

Chairs' Summary

The 13th ODA Evaluation Workshop in Tokyo on December 9th and 10th, 2015

The 13th ODA Evaluation Workshop organized by the Government of Japan was held in Tokyo, Japan on December 9th and 10th, 2015.

1. Opening Session

The chair, Dr. Ryokichi Hirono, Professor Emeritus at Seikei University/Former President of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association gave opening remarks. Mr. Masakazu Hamachi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan gave a welcome speech to express his gratitude to all the representatives attending the Workshop.

2. Agenda 1 (Plenary Session): Efforts to Establish Better Feedback Mechanism in Development Cooperation

In Agenda 1, two presentations were made on efforts and challenges to establish better feedback mechanism in development cooperation: the first by Mr. Keiichi Muraoka, Director, ODA Evaluation Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and the second by Mr. Rolando G. Tungpalan, Deputy Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines. Following the presentations, Mr. Lal Bahadur Khatri, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Nepal, further emphasized the need for channelizing stakeholders for individualistic/subjective evaluation. Dr. Ryokichi Hirono moderated the discussion.

The major points of discussion were the following points;

- 1) Importance of evidence-based evaluation and evaluation framework
- 2) Independence of evaluation, and importance of monitoring mechanism and evaluation machinery
- 3) Performance-informed budgeting system, and necessity for legislating or allocating certain proportion of the annual budget for evaluation
- 4) Taking partner country's perspective through joint evaluation to strengthen evaluation ownership and capacity development in partner countries

In the discussion that followed the presentation, important points were raised from the floor regarding, among others, some of the basic issues facing many partner countries such as data collection relevant to measuring the outcome of policies, programs, and projects. Japan's triangular cooperation mechanism in this regard may be of some relevance to respond to this issue.

3. Agenda 2 (Plenary Session): Development and Improvement of Evaluation Capacities, and Partner Country's Ownerships for Evaluation

In Agenda 2, two presentations showed the importance of development and improvement of evaluation capacities for both donor and partner countries: the first was by Dr. Arunaselam Rasappan, President of the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA), and the second was by Mr. Hans Lundgren, Manager of the DAC Evaluation Network, OECD/DAC Secretariat. The presentations also highlighted the partner country's ownership for evaluation and key approaches to strengthening it. Mr. Banchong Amornchewin, Director of the Planning and Monitoring Branch, Thailand International Cooperation Agency, Thailand shared his perspectives on the theme. Mr. Naonobu Minato, Visiting Professor at International University of Japan/Executive Director of Japan Evaluation Society moderated the discussion after the presentations.

Some of the major issues raised and key suggestions made were;

- 1) Diverse approaches to evaluation capacity development (ECD)
- 2) Sharing three approaches to support evaluation capacity strengthening
 - Taking action within a strategic framework
 - Delivering effective support
 - Focusing on results and longer term
- 3) Mainstreaming evaluation in the program designing stage
- 4) Necessity of evaluation mindset and evaluation culture
- 5) Need for evaluation innovation, including better reporting system
- 6) Need for going beyond the technical competence in enhancing evaluation capacity, e.g. ethical and sensitivity dimensions

4. Agenda 3 (Working Group-1): Impact Evaluation for Evidence-based Policy Making

In Agenda 3, the basics and global trends in impact evaluation which are increasingly applied in many areas of international development projects, and recent case studies of impact evaluation conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) were introduced. The presenters were two of the evaluation experts from JICA: Dr. Tomoya Masaki, Senior Advisor, Evaluation Department at JICA, and Mr. Satoshi Shigiya, Deputy Director General, Evaluation Department at JICA. Mr. Hans Lundgren, Manager of the DAC Evaluation Network, OECD/DAC Secretariat, described the current standpoint in impact evaluation, and Mr. Rolando G. Tungpalan, Deputy Director-General of National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines stressed upon its limitations that need to be overcome. In this agenda, Mr. Keiichi Muraoka moderated the discussion after the presentations.

Participants made various comments on the following points;

- 1) Applicability of the model of evidence-based medicine (EBM) to socio-economic development field
- 2) External validity issue
- 3) Budget implication
- 4) Impact evaluation expected to contribute to produce knowledge for better service delivery

5. Agenda 4 (Working Group-2): Evaluation of Environmental and Climate Change Projects

In Agenda 4, two presenters shared their experiences relating to the environmental and climate change projects in Asia and Pacific countries. Mr. Isao Endo, Senior Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, opened the session by introducing mainstreaming climate action into development planning. Mr. Ledua Vakaloloma, Acting Chief Economic Planning Officer, ODA Unit, Budget Division, Ministry of Finance, Fiji presented the mechanism of evaluation for environmental and climate change projects in Fiji with a case study. Dr. Ryokichi Hirono made some remarks on the topic. Mr. Naonobu Minato moderated the discussions after the presentations.

Questions and comments were made on the following points including the importance of reaching consensus on COP21 now going on in Paris;

- 1) Importance of sharing lessons among each other, as shown in the session by Fiji and Philippines cases
- 2) Need for science-based approach required for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- 3) Existing difficulties such as attribution issues in terms of cause-effect relationship
- 4) More importance of climate change adaptation than mitigation for most partner countries, but mitigation at the global level is vital to small island developing states (SIDS) as appealed by SIDS at COP21

6. Agenda 5 (Plenary Session): New Topics for Evaluation to Achieve SDGs

In Agenda 5, in the light of large number of goals and targets in SDGs (17 goals and 169 targets), Dr. Indran A. Naidoo, Director of Independent Evaluation Office, UNDP, highlighted the importance of strategic approach, the involvement of all stakeholders, and maximizing the use of evaluation to achieve the diverse goals and ambitions targets of the SDGs, and Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Professor at Meiji University, Graduate School of Governance Studies/Vice President of Japan Evaluation Society, proposed the application of innovative and transformative evaluation approaches for SDGs. Ms. Yasuko Nishino, Director General, Evaluation Department at JICA shared her perspectives and described effort made by JICA in that respect. Dr. Ryokichi Hirono moderated the discussion, stimulating questions to be brought up after the presentations.

The discussion by participants focused on the following major themes;

- 1) Contribution of the evaluation and finding lessons learned from the viewpoint of development effectiveness to achieve the SDGs, particularly to create a better development model
- 2) Necessity for inclusive approach for the benefit of all beneficiaries
- 3) Need for participatory approach in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation
- 4) Need for integral approach for maximizing the results of policy and program interventions
- 5) Need for enhancing international cooperation for evaluation under SDGs regime, especially South-South cooperation
- 6) Necessity for reviewing current system of evaluation governance

7. Closing Session

The chair concluded the Workshop by sharing the draft of the chairs' summary and confirming that the participating governments, international organizations, and evaluation societies will continue their dialogue with the aim of enhancing the quality of evaluation in each country and in the region. The chair also thanked all participants for their lively and stimulating presentations and discussions, and appealed to all participants from Asia and Pacific countries to establish, if not yet, national evaluation society or network at the earliest possible time under the regional forum of APEA.

Mr. Kingo Toyoda, Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan gave closing remarks to express his appreciation to all the representatives who contributed to the Workshop by sharing their expertise and experiences.

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