

Preface

In February 2015, the Government of Japan revised its Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter for the first time in 12 years since its last revision, and newly approved the Development Cooperation Charter as a Cabinet decision. The revision was made to further evolve Japan's ODA in order to respond to significant changes in the situation surrounding Japan and the international community – namely, the increasingly diverse, complex, and broad development challenges that the international community is facing, as well as the increasing role of funding other than ODA and non-ODA funded activities in the development of developing countries.

Although the previous ODA Charter attached importance to evaluation, the new Development Cooperation Charter takes a step further by mentioning: “In the light of the importance of evaluation not only for improving effectiveness and efficiency but for accountability to the public, Japan will conduct evaluations at the policy and program/project levels and feed the results back to the decision-making and program/project implementation processes.” The new Charter clarifies the importance of evaluation in implementing development cooperation in efficient and effective ways, and of feeding back the evaluation results.

In the context of the ever-increasing role of evaluation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) aims to ensure that evaluation results contribute to improving Japan's development cooperation policies and designing new projects. In addition, MOFA strives to carry out ODA evaluations in a clear and comprehensible manner in order to further deepen the people's understanding of development cooperation. Moreover, every year MOFA publishes an annual report which introduces such initiatives and provides an overview of the ODA evaluation activities of the Government of Japan as a whole.

In this year's report, Chapter 1 provides an overview of ODA evaluation trends in Japan and the international community. Chapter 2 outlines the results of evaluations conducted mainly in FY2014 by experts as third-party evaluations, MOFA, other government ministries and agencies, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and partner country, respectively. Chapter 3 explains the status of MOFA's follow-ups on FY2013 third-party evaluation results.

We hope this report will provide our readers with a deeper understanding of Japan's development cooperation and its evaluation.

November, 2015

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Cover Photo: From the “Country Assistance Evaluation of Pakistan”

Women using sewing machines during their skill training



This photo of the technical cooperation project, “Non-Formal Education Promotion Project,” was taken by the evaluation team of the “Country Assistance Evaluation of Pakistan” when they visited Punjab province during its field survey.

The Government of Pakistan places importance on “affirm[ing] the goal of achieving universal and free primary education by 2015 and up to class 10 by 2025” in its National Education Policy 2009. Japan actively extends assistance for girls’ education, non-formal education, and skill training, aiming at improving access to and quality of education. The assistance is designed to provide educational opportunities outside schools, for example, through the use of local community centers, to target the socially vulnerable who cannot access formal education for geographical, social, and/or economic reasons, which includes children who have dropped out of school and adults over school ages. Approximately 70 percent of those who have received non-formal education from 2004 under Japan’s assistance are women.



Products made through skill training



Female students receiving literacy education



Literacy education for children