, Mr. Magalasi said that Japan's ODA has not been much in the public debate. This therefore calls for more assessment on whether the Japanese assistance has been appropriate and hence the importance of the seminar.

Remarks by Mr. Kurokochi, Board Member, TCSF

Mr. Kurokochi from TCSF gave the background to TICAD. He emphasised the truly effective policies of African development should reflect the voices of the voiceless in and outside Africa. Seminars of similar nature have been organised in Mozambique, Senegal, and Ethiopia. He said that NGOs' important opinions should be assorted through this kind of seminars and serve as indispensable inputs into TICAD IV which would be held, just before the G8 Summit in Japan in 2008.

(2) Introduction to TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF) – By Mr. Nabeya, Board Member

Mr. Nabeya gave the background to TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF) as follows: TCSF is an NGO which aims to improve the living standards of Africa people through people centered development. TCSF are working on three approaches. 1st one is building network with Civil Society Organization (CSOs) between Africa and Japan. 2nd is researching and studying the reality of Japan's policy and assistance toward Africa. 3rd is advocating in order to realize "Civil Society" centered policy for Africa.

3.2 Session 2: Japan's Assistance to Malawi

(1) Cooperation between Malawi and Japan – by Mr. Dan Sagawa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Malawi)

Mr. Sagawa from the Department of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malawi gave the background to the relations between the Government of Malawi and the Government of Japan. he highlighted the following issues in his presentation:

- Relations between Malawi and Japan were established in 1964.
- Japan has taken a leading role in Africa's development.
- Assistance to Malawi has been in form of capital assistance (including financial assistance), technical assistance (experts, volunteers, and training).
- Areas that have received Japanese assistance are many such as the basic human needs and economic infrastructural development.
- Specific priorities of Japanese assistance has been in the following areas: agriculture, One Village One Product (OVOP), health care, and capacity building
- The level of assistance is between JYP 1 to JYP 2 billion (Japanese Yen).
- Aid talks between Japan and Malawi are held annually.

(2) TICAD and Malawi-Japan Relations – Mr. Amiya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan)

Mr. Amiya, Deputy Director, Africa Division 2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan) talked about TICAD and Malawi – Japan relations. He focused on the TICAD Process. Discussions on Africa include peace building democratisation and governance, and Regional Cooperation. Echoing some of the audience's comments, Mr. Amiya acknowledged that Japan's efforts may not have been publicised enough, which will be looked at through TICAD IV process. He mentioned initiatives such as JOCV (Mr. Kohei Yamada) and OVOP as well-publicized models, which should be enhanced.

He also acknowledged that the achievement of MDGs has not been fundamental.

In addition to talking about the general TICAD process, Mr. Amiya emphasized the following:

- (i) The first announcement was on the Fourth Africa-Asia Business Forum that will take place in Dar Es Salaam in February 2007.
- (ii) There will be a Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development in March 2007. However, the venue and the actual dates have not been confirmed yet.
- (iii) Japan plans to establish an Embassy (Mission Office) in Malawi to boost bilateral relations. This passed the Cabinet's decision, so now we are waiting for the Congress for the final approval.

(3) Comments from the Malawi Ministry of Finance – Dr. Naomi Ngwira, Director of Debt and Aid Department

Dr. Naomi Ngwira, Director of Aid and Debt Management commenting on the relations between Malawi and Japan highlighted the following issues:

- Japan has been a true friend to the Malawi Government.
- Japan is open and direct in its way of doing things and does not have too many conditionalities. The constraint is the mission is in Lusaka.
- The approach by Japan is straight forward and not time consuming.
- In order to increase aid effectiveness, Dr. Ngwira emphasised on the need to put further efforts to achieve the Paris Declaration. Among the issues to be dealt with are: national ownership of policies, the need for donors to align and harmonise their systems, and mutual accountability to monitor, evaluate and manage results.
- Japan is the 6th largest development partner in Malawi and is also number six on the harmonisation process.

She then highlighted some challenges to aid effectiveness in Malawi and these include:

- Lack of aid harmonisation by the donors inducing extra costs on GOM and duplication of efforts.
- Lack of mutual accountability to monitor, evaluate and manage results by both donors and the country

She concluded by saying that there is need to strive for achieving the six norms of the Paris Declaration.

(4) Questions and Answer Session

After presentations during the first session, there were questions and answers by participants. Participants raised the following issues:

Issues on Japanese Assistance to Malawi and Aid Harmonisation:

- The Japanese are more sincere in what they carefully plan and implement once agreement is arrived at, but it is not publicised. However, in Malawi projects are implemented leaving the cultural aspect of humbleness behind.

Q: The Japanese Mission in Malawi is urgently needed.

A: The Congress will decide by March 2007.

- Regarding aid harmonisation, Malawi has come up with Development Assistance Strategy (DAS) which is currently in draft form. Neighboring countries like Tanzania and Mozambique are doing better in aid coordination and national ownership of policies and strategies.
- Aid harmonisation should also consider other issues such as country sovereignty, efficiency and effectiveness on how the aid is given and absorbed.
- Aid is a relationship. There is give and take. Donors do not give alms. Therefore, recipient countries should also work towards developing a relationship with the donors.

Issues on Japanese Position in the global economy:

Q: What is Japan's view on the growing influence of China in the African continent?

Q: Malawi has strong diplomatic relationship with the Republic of China (ROC). Is Japan ready to unleash its economic muscle to Malawi ahead of the People's Republic of China considering that China is growing and has the money? Is Japan ready to flex its muscles and release the money for Africa's development?

A: Japan sees it as a positive thing that there is an increased traffic of trade and investment thanks to the efforts of China and India in that the resources for development are expanded. However, diplomatic efforts have to be made for these emerging donors to keep transparency and sustainability, respect international law and previous efforts such as debt relief, and work as constructive partners in the international community.

Issues on TICAD:

Q: Is TCSF accountable to TICAD?

A: TCSF is trying to act as a forceful presenter of the views of NGOs in both Africa and Japan. In the past TICAD sessions, TCSF or its precursors have done so.

Q: What impact does TCSF have?

A: TCSF has ample connections with legislative, economic and administrative quarters in influencing Japanese policies.

Mr.Nabeya responded the above questions as follows:

As in No.2 power point of Nabeya, TCSF is a NGO working to improve Japanese ODA toward Africa and not an official member of TICAD. Officials of Japanese Foreign Ministry ,however, might been sympathetic TCSF's ideas by degrees during last 2 years and have been very cooperative.

Other questions:

Q: Why did TCSF choose to have seminars in those countries: Mozambique, Senegal, Ethiopia, and Malawi?

The followings have to be existent in the target country in order to prepare and implement the seminar smoothly,

- (1) The eligible African NGO who sympathize TCSF's philosophy and activities
- (2) The TCSF member(s)
- (3) Japanese Embassy or JICA overseas office

Q: Why is G8 after TICAD?

The Japanese government is considering TICAD-VI before G8 in Japan, 2008, as African Development should be given highly consideration as agenda of G8. The outcome of TICAD-VI is expected to be incorporated into G8.

(5) Introduction of JICA projects in Malawi – Mr. Moronaga

Mr. Moronaga, Deputy Resident Representative of JICA Malawi, made an overview presentation on JICA activities in Malawi. He also outlined JICA's ongoing and future possible collaboration with NGOs in Malawi.

3.3 Session 3: Civil Society in Malawi and Japan and Possibilities for Partnership (Partnership and Cooperation between civil society and Official Development Assistance)

(1) Characteristics and Foundations of Civil Society in Malawi – by Mr. Mavuto Bamusi, MEJN

Mr. Mavuto Bamusi, Director of Programmes at the Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) presented on the characteristics of civil society in Malawi.

(2) TCSF Civil Society White Paper 2005 and 2006 – Ms. Ishida, TCSF

Ms. Ishida, Vice President of TCSF presented on the background to TCSF White Paper. She highlighted the following issues:

- TCSF White Paper 2005 report was an Evaluation by Civil Society on Japan's Policy to African Countries – Overcoming Poverty and Inequity.
- The White Paper is an advocacy tool for government and Congress.
- Objectives of the White Paper is to improve Japan's ODA policy
- The activities of TCSF include evaluation of Japanese ODA by African NGOs and the focus is on the benefit of Japanese ODA on the poor. This evaluation is important because it is conducted by civil society extracting direct voices of beneficiaries.
- Ms. Ishida also presented on recommendations from evaluations by Senegal and Kenya NGOs. She then said a main theme of the 2006 White Paper is Civil Society in African Development.
- TICAD IV will be held in 2008.
- TCSF will host a Workshop in Nairobi during the World Social Forum on 23rd January 2007.

(3) Results of Evaluation study on Japan's assistance to Malawi/Africa – by Mr. Patrick Mawaya

Mr. Patrick Mawaya presented results of the evaluation study on Japan's Assistance to Malawi/Africa. The results were similar to those in Senegal and Kenya. The main conclusions from the study were similar to the findings of the Senegal and Kenya NGOs.

(4) Discussions and Experiences from recipients from Japanese grants

One of the recipients of Japanese grants in Malawi shared their experiences, which raised the following issues :

- Participants wanted to know what kind of support to civil society in Malawi they could expect from the Japanese Government.
- Participants also wanted to know the perspectives of the Japanese Government towards civil society in Malawi.
- The condition for requesting Japanese volunteers is a real concern. Volunteers coming to Malawi to build the capacity of the local institutions. But it depends on the availability of accommodation at the partner institutions. Participants therefore requested JICA to readjust the policy so that even those that cannot afford to accommodate the volunteers should be able to benefit from the volunteer scheme.
- >>> Mr. Moronaga commented that in principle JICA request for accommodation but it can be flexible with CBOs.
- Participants acknowledged that institutions that have had a chance to host volunteers have benefited quite a lot from the Volunteer scheme.
- Japan should also focus on water, environment (especially energy sources), and food security.
- >>> Mr. Moronaga commented that JICA constructed boreholes and environment is currently under consideration through multi-sectoral approach.
- Participants wanted to know more about the process of hosting volunteers and also the process of identifying partners. Among the criteria for hosting volunteers include the financial capability of the organisation and the application are done through the relevant ministry. The request is then sent to JICA.
- Participants also wanted to know what JICA had in the area of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). However, JICA said that some volunteers are currently working in orphan care and also it has been supporting the Government to introduce school health care policy.
- Japan should also help advertise Japanese ODA to Malawi more.
- There is need to improve on basic health services (especially water and sanitation) and Japan should help in this area.
- Japan should seriously consider supporting governance programme in Malawi.
- Participants also wanted to know what sort of direct mechanism that the Japanese Government are offering to special support for the education of girls and OVCs especially in terms of award or scholarship to bridge the gap.
- Participation to the Africa-Asia Business Forum is open to everybody through the National Focal Point, through which, Application Forms had been sent. However, participants requested that the forms for civil society be sent directly to the civil society. It was suggested that Japan should channel for the civil society directly to MEJN for participation in the Africa-Asia Business Forum. MEJN will then circulate the forms to the Civil society organisations in Malawi.

- Promotion of tourism from Japan to Malawi could be explored taking into consideration some practical issues of concern.
- Regarding volunteers, participants said it was better to have volunteers that will work with the communities and understand the needs of the communities.
- Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) said they had benefited from Japanese assistance through Japan Trust Fund through International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Support for Policy Advocacy

- Although most TCSF members work in Africa, the members do not always know the reality. TCSF would like to bring the voices of the civil society in Malawi to the agenda.
- In order to secure support for policy advocacy, civil society in Malawi should identify the policy issues and bring the voice to Japan and the international arena in 2008. The civil society should come up with a policy paper and submit to Japan.
- Civil society should also consider establishing a Civic Commission for Africa.
- It was proposed that civil society in Malawi should choose one organisation in Malawi and a contact person that will coordinate the one voice policy process. MEJN was chosen as a local contact point for civil society for the purpose of coming up with a consolidated policy position.
- The civil society should come up with a policy paper and submit to Japan.
- CSOs in Malawi requested the Japanese Government to allocate more funds to civil society, about 40% of the total Japanese ODA. TCSF aims to work towards allocation of 40% of newly allocated aid for Africa by Japanese government to the Civil Society.
- It was also reported that there was a proposal to have a mechanism of Africa-Japan Consolidated Fund, which will be guided, organised, implemented and monitored by four actors: recipient government, Japanese government, recipient civil society and Japanese civil society.
- Environmental issues should be mainstreamed in the national policy making.
- On debt relief, Mr.Amiya said Malawi had made great strides and that it seems to be on the right track in terms of reaching the Completion Point. It is in the hands of technical discussion on a working-level basis to move forward.

Ways of CSOs Working with the Japanese Government:

- Continued dialogue to mainstream into the national policy making process leading to improved ownership by the people and government of Malawi.
- Partnership Projects under the grants
- Working with Japanese NGOs

The Way Forward:

- (i) MEJN should take up the challenge and reconvene including other NGOs and develop the common strategy on the policy issues.
- (ii) There should be continued collaboration and dialogue between Japan and Malawi CSOs.
- (iii) Japan should take the findings from the Malawian study seriously provide and give civil society in Malawi with Japan's own position.

(iv) Partnership between JICA and Malawian CSOs should be strengthened.

3.4 Session 4: Closing Statement

Mr. Nabeya, TCSE

Mr. Nabeya concluded by saying that the teleconference helped to create linkage in cooperation between CSOs in Malawi and Japan. Finally he thanked the participants for active participation in seminar.

Mr. Andrew Kumbatira - MEJN

Mr. Kumbatira said the idea of the seminar was to strengthen the cooperation between Malawi and Japan and maximise the benefits of the assistance towards poverty reduction in Malawi. He plans attend TICAD conference in Tokyo and emphasized the need to push the agenda much further. He promised that MEJN would continue the dialogue to coordinate the programme as requested. He concluded by looking forward to more cooperation by strengthening the CSOs' work with partnership with Japan on the grassroots.

Mr. Hiroyuki Moronaga, - JICA

The Deputy Resident Representative said JICA is committed to strengthen partnership with CSOs in Malawi through continued dialogue or by project implementation, budget allocation, and dispatching JOCVs. He said the report has highlighted a number of insights for JICA's future cooperation such as need to publicise Japan's ODA and the importance of the rights-based approach. He then said that there were training programme open for CSOs and that when these courses are available, JICA would inform MEJN. Finally, he thanked all the participants for their participation.

Appendix 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Japan and Malawi Civil Society Partnership Seminar
9th January 2007

No.	Name	Position	Organisation	Phone	E-mail	Address
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From Japan

1. Mr.Kosuke Amiya, (Deputy Director,Second Africa Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
2. Ms.Natsuko Hashimoto(Second Africa Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
3. Ms.Yoko Matsuzawa,(Southern Africa Team,JICA)
4. Mr.Issei Nomura, former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer to Malawi
5. Ms.Chizuko Aoki, (TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF)
6. Ms.Sayaka Funada-Classen (TCSF)
7. Mr.Makoto Igarashi (TCSF)
8. Ms.Ayako Koike, ((TCSF)
9. Mr.Yasushi Kurokochi, (TCSF)
- 10.Ms.Miki Nagashima, (TCSF)
- 11.Mr.Shiro Nabeya , (TCSF)
- 12.Ms.Haruna Nishioka,(TCSF)
- 13.Mr.Kunio Takase, (TCSF)
- 14.Ms.Koumi Uchino (TCSF)
- 15.Ms.Miki Yoshida, (TCSF)

Appendix 2: PROGRAMME
Japan and Malawi Civil Society Partnership Seminar

Date and Time: Tuesday, 9 January, 2007
Venue: Conference Room, JICA Malawi Office
Facilitator: Mr. Mavuto Bamusi, Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN)

1. Opening		
8:30-8:45	1.1 Registration	TCSF / MEJN
8:45-9:05	1.2 Opening statement	Executive Director, MEJN Country Director, Action Aid Mr. Kurokochi, TCSF
9:05-9:15	1.3 Introduction of TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF)	Mr. Nabeya, TCSF
2. Session on Japan's assistance to Malawi		
9:15-9:20	2.1 Cooperation between Malawi and Japan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Malawi)
9:20-9:45	2.2 TICAD and Malawi-Japan Relations	Mr. Amiya, Deputy Director, Africa Div. 2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan)
9:45-9:50	2.3 Comments from Ministry of Finance (Malawi)	Ministry of Finance (Malawi)
9:50-10:10	2.4 Questions and answers on 2.1-2.3	Facilitated by MEJN
10:10-10:25	2.5 Introduction of JICA projects in Malawi	Mr. Moronaga, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Malawi Office
10:25-10:40	2.6 Questions and Answers on 2.5	Facilitated by MEJN
10:40-11:00	Tea Break	
3. Session on Civil Society in Malawi and Japan and Possibilities for Partnership (partnership and cooperation between civil society and official development assistance)		
11:00-11:15	3.1 Characteristics and foundations of civil society in Malawi	Mr. Mavuto Bamusi, MEJN
11:15-11:30	3.2 Presentation of TCSF Civil Society White Paper 2005 and 2006	Ms. Ishida, TCSF
11:30-11:50	3.3 Results of evaluation study on Japan's assistance to Malawi/Africa	Mr. Patrick Mawaya (Researcher)
11:50-13:00	3.4 Discussions and experiences from recipients of Japanese grants.	Facilitated by MEJN
4. Closing		
13:00-13:15	Closing statement	MEJN / JICA Malawi Office
13:15-14:00	Lunch	

Appendix 3: PRESENTATION MATERIALS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS
Japan and Malawi Civil Society Partnership Seminar
9th January 2007

1. Presentation Materials

- (1) TCSF Outline <for Session 1.3>**
- (2) Japan's Policy on Cooperation in Africa <for Session 2.2>**
- (3) Introduction of JICA activities in Malawi <for Session 2.5>**
- (4) Foundations and Characteristics of Civil Society in Malawi <for Session 3.1>**
- (5) TCSF White Paper 2005 <for Session 3.2>**
- (6) TCSF White Paper 2006 Contents <for Session 3.2>**
- (7) The Impact Assessment Survey of Japan's ODA and NGOs Projects in Malawi
<for Session 3.3>**

2. Reference Materials

JICA Malawi Report 2006