

ODA Evaluation From Diplomatic Viewpoints

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1. Evaluation from Diplomatic Viewpoints

Background

- * ODA Review Final Report, *Enhancing Enlightened National Interest*, published in June 2016, states
"... [ODA] is not a 'charity' but a 'modality' to pursue common interests of the world including Japan."
- * Development Cooperation Charter approved by Cabinet in 2015 states
*"[Japan's ODA will] ensure national interests such as maintaining its peace and security, achieving further prosperity, realizing an international environment that provides stability, transparency and predictability, and maintaining and protecting an international order based on universal values."
"Efforts will be made to undertake evaluation from a diplomatic point of view."*
- * Third-party evaluators proposed to put more focus and give more detailed guidance on the evaluation from diplomatic viewpoints in 2014 and 2015.

Progress to Date

- * Applied to MOFA's third-party ODA evaluations to complement development viewpoints based on DAC evaluation criteria
 - * 2011 : Suggested a trial
 - * 2015 : Introduced in all evaluations
 - * 2016 : Defined in the 10th edition of ODA Evaluation Guidelines

2. Issues and Limitations

Issues

- * Rising demand for accountability by people and Diet members under financial difficulties
 - * Why do we provide ODA to the recipient countries/sector?
 - * What does Japan profits from providing ODA?
- * Not convincing enough results of our current evaluation from diplomatic viewpoints

Limitations

- * No established methods in international society
- * Lack of available information including case studies from other donors
- * Difficulty of quantitatively evaluating diplomatic impact due to various external factors involved

3. Example 1: Country assistance evaluation of Tanzania

The scope of the evaluation : the Country Assistance Policies for Tanzania from 2000 to 2015

Development Viewpoints

(1) Relevance of Policies : VERY HIGH

Japan's ODA policies are consistent with Tanzania's development strategies.

(2) Effectiveness of Results : HIGH

In terms of the priority areas, there were no outstanding obstacles to achieve the expected results. The results were within the expectations.

(3) Appropriateness of Processes : HIGH

Regarding the processes of policy formulation and implementation, emphasis was placed on the policy dialogues with the Government of Tanzania and other donors and reflected information attained on the assistance programs.

Diplomatic Viewpoints

Japan and Tanzania have an extensive strategic partnership and the leaders of the two countries frequently visit each other; therefore, Japan's ODA has considerable diplomatic importance.

As Japan's ODA is also contributing to strengthening the economic relationship and personal and cultural exchanges, it can be evaluated as having a noticeable diplomatic impact.



Rice project site in Tanzania

Example 2: Evaluation of Japan's Assistance in Pollution Control Fields (1)

The scope of evaluation: Pollution Control in environmental ODA since 2005

Development Viewpoints

- (1) Relevance of policies : **HIGH**
- (2) Effectiveness of result : **GENERALLY HIGH**
- (3) Appropriateness of processes : **GENERALLY HIGH**

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



Diplomatic Viewpoints

(1) Diplomatic importance

The evaluation team identified plenty of diplomatic importance to the Policy due to factors such as the true purpose of providing assistance to developing countries, and the ability to create a strong presence of Japan through Japanese comparative advantages.

(2) Diplomatic Impact

The Policy has helped improve bilateral relations by strengthening amicable relations with recipient countries, building smooth communications with neighboring countries (stability in the Northeast Asian region), and keeping basic relations with sanctioned countries.

Through these benefits and other factors such as initiatives borne of the adoption of the Minamata Convention, the Policy has contributed to improved presence of Japan in the international community. Therefore, we evaluate the Policy as having diplomatic importance and impact.

Evaluation of Japan's Assistance in Pollution Control Field (2)

Recommendation

Enhance diplomatic effects by creating global and taking leadership in global discussions.



Response measure

ODA will continuously and proactively transmit Japanese efforts of international cooperation in the field of pollution measures to others.



Mongolian workers on training of water examination

4. Our Trial Effort since 2017

Standardization of evaluation method, questions and data types & sources

* Diplomatic Importance

Evaluation Question	Data Type & Source
<i>Examples</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is Japan's ODA to the recipient country geopolitically important?• How important the bilateral relationship between Japan and the recipient country?	Review of documents such as Country Assistance Cooperation Policy, Remarks by government officials, etc.

* Diplomatic Impact

Evaluation Question	Data Type & Source
<i>Examples</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How has Japan's ODA contributed to strengthen bilateral relationship politically and economically?• How has Japan's ODA promoted the recipient country's people's understanding toward Japan?	Interview, review of documents such as Diplomatic Bluebook, public survey on Japan, media report, etc.

Thank you very much for your attention.

For more information on Japan's ODA evaluation, go to
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html>
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/evaluation/index.html