

「質の高いインフラの推進に関するセミナー」
(4月12日(木), 於: イイノホール)
藪浦総理補佐官プレゼンテーション

H.E. Mr. ^アン^ヘル ^グリ^ア ^ア, OECD Secretary General,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for your attendance.

1. The importance of promoting the Quality Infrastructure concept

As the Parliamentary Vice-Minister Horii indicated, the international community must meet the rising demand for infrastructure development, not only quantitatively, but also qualitatively.

There is widespread understanding on the importance of quality infrastructure at international fora, such as APEC, OECD, G20 and G7. The elaboration of the “G7 Ise-shima Principles” was an important milestone. It identified ① economy in view of life-cycle cost, ② addressing social and environmental impacts, ③ local job creation and transfer of technology, ④ alignment with local development strategies, and ⑤ effective resource mobilization, as the basic principles of quality infrastructure.

Since then, new challenges have surfaced with the diversification of development actors, including emerging donors, the private sector and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). In light of the circumstances, we need to have a common understanding on the basic principles and elements of quality infrastructure, and consolidate them as an international standard.

2. Elements of Quality Infrastructure

Japan was a major recipient of post war infrastructure assistance. Today we are one of the principal contributors of infrastructure financing, dispersing approximately 200 billion USD in five years over the world. Hence we know from first-hand experience, the importance of quality infrastructure both as a provider and recipient.

(1) Strengthening connectivity and ensuring open access

What then, does quality infrastructure entail? The most basic function of infrastructure is to connect people and goods, which are elements that underpin economic growth and sustainable development.

However, simply paving roads or building ports will not suffice. Only when these facilities are accessible, will people and goods flow through them. Therefore, in addition to the G7 Ise Shima Principles, “strengthening connectivity” and “ensuring open access” will be key. Only then, will infrastructure contribute to sustainable development of the recipient country, as well as to regional and international growth and stability.

Furthermore, quality infrastructure also contributes to securing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” by facilitating the movement of people and goods and creating a zone of economic activity in the region.

Japan’s infrastructure assistance places emphasis on connectivity and open access, through close dialogue with donor recipients since the planning stages. One such example is “the East-West Corridor”, which traverses the Indochina Peninsula. It connects the port of ^{ダ ナ ン}Đanang in Vietnam to ^{モ ー ラ ミ ヤ イ ン}Mawlamyaing in Myanmar, thereby linking the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. This led to a two to four time GDP increase between the years 2000 and 2013.

Other examples include the “Nacala Corridor”, which connects East Africa with the Indian Ocean and the “Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor”, which links the principal cities of South India. Some of the characteristics of such assistance are: (1) alignment with local development strategies; (2) regional connectivity; (3) long term perspective; and (4) environmental and social considerations.

Infrastructures are effective only when people can use them. An illustrative example of this “open-access” is Japan’s assistance to Laem Chabang Port in Thailand’s Eastern Seaboard. By constructing an open access port, we helped Thailand increase their national GDP two point five times. Some of the characteristics that ensure open access are: (1) alignment with local development strategies; (2) ensuring non-exclusive use; and (3) the respect of sovereignty and debt sustainability. Japan is assisting numerous infrastructure projects with open access, such as Indonesia’s Patimban Port, Cambodia’s Shihanoukville Port and Philippines’ North-South Commuter Railway Project.

(2) Ensuring fiscal soundness and effective resource mobilization

Debt management is an important element to consider when developing infrastructure with open access that respects local strategies and sovereignty. Repayable debt and fiscal soundness are important not only for recipients, but also for donor countries. As was stressed at the “G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting” last month, it is essential to increase transparency of debt and credit situations, both for donors and recipients.

Japan is making efforts to ensure fiscal soundness. We set low interest rates with long repayment periods for our concessional loans, paying close attention to the debt repayment capabilities of the recipients, by utilizing tools such as IMF/World Bank’s debt sustainability analyses. Furthermore, we invite public officials from developing countries such as Kenya and Mongolia for training in debt analyses and budgeting, to improve their debt management capabilities.

The effective mobilization of resources is also critical. In order to meet the growing demand, it is imperative to mobilize a wider range of resources, including the private sector and MDBs (multilateral development banks). To this end, Japan has contributed 1.5 billion dollars in equity to ADB's "LEAP (Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure) Fund". Through this fund, we are actively co-financing projects such as India's renewal energy projects. Furthermore, we are actively financing companies in developing countries through private sector instruments (PSI), in cooperation with the IFC (International Finance Corporation) amongst others.

Tools that mobilize private capital create a "win-win-win" situation. That is, it reduces investment risks for the private sector, enhance assistance effectiveness for development agencies, and increase funding for developing countries.

The Japanese Government will continue to promote tools such as PPPs (public private partnerships) and PSIs, which mobilize private capital towards developing countries.

We hope that companies will take full advantage of these tools. In order to meet the rising demand, we also look to MDBs to direct their assistance to countries with the greatest need. We also look forward to working with them to further promote quality infrastructure.

3. Closing: the role of the OECD

In light of the importance of quality infrastructure, the OECD's Ministerial Council confirmed "the importance of promoting quality infrastructure with open and fair access and encourage the OECD to elaborate guidelines and good practices". In order for us to contribute to OECD's efforts, and assist in the promotion of quality infrastructure, we have made a voluntary contribution to the OECD's Development Center.

The OECD plays a substantial role in the development of international norms. We expect them to fully utilize its expertise and incorporate the views of stakeholders from both developing and developed countries, to promote the concept in an easily comprehensible manner.

One idea may be to compile the elements of quality infrastructure, such as environmental concerns and job creation, into an easy-to-understand guide book.

Looking ahead to our own G20 presidency next year, Japan will continue to engage actively in discussions to promote the quality infrastructure concept and address the infrastructure needs of developing countries, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

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