

Japan's Intervention on South-South and Triangular Co-operation
by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Seiji KIHARA
at Plenary 3: South-South Co-operation and Knowledge Sharing
09:30-11:30, Wednesday, 16 April 2014, Mexico City

Thank you, Mr. Kourchenko (moderator).

First of all, I would like to commend all panelists for providing great insights to further and improve the quality of South-South cooperation and also triangular cooperation worldwide. As my German colleague correctly pointed out, triangular cooperation, together with South-South Cooperation, plays a vital role to tackle the diverse development agenda and to address the challenges facing the post 2015 world.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to share Japanese experience of triangular cooperation. While celebrating its 60th anniversary of providing ODA, Japan has been pioneering triangular cooperation for the last 40 years and improved its quality in the two dimensions.

First, Japan has institutionalized triangular cooperation by concluding frameworks with 12 countries. Through such frameworks, knowledge and experience not only from Japan but also from partner countries are shared with recipient countries in an effective and sustainable manner.

Second, Japan has explored innovative forms of triangular cooperation, in particular, through creating a knowledge hub or so-called 'center of excellence' and networking mechanisms. In 1984, Japan's assistance, grant aid and also technical assistance, helped establish a vocational center in Senegal, which has now developed into one of the most important training centers in West Africa, having invited trainees from 16 countries in the region. Also, regional networking mechanisms, through which different partners and different beneficiary countries are inter-connected with a view to sharing their knowledge and experience, have been a powerful form of trilateral cooperation, as successfully shown in solid waste management in the Pacific Region and math and science education in Western Africa.

Through our support, in 2012, a total of 4,000 trainees participated in training courses in other partner countries and 150 experts from partner countries were dispatched to other beneficiary countries.

A successful trilateral cooperation is only built upon inclusive partnerships. We must go beyond conventional North-South cooperation and embrace all types of cooperation involving actors from North to South and public to private. In this connection, I would like to let you know, our Foreign Minister Kishida recently announced that Japan would revise its ODA charter by the end of this year. Naturally, “strengthening of cooperation with various stakeholders” will be one of the key concepts of the revision.

In concluding, Japan remains committed to leading the evolution of triangular cooperation to address new development challenges in the world.

Thank you very much.