


Summary

Country Assistance Evaluation of Tunisia

1. Theme: Country Assistance Evaluation of Tunisia	 <p>Goubellat Irrigation Perimeters Construction Project</p>
2. Country: Tunisia	
3. Evaluators: (1) Chief Evaluator: Yoshikazu Imazato (Former Editorial Writer, Tokyo Shimbun) (2) Advisor: Dr Kei Hakata (Assistant Professor of Faculty of Humanities, Seikei University) (3) Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.	
4. Period of Evaluation Survey: June 2007 - March 2008	
5. Descriptions of Evaluation: <u>(1) Evaluation Objective:</u> <p>This evaluation aims to review Japan's ODA policy toward Tunisia, which includes the Country Assistance Program for Tunisia, and to gain ideas for future assistance (including revision of the Country Assistance Program) as well as lessons and recommendations for effective implementation of its policies.</p> <p>This evaluation further aims to demonstrate accountability to the Japanese people by publishing the evaluation results and by providing these results to other donors and officials related to the Tunisian government. Finally, it aims to be useful for further development of Tunisia and for publicity of the Japanese ODA.</p>	
<u>(2) Evaluation Scope:</u> <p>This study aims to evaluate the Japanese ODA policy and activities toward Tunisia since the formulation of the Country Assistance Program for Tunisia in 2002. The evaluation was conducted in terms of mainly following three perspectives: relevance of policy, effectiveness of outcomes, and appropriateness of process.</p> <p>Firstly, this study focuses on the Country Assistance Program for Tunisia 2002 as the main Japanese ODA policy toward Tunisia.</p> <p>Secondly, the projects mainly referred in this evaluation were implemented after the formulation of the Program in October 2002. However, some projects that</p>	

were implemented prior to October 2002 are also included in this evaluation, since it could take longer time for some projects to bring about observable effects.

Thirdly, appropriateness of ODA process was evaluated based on the projects which were implemented after October 2002.

(3) Evaluation Methodology:

An evaluation framework was set out in order to conduct this evaluation. The framework contains the evaluation perspective, evaluation items and evaluation criteria/indicators. Then, literature reviews, interviews with related organizations in Japan, and field researches in Tunisia were conducted, and those results were incorporated into the evaluation report.

6. Evaluation Results:

(1) Relevance:

The relevance of Japan's ODA policy toward Tunisia was evaluated, which was represented by the Country Assistance Program for Tunisia, with (1) Tunisia's own development plan, (2) assistance policies of other donors toward Tunisia, and (3) Japan's overall ODA and foreign policy principles and priorities. It could be concluded that the Program is mostly consistent and has high relevance with all of those policies.

Firstly, the priority fields in Japan's Country Assistance Program for Tunisia have been in accordance with Tunisia's policy priorities which were set out in the 10th Economic and Social Development Plan. Moreover, the Program has been consistent with Japanese old and new ODA Charters and its foreign policies. The "2007 Prioritized Areas of Japan's Foreign Policy", issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in Fiscal Year 2006, sets forth a policy priority to extend assistance for development of Africa through the TICAD process. As Japan's Country Assistant Program for Tunisia determined Tunisia as an important bridgehead to develop effective diplomacy toward Africa through economic aid, it is consistent with Japan's foreign policy.

On the other hand, it has been observed that there is room for improvement in providing assistance to encourage democratization and improve human rights situations in Tunisia, and that Japan's foreign policies toward Tunisia and / or in the region, which shall guide its ODA policy toward Tunisia, have not been clearly

defined.

(2) Effectiveness:

Japanese ODA is steadily contributing to the development of priority areas in Tunisia, such as strengthening the competitiveness of Tunisian industries, achieving development and effective management of water resources, and implementing projects which protect environment.

As for the strengthening competitiveness of Tunisian industries, Japan is assisting the Tunisian government's "level up program" by giving Japanese ODA loans directly or by improving basic infrastructure. Furthermore, technical cooperation by JICA and coordinated assistance by JICA and JBIC also contribute to increase the competitiveness of Tunisian industries.

Japan's technical cooperation and untied Japanese ODA loans granted mainly for the development and effective management of water resources are highly appreciated by the Tunisian government. Japanese assistance contributed to the significant improvement of water supply and sewage system in Tunisia. However, it is still necessary to expand sewage system in rural areas and to rehabilitate old sewage networks in urban areas.

Japan is actively providing assistance to the projects leading to environmental improvement. Japanese assistance measures to lessen negative impacts on environment as much as possible are also highly appreciated by the Tunisian government.

As for the implementation of triangular cooperation, although it is still in its early stages, it could be said that it has made successful achievement to certain extent. The official document showed positive attitude from both governments to actively conduct triangular cooperation. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has also positively evaluated the outcome of such cooperation.

However, it was found that achievements and contributions by Japan's assistance were not widely acknowledged by the Tunisian public.

(3) Appropriateness:

Appropriate process was taken when planning, implementing, and following-up ODA operations toward Tunisia. Good examples are elaboration process of the County Assistance Program for Tunisia and close coordination among Japanese government, JICA and JBIC, which held local ODA task force meeting on a

regular basis.

Issues which need to be improved are low recognition of Japanese Country Assistance Program within the Tunisian government and by other donors, sometimes too prudent and too long project implementation procedures, and a problem regarding the allocation of decision making authority between Tokyo and Tunis.

7. Recommendations

(1) Clarify the significance of ODA toward Tunisia and utilize it in order to strengthen diplomatic relations with its neighboring countries in the Middle East and African region

Since ODA is one of the important diplomatic tools, it is desirable for Japan to clarify its diplomatic policy toward the Maghreb region, in order to define how Tunisia should be positioned in the region and how Japanese ODA should be utilized within the framework of its diplomatic policy toward Tunisia. It should furthermore address development issues of a quasi-Upper Middle Income Country in order to ensure Tunisia's transition to UMIC.

(2) Strategically and actively implement triangular cooperation by making use of the advantages of Tunisia

Triangular cooperation with Tunisia could be an effective method to strengthen the relationship between Japan and Middle East and African nations. Japan should regard Tunisia as an important partner to promote Japanese assistance in the region and should provide ODA which encourages Tunisia to develop into a donor country.

(3) Utilize ODA to narrow the disparity as well as to improve democracy and human rights

Grassroots and human security grant aid should be continuously implemented to assist the poor and vulnerable groups that still exist in Tunisia. Also, Tunisia is often criticized for its slow democratization process despite its high economic standard and political stability. A continued discussion with the Tunisian government and cooperation with other donors to push the country's improvement in democracy/human rights protection and to contribute to reinforcement of the civil society should be considered.

(4) Promote publicity of Japanese ODA in Tunisia

It is essential to promote publicity of Japanese ODA in Tunisia in order to improve the recognition of Japanese ODA and create friendly feeling toward Japan among Tunisian public. For instance, measures to promote publicity may include strengthening information dissemination through sending email newsletters to opinion leaders and encouraging the pro-Japanese press to write articles about Japanese ODA.

(5) Streamline the Japan-Tunisia cooperation by improving the assistance process and promoting mutual understanding

Issues pointed out during the evaluation process should be dealt by improving the assistance scheme, as well as by promoting mutual understanding with Tunisian government. One way to achieve this is to improve the information sharing process. Japan may provide an English version of the Country Assistance Program for Tunisia to both the Tunisian government and international donors, in order to enhance the mutual understanding with them.

(6) Review the Senior Volunteers program to maximize its effect

A number of Senior Volunteers have worked in Tunisia and made significant contributions. Although the Senior Volunteers program proves to be successful in many areas, there are some cases where expectations from Senior Volunteers and Tunisian recipients do not match. It would be therefore necessary to redefine the concept of the Senior Volunteers Program and to dispatch volunteers in accordance with their qualifications and the aim of the aid program.

(Note: The opinions expressed in this summary do not necessarily reflect the views and positions of the Government of Japan or any other institutions.)