

SESSION 5: INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: A WORKSHOP FOR PRACTITIONERS OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

With no shortage of innovation, technology, good practices, success stories and effective triangular models of South-South cooperation, representatives of recipient countries and donors met during the Expo to share information and experiences. They aimed at increasing effectiveness of South-South Cooperation for Development. “The workshop takes up the challenging task of reviewing and analyzing 30 years of South-South cooperation in one day,” said co-chair Aiichiro Yamamoto.

South-South cooperation has grown significantly in recent years. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, South-South development assistance accounted for roughly \$12.6 billion in 2006 (20 per cent of which went through multilateral channels).

Equally significant is the increasing interest by many OECD/DAC and non-DAC countries in such cooperation. This session, co-organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Special Unit For South-South Cooperation within UNDP, provided a unique space for them to share innovative practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, including the setting of national policies and priorities, institutional arrangements, resource allocation, programme delivery mechanisms and opportunities for new partnerships.

Japan has been greatly involved in promoting and implementing South-South and triangular cooperation based on its own experiences. The adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 30 years ago has given great promi-

nence to South-South and triangular cooperation, making it a fundamental part of international development cooperation, said Ambassador of Japan to the UN Shigeki Sumi.

“South-South cooperation must not be seen as a replacement for North-South cooperation. Strengthening South-South cooperation must not be perceived as a measure of coping with the receding interest of the developed world in assisting developing countries,” said John Ashe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN. “It is up to us to promote and build on South-South cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional and inter-regional levels, including through triangular cooperation with the support of the UN system.”

JICA provided the rationale behind supporting South-South Cooperation by saying that “teaching is learning.” Knowledge sharing is seen as the most effective way of consolidating the results of capacity development. The case of a hospital management project - part of the Asia-Africa Knowledge Creation Program - was presented by JICA as a best practise. Created in Japan, but first modified for Sri Lanka’s standards and society, the project went on to benefit public hospitals in eight African countries.

The participants agreed that with no shortage of innovation or technology and many good practices, what is needed right now is the sharing of information so that countries can benefit from each other’s experience.

More than 40 countries participated in this EXPO Session.

Photo opposite: Delegates gathered at Session Five: Increasing Effectiveness of South-South Cooperation for Development.
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Top: Delegates gathered at Session Five.

Left: Banchong Amornchewin of Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) addressed the workshop for practitioners of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Above: Aiichiro Yamamoto of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP present an award to Kae Yanagisawa of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) following Session Five.



Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP and Aiichiro Yamamoto of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), present awards at the Increasing Effectiveness of South-South Cooperation for Development Session to (clockwise from top R): Roberto A. Acosta of Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria, Peru; Helena Yaa Nkole Of World Bank; Miguel Hakim of Secretaría para la Cooperación Iberoamericana (SEGIB); Banchong Amornchew of Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA); Sabahattin Gazanfer of Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA); Brenda Killen of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Top left: Zhao Yongli of China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE).

