

5. Achieving MDGs – Community Development–

Actions to be taken in the next 5 years under the TICAD Process (Yokohama Action Plan)

The TICAD process will focus support on:

- (1) Comprehensive “Glocal” (global and local) community development
- (2) Community based approach building on functional hubs

Principal measures taken under the TICAD process up to February 2009

- **Poverty alleviation through community development**

The assistance on One Village One Product (OVOP) was steadily expanded with three concept papers drafted in Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

- **Empowerment of Women**

Women’s entrepreneurship was supported through training programmes on the production of local agricultural products (shea butter), in which more than 1,000 women producers participated, as well as the establishment of producer’s association.

- **South-South Cooperation (Asia-Africa Cooperation)**

The cooperation between Thailand and Lesotho in exchanging best practices under the concept of sufficiency economy and new agricultural theory, which commenced in 2006 and will be completed in October 2009, is one of the good examples of applying sustainable agricultural concept to African environment and further developing the model village into training center for Lesotho farmers national wide.

Future challenges

- In order to provide a comprehensive package of services, including life-skill education, it is important to make use of a community based approach in building on function-hubs through schools, community learning-centers and health centers. Through strengthening linkages with the local economy, local people should be encouraged to be involved in school-management, as well as community-development committees for improving housing, sanitation, water supply and drainage facilities.
- Following the Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, members of the AU are consistently encouraged to promote social development, poverty reduction and employment generation, as well as to empower the poor and vulnerable, particularly in the rural communities and the urban informal economy.