

Lessons Learned Extracted from Evaluation Results: FY2013 ODA Evaluation

ODA evaluations conducted by MOFA make recommendations on the future direction of the evaluated projects. Sometimes, the evaluations also present “lessons learned.” Lessons learned are not direct and concrete proposals like recommendations; rather, they are information deemed useful for the ODA policymaking and implementation process of other countries or for tackling other issues.

Of the evaluations performed in FY2013, the Country Assistance Evaluations of Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, and Colombia as well as the Evaluation of Assistance for the Urban Transportation Sector in Viet Nam identified lessons learned. All of these lessons learned have a common purpose: to improve future ODA policies. Below is a description of the key lessons learned.

(1) Importance of Setting Clearer Targets During the Pre-Implementation Phase and of Establishing Specific Indicators

To appropriately evaluate the policy-level outcomes of ODA, it is important that clearer targets are set during the pre-implementation phase, including Country Assistance Policy targets. The indicators established for Japan's Assistance Programs in the Rolling Plans, etc. should also be made as specific as possible.

(From the Country Assistance Evaluations of Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, and Colombia)

(2) Identifying and Responding to the Common Issues in Country Assistance Evaluations

It is necessary to understand common issues facing Japan's assistance and improve its system as a whole. Therefore, it is recommended that the results of each Country Assistance Evaluation be analyzed in a cross-cutting manner in order to identify common issues and recommendations.

(From the Country Assistance Evaluation of Sri Lanka)

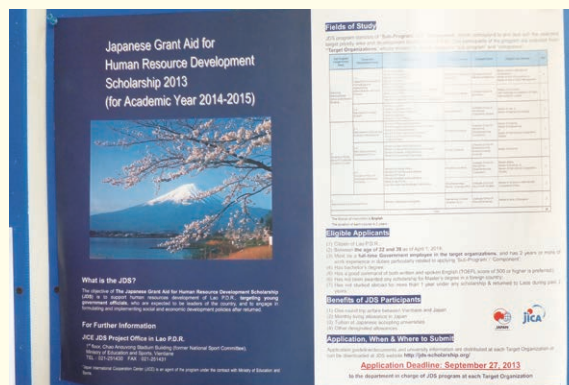
(3) Follow-up on Human Resource Development

In order to review future assistance for human resource development, it is important to monitor how students who have come to Japan to study under the Aid for Human Resource Development (JDS) program and people who have attended JICA Training and Dialogue Programs in Japan are actively serving as executives and management personnel at related organizations after returning to their countries. Appropriate follow-up of human resources and the establishment of a database should be promoted.

(From the Evaluation of Assistance for the Urban Transportation Sector in Viet Nam)

MOFA is taking steps to respond to such lessons learned. With regard to “identifying common issues,” the Review of Japan's ODA Evaluations from FY2003 to 2013 was conducted in FY2014 and compiled recommendations from past evaluations (Report of “Review of Japan's ODA Evaluations from FY2003 to 2013”: http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/FY2014/pdfs/review_03-13.pdf).

MOFA will review the issues presented in the respective lessons learned, continue to examine ways to deal with them, and implement them for better ODA implementation.



A JDS ad that was on display at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR