

EXPANDING GLOBAL NETWORKS OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

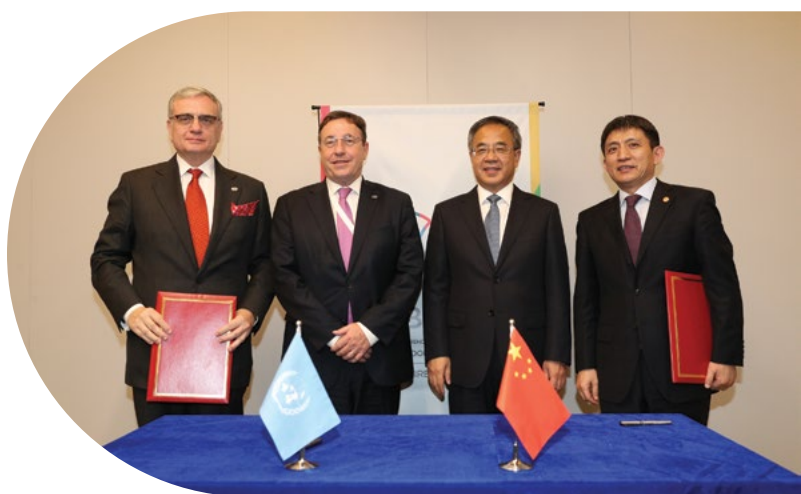
The China South-South Development Centre (SSDC) Project was established in 2008 through the partnership between the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) under the Ministry of Commerce and UNOSSC. It aims to build partnerships at different levels, involving both domestic and foreign partners including private sectors in South-South cooperation. The SSDC Project brought together resources from multiple fields and multiple industries in China, demonstrating practical training to the counterparts in partner countries of the Global South through the implementation of small grant projects, with innovation and replicability remaining at the nucleus of the interventions.

The new phase of the Global South-South Development Centre (GSSDC) Project (2019–2023) builds on the 10-year achievements of the China SSDC Project and capitalizes on the strong expertise and resources offered by a 24-year-old, strong, nationwide China South-South Cooperation Network.

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A total of 19 small grant projects were supported under the SSDC Project, covering a variety of thematic areas including agriculture, forestry, energy, cultural exchanges and informatization and benefiting more than 30 developing countries. The small grant projects met the needs of countries of the Global South and facilitated their access to practical technology, knowledge and skills in areas where China's comparative advantage had been well demonstrated. The small grant projects showed multiple effects, such as on poverty alleviation, women's participation in development and environmental protection while improving the capacity for international cooperation of participating institutions in China and abroad. The small grant projects also extended the scale of funds, representing a success in the intention to explore the pub-

Global South-South Development Centre Project signing ceremony between UNOSSC and Ministry of Commerce of China, witnessed by H.E. Mr. Hu Chunhua, Vice Premier, People's Republic of China, and Mr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator



lic-private-partnership cooperation model, thus ensuring the sustainability of the project.

SERVING AS A CATALYTIC AGENT

The SSDC Project also contributed as a catalytic agent in building a solid foundation towards cohesive public-private sector collaboration, a shared vision for increased capacity in the recipient countries through South-South cooperation, and common accountability in eventual, broad effective results. For instance, after completion of a small grant project entitled Improving Fishery Production Performance and Technical Demonstration in Sri Lanka, the partners from China and Sri Lanka signed a cooperation agreement for longer-term partnership.

LEARNING EXCHANGES TO EXPLORE NEW MARKETS

The SSDC supported a series of exchange visits among 20 countries to facilitate partnership-building between China and other developing countries. Those exchange visits helped in exploring opportunities for new markets and trade cooperation between China and other countries.



Farmers and entrepreneurs in Vanuatu receiving training to promote the value-added bamboo industry

LESSONS LEARNED

- A network of organizations established in a country to promote South-South cooperation can expand its membership to the organizations from other countries to better promote two-way exchange of ideas, knowledge, technology and business opportunities would truly serve the spirit and principles of South-South cooperation. An external evaluation of the SSDC Project concluded that the SSDC Network could be also extended beyond the Chinese institutions to include organizations outside China from which China could also gain knowledge and benefit from technology in areas where gaps existed.
- The small grant projects can serve as an effective delivery mechanism to deliver services to the target population as well to establish a good level of collaboration with United Nations agencies in expanding South-South cooperation.

WAY FORWARD

- The new GSSDC project will emphasize re-positioning the achievements of the earlier phase of the project to be part of a global network of centres of excellence for South-South cooperation in advancing SDGs.
- The GSSDC Project will continue to emphasize the promotion of South-South cooperation principles and a demand-driven approach to help to address national and regional development priorities.

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS of China South-South Development Center Project



19

Small grants benefiting over:

30

developing
countries



South-South Development
Centre institutionalized
through the strengthening
of South-South cooperation



20

Learning exchanges provided
opportunities to explore new markets
and trade cooperation between China
and other developing countries