



KEY TAKEAWAYS



RIS
Research and Information System for
Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

FIDC
FORUM FOR
INDIAN DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION
भारतीय विकास सहयोग मंच



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

FIDC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2021

**DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION
DIALOGUE**

20-21 March 2021, New Delhi



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Key Takeaways

FIDC Annual Symposium 2021
Development Cooperation Dialogue
20-21 March 2021, New Delhi



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The First FIDC Annual 'Development Cooperation Dialogue

20-21 March 2021, New Delhi

Launched in 2013 as a tripartite initiative of Development Partnership Administration (DPA) in the Ministry of External Affairs, academics and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Forum brings together academics, civil society, and government policy makers and encourages detailed analysis of broad trends in South-South Cooperation (SSC) and contextualises Indian policies by facilitating discussions across various subject streams and stakeholders based on theoretical and empirical analysis, field work, perception surveys and capacity building or upgradation needs.

Expanding Horizons of India's Development Programme



V. MURALEEDHARAN

Mr V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, said that development cooperation is the core of India's foreign policy which is based on prescription-free partnerships in accord with priorities of participating countries. India has been sharing its vast experience and technical expertise with others in the spirit of Gandhian principle of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* that *the world is one family*. It consists of multiple instruments, including grants in aids, line of credits, capacity building and technical assistance programmes.

He underlined that India's project grants now surpass the figure of USD 4 billion covering various sectors in infra, water, health, industry, agriculture, power transmission etc. Some of the major development projects undertaken by India include the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, Parliament building in Kabul, Metro Express project, ENT hospital and Supreme Court building in Mauritius, Jafna Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka, etc. India has extended 311 LoCs worth over USD 31.6 billion for 657 projects in 64 countries. They include the Parliament Building in Gambia, Presidential palace in Ghana, Costi Power project in Sudan, Power project in Rwanda, Railway in Bangladesh. India has also set up industrial units in many countries like first cement plant in Djibouti, first milk plant in Mauritania, first sugar plant in Ghana etc. India is currently building the first oil refinery in Mongolia through a concessional loan of around USD 1.236 billion. Under India's Act East Policy, a total of 104 connectivity projects worth USD 7.69 billion have been undertaken in nine countries in the neighbourhood

Elaborating on the contribution made by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, he said that almost 106 countries from Africa, Asia, East Europe, Pacific, Caribbean and Small Island Countries have been participating in more than 350 short/medium course conducted by 100 premier Indian institutes every year. The programmes is fully funded by Government and has grown from 4000 training slots in 2006-07 to 11,645 slots in 2019-20 with a budget allocation increase from Rs. 60 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 220 crore in 2019-20. Under India's vaccine diplomacy initiative, 66 million doses have been handed over to 90 countries.



MOHAN KUMAR

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS emphasized importance of FIDC as a dynamic platform for exchange of ideas and interactions between different stakeholders. He said that in the wake of vaccine nationalism, India is remarkably the only exception. While pointing out that the least developed countries were the most seriously hit by COVID 19, multilateral cooperation to deal with critical issues is far less than optimal. Highlighting the differentiated impact of development all across the world, he observed that inequalities are rising not only within countries but also among the countries and underlined the need for evidence based development dialogue for which RIS has built a strong database since India's independence.



SACHIN CHATURVEDI

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS noted that in the backdrop of growing nationalism and process of de-globalisation, India was the beckon of hope as it was applying its selfless approach to development cooperation anchored on the spirit compassion. He felt that the increased flow of knowledge among the South-South and North-South with active involvement of civil society and research organisations would make policy research more realistic. He cited the exemplary role of RIS-NETRA (North Eastern Training and Research and Advisory) towards facilitating realistic policy research in the North East region of India. At the global level, underlined the importance of India's Presidency of the BRICS and G20.



AKHILESH MISHRA

Mr Akhilesh Mishra, Additional Secretary, DPA, Ministry of External Affairs said that India is transforming rapidly. Highlighting country's traditional culture, values and social norms which are intrinsically linked to spirit of development cooperation, he reflected on current theoretical trends in development partnership. He noted that the focus has been shifted to the bottom up approach and capacity building at grassroots level. While underlining the vision of one nation – one ID, one card, one ration card, he informed that the Government is taking initiatives for implementing the vision. He said that innovation led development under Prime Minister Modi has been promoted. Domain of development cooperation has now expanded drastically. He stressed the food interventions in fight against the malnutrition. He also opined that innovative development financing is needed, and encouraged FIDC to explore the ideas and find the solutions in new way of development financing.



AMAR SINHA

Tracing India's development partnership programme in Africa, Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow at RIS and former Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, noted that India and the African countries face similar problems and challenges. India's close association with African countries, he said, has created a special bond between them both politically and through development partnership. After 2014, he added, India's development cooperation in Africa has witnessed a remarkable growth, more particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Emerging newer problems and challenges, he said, have given far greater importance to this relationship than ever before. He suggested that there is an urgent need to assess the nature of existing drivers, modalities and LoCs in India-Africa partnership.



ANUPAM RAY

Reflecting on current situation Dr Anupam Ray, Joint Secretary (Foreign Policy Planning), Ministry of External Affairs said that it is a difficult situation. He said over the years, India has established a reputation and in the fast moving international networks India is becoming a major player in humanitarian assistance in neighbourhood. Hailing the establishment of CDRI and ISA as great Indian initiatives, he felt that they have expanded the international developmental footprint of India. Highlighting the impact of India's *Vaccine Maitri initiative*, he noted

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that it is now a systematically established process. He was also of the view that COVID-19 crisis could be a turning point for India towards building it as a reliable R&D hub in the world. Apart from saying that health care industry was fast expanding while India spent around 3 to 4 per cent of its GDP on this sector in comparison to around 17 per cent by USA. He also talked about Global health governance including the contribution of WHO and emergence of non-state actors in this field taking advantage of the new opportunities.



Dealing with the Ongoing Pandemic



K. SRINATH REDDY

Dr K. Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) said that India's emergence as a major supplier of vaccines truly reflects its solidarity for development cooperation. He argued that any global threat requires global trust and Indian diplomacy has proved it despite hindrances in vaccine manufacturing. He called for collective efforts for the realisation of full potential of India's vaccine manufacturing capacity. He also cited that SDG 3 constitutes the driving principle for solidarity based partnerships to deal with such future threats.



ASHOK KUMAR MADAN

Highlighting immunisation programme in India, Mr Ashok Kumar Madan, Executive Director, Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced US \$15 million GAVI support programme for 2021-25. While, 65 percent of GAVI procurement of vaccine, he added, is now coming from Indian manufacturers, equitable distribution of vaccine is a major challenge. He said that China has provided vaccines to 53 countries as aid exported them to 27 countries on commercial terms and committee to provide 10 million doses to COVAX, which is co-led by GAVI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO.

BHAWNA SHARMA

Dr Bhawna Sharma, Prominent Commentator on Health Partnerships called for intensified partnerships among research institutions for development of vaccines. Elaborating on the wider context of vaccine manufacturing, innovation and multilateral cooperation, she cited the example of India's pharma sector offering multi-manufacturer vaccines at competitive rates. She suggested that India needs to take a holistic view on deployment of vaccines in consultation with manufacturers through public-private partnerships with the help of voluntary agencies.



K. SATYAMOORTHY

Professor K. Satyamoorthy, Director, Life Sciences Department, MAHE, Manipal said that while immunisation has increased the life expectancy, there is an unmet need. From very beginning, he added, India has adopted a dynamic diplomacy in this regard. Reflecting on India development cooperation during COVID-19 pandemic, he opined that while SAARC initiative is so important, multilateral cooperation is also equally important. He said that while India has emerged as a world leader in generic medicines, around 70 percent of the required vaccines for immunisation is going to be manufactured in India. Referring to 'uneven and unfair' distribution of COVID vaccine, he underlined the need for unrestricted access to its raw material for equitable and fair vaccine distribution. Finally, he called for vigorous research for development of a generic vaccine of COVID.



Working towards Inclusive Global Governance with CSOs



ANURADHA CHENOY

Professor Anuradha Chenoy, former Chair of FIDC, said that India has been at the forefront in strengthening inclusive global governance, which is candidly reflected by India's initiatives, including humanitarian assistance for disasters management combined with efforts at the UN, G-20, IBSA, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, WTO etc. She stressed that India should play a key role in bringing up issues of multi-polarity and inclusive governance at the high-level tables.



CHANDRA BHUSHAN

Mr Chandra Bhushan, President and CEO, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) recognised the need for India to emerge as a leader from the Global South working for a multi-polar world order and developing inclusive global governance by virtue of its growing stature, ambition, principles and value system. He referred to numerous instances of India showing its big heart in emergency situations. India, he felt, requires a significant long-term strategy towards building an inclusive global governance infrastructure. From being a reactive partner in the UNFCCC or perceived to be an inflexible party to CBDR, India should play a proactive role in putting out its proposals, its vision on SDGs, and other issues by adopting a flexible approach. The dichotomies between the domestic policies and India's global outlook should be addressed, he added.



ABRAHAM GEORGE

Underlining the economic slow-down, increasing inequalities and deep strains in multilateralism during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Abraham George, Director and Professor, Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance called for greater inclusion and coordination in global governance. The present governance system, he felt, requires reforms to address the issues and challenges confronting developing countries for achieving the SDGs. India has taken several initiatives and played a key role in pushing for reforms at various regional groupings and multilateral forums. India's development cooperation initiatives are, he said, based on South-South cooperation in which capacity building constitutes an important pillar. India's efforts include grants, technology-transfer, trade and development finance. These are mostly

confined, he felt, to government-to-government channels. However, several CSOs in India are intensely involved in rural electrifying, women empowerment, conservation of biodiversity etc. and they can play important supportive role in this regard.

RAJESH TANDON



Dr Rajesh Tandon, Chairperson FIDC and President of PRIA, underlined the vital role being played by civil society organisations with their hands on expertise and cautioned them to retain their unique identity by not behaving like government departments.

HARSH JAITLE



Mr Harsh Jaitle, Chief Executive Officer of Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) urged to strengthen of the UN system. He felt that India should play an active role at UN and make its space in policy-making institutions. He also felt that the unstructured institutions should play their role in case structured institutions fail. He stressed the need for democratisation of multilateral institutions for every voice to be heard. As the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly shown no country, he added, no stakeholder can work alone. He also stressed that civil society organisations can play a key role in this regard.

AMITABH BEHAR



Mr Amitabh Behar, Chief Executive Officer, Oxfam India underlined the significance of multi-stakeholder collaboration. He opined that India needs to play the norms setting role to build a new system that is inclusive, caters to the North-South divide, brings forth the voices of all and represents the multi-stakeholders, including private sector on critical issues. Addressing these issues and constraints that hinder the shaping of inclusive global governance architecture and reaching out to the people is crucial, he added.

RENANA JHABVALA



Ms. Renana Jhabvala, National Coordinator, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and Chair, SEWA Bharat said that there has been lot of discussion on development cooperation for humanitarian reasons. She pointed out that finance movement around the globe is moving rapidly. She said that it is well recognised globally now that CSOs often reach to people at the ground level who are not reached by government.

Propelling Multilaterism



LAKSHMI PURI

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, former Assistant Secretary-General at the United Nations and former Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, presented a snapshot of India's effort towards multilateralism. She said that India has been at the forefront of inclusive multilateralism with greater focus on developing countries as well as fair and equal partnerships. India's multi-stakeholder tripartite involvement, she felt, would be crucial for policy consultations on bridging the North-South divide and towards fostering SSC. In the changing geo-political dynamics, she added, India's democracy, diversity, globally active private sector, robust civil society, and academia must be leveraged while developing mechanisms to influence constituencies beyond governments in other countries. She was of the view that the areas of thematic regional or global cooperation could include SDGs, climate change, including its financing, development cooperation and governance of Tech 4.0 etc. She stressed that India should participate in norms and agenda setting of multilateral and plurilateral organisations through multi stakeholder engagement. Similarly, a systematic institutional process for outreach and engaging of academia, business and media should be evolved, along with securing public support.



Financing for Development



PRABODH SAXENA

Mr Prabodh Saxena, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh said that India's development cooperation has traditionally been led by its capability to undertake capacity building and skill transfer to a large number of developing countries. Since early 2000, India undertook new forms of developmental cooperation by redesigning its policy on extending LoCs. Although India does not enjoy resource capability or institutional bandwidth to compete with China in the realm of development cooperation, it must review its development cooperation policies to achieve better outcomes. The impact assessment is critical for India's development cooperation policies to gain goodwill but to make tangible contributions in target countries



RENU MODI

Professor Renu Modi, Center for African Studies, University of Mumbai referred to India's LoCs in Africa, which were launched more than two decades ago, and focused on infrastructure, capacity building initiatives, sugarcane, agriculture, etc. She was also of the view that Africa is India's traditional development partner, and there should be greater emphasis on strengthening the development partnership in the future.



ASHOK KHOSLA

While underlining the need for new LoCs between India and Africa, Dr Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives emphasised the need for reforms and change in the existing format of LoCs. He argued that the conventional LoCs in large-scale infrastructure, mining, energy-intensive sectors, etc have had incremental ecological footprint and have led to climate change, desertification and extinction of endangered species. The LoCs, he felt, should be targeted to reduce disparities in income and gross inequalities, access to clean water, fuel, etc. and address the needs of the people who are not in the mainstream. The initiatives, he suggested, should find solutions for profit, prosperity of

the people and the planet. He shared the details of various initiatives taken by them, which include introduction of new cement and new brick manufacturing apart from power stations which use weeds, solar energy, urban mining. However, securing finance is a major challenge, he added. He said that the South-South Task Force has identified sectors like energy, water, shelter, small industries and opportunities for financing these projects.

DAVID RASQUINHA



Mr David Rasquinha, Managing Director, EXIM Bank said that policy changes carried out by them in terms of regulations and procurement in 2015 have led to the development of a clear and transparent system for LoCs, which is now capable of effectively tackling the challenges and encourages involvement of bigger companies while ensuring speedy and good quality delivery. He felt that in order to tap the vast potential of emerging and future opportunities, India needs institutional development in finance for Africa. He suggested that India's share in African Development Bank should be increased from its current level of 0.2 percent or so and the public-sector banks should be developed in Africa. He also suggested that India should engage in long-term relationship in Africa well beyond infrastructure projects and widen its scope for investments in productive sectors. Partnership with African banks, he felt, would be crucial and these efforts need to be channelised.

PARITOSH GUPTA



Sharing their firsthand experience of working in Africa, Mr Paritosh Gupta said that his company together with AfDB, SBI and EXIM Bank is engaged in power and healthcare across the African continent. They have identified 12 African countries for partnerships to mitigate the risks and explore the opportunities in these sectors which can transform growth globally. Their integrated development project in Mozambique is a perfect example. He underlined the need for institutional structures and multidimensional impactful development projects involving multi-stakeholders for a win-win partnership between India and Africa.



RUCHITA BERI

Ms. Ruchita Beri, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses noted that India-Africa cooperation and partnership is historically rooted and is today guided by the key principles enunciated by Prime Minister Modi in Uganda. She argued that India has strived to enhance the partnership in spirit of South-South cooperation. The LoCs, she said, form an important part of India-Africa relationship, which is focused largely on agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure and energy. Defence has emerged as a new sector for partnership between India and Africa. The African continent has multiple regional conflicts and India-Africa should marry peace, security and development goals. She stressed the need for addressing the challenges and issues pertaining to supply side commitment and deadlines of implementation of these projects. Referring to the continent has young population, she felt that education and capacity building sector provide a vast scope for opportunities for increased cooperation between India and Africa. Similarly, she felt, agriculture is important because 60 per cent of uncultivated land lies in Africa. Highlighting new trends in LoCs, she noted that energy access is new focus area and financing is going to the solar energy sector. As part of International Solar Alliance, LoCs are now focused in promoting solar energy. She concluded by saying that Africa does not have good health infrastructure and India is supporting many African countries in this regard. The pandemic, she added, has given an important opportunity for expanding cooperation in the conceptual framework of SSC.

BHAGYASHRI SINGH

Ms. Bhagyashri Singh, Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal highlighted the importance of South-South trade, which she felt is quite important from the South-South cooperation perspective. The emergence of new financial institutions in the South is a welcome step, she said. The SSC has the vast potential in contributing towards balanced global growth and equity, she added.

Importance of Replicable Local Strategies



RUKMINI BANERJEE

Dr Rukmini Banerjee, CEO, Pratham Education Foundation focused on education and learning outcomes. During the times of MDGs, she said, universal enrollment was the talk of the hour both nationally and internationally as a result of which enrolment numbers improved significantly but the new problem is that those who were enrolled are still left behind. This problem, their surveys revealed, can be addressed by active involvement of teachers, parents and local government. They conduct random surveys around India annually and around 2008 their innovative methodology of ASER reports became popular in South Asian and African countries. Their method of scoring learning outcomes is now being used in 20 countries and in 2015 it found its way in SDGs. As such in 2018, around 15 countries came together to measure their learning outcomes in SDG targets. This method, she added, is recognised all over the world by organisations such as J-Pal as well as the World Bank.



KAUSTAV KANTI BANDOPADHYAY

Dr Kaustav Kanti Bandopadhyay, Director, Participatory Research in Asia underlined the importance of civil society organisations in facilitating development cooperation. He felt that the immense knowledge and experience of Indian CSOs has not been fully shared or transferred among other countries. However, he added, there have been examples where some CSOs have done pioneering work in defining the idea of development cooperation globally. For the most marginalised, their emphasis is on empowerment and ownership. He gave examples of work done by different organisations and how they work with marginalised sections of the society. Keeping community at the centre, he said, a multi-stakeholder approach needs to be in place in working of all CSO for sustainable development. At the policy level, there is need for regular input from CSOs in shaping development policies, priorities and strategies. He suggested that the FIDC can act as a nodal organisation for this purpose. He suggested that a Vision Paper jointly prepared by CSOs in India on Multi-stakeholder Development Cooperation can be thought of. He said that CSOs can be part of the government development cooperation but should not function like government departments and retain their unique identity in terms of the nature of their operations and expertise.



JAGANANDA J.

Mr Jagananda J. Mentor & Founder, CYSD, & Co-convenor NITI Aayog Task Force on Civil Society Enabling Eco-system, Odisha said that civil society is one such stakeholder in development process. He shared the details of the work being done by CSOs and his organisations in Odisha on millet mission programme in tribal districts which were suffering from the problem of severe malnutrition. Unfortunately, it was not captured in aggregated data at state and national level. As such, millet, which was the staple food of many tribal communities, was replaced cheaply available rice. Now the millet mission programme is being taken up at the Global South level. He noted that innovation at ground level, with possibility of replication around the globe is important. He also emphasised the need for working with disadvantage communities, promoting more transparent and responsible governance and localising SDG targets.



MANU GUPTA

Dr Manu Gupta, Founder, SEEDS India focused on a case study of Nepal earthquake. In 2015, India was the largest assistance provider to Nepal and most of the funds were used in housing re-construction. UNNATI and SEED came together with local people, and planned the construction of 27,000 houses in two severely affected districts of Nepal utilising their experience from the Gujarat earthquake. He said that such CSOs bring in agility as well as adaptability in response primarily due to their experience in such situations. However, he felt that there are huge structural barriers capping the potential of CSOs.



HARSH CHAUHAN

Mr Harsh Chauhan, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes shared his experiences of working in the tribal region. Tribal people are emotionally connected to the nature. In fact, they consider themselves as nature. He called for diversity and decentralisation in development planning and process. He further added that essence of development should be enhancing the capacity of people so that they can be empowered, subsequently, do not need help in the future.



PINAKI CHAKRABORTY

Speaking on 'Rabindranath Tagore: a 19th Century Pioneer of Applied Cooperation in Development,' Professor Pinaki Chakraborty noted that Tagore was a rural reconstruction activist of 20th century. He was the modern pioneer of applying philosophy of cooperation in his sincere attempts to eradicate poverty and inequality. Tagore saw rural reconstruction as his life's work unfolding through three main stages: managing the family estates in the 1890s in East Bengal; national programme of Swadeshi Movement (1903-08); experiments in Sriniketan. Tagore wanted to integrate the distressed people into an accessible system of justice to be run by the villagers themselves.



GAJANAN DANGE

Explaining several socio-economic and environmental challenges and the role of Biodiversity Act, Dr Gajanan Dange, President, YOJAK Centre for Research and Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development stressed on connecting with people at grassroots level. He said that documenting oral traditions is very important. Water conservation, water harvesting should be focused.



K. SEETA PRABHU

Professor K. Seeta Prabhu, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) said that equity and justice are key considerations from countries in the Global South. The progress on SDGs is fraught with many contradictions. While developing countries have succeeded in achieving food security, hunger persists. School enrollment rates have improved but children cannot read or write. It is, therefore, important to review and measure outcomes that matter. He felt that it is important to assess all countries, projects, and initiatives from the lens of inter-generational equity and also analyse whether the projects are inducing equity and enhancing people's choices.



ARVIND KUMAR

Professor Arvind Kumar, Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, JNU contested Western paradigm about the economic aid, which has been used as a tool of foreign policy. He argued that indigenous development cooperation experience and pragmatism approach is important from Indian point of view.

Emerging Opportunities



ADITI GUPTA

Ms. Aditi Gupta, Research Assistant, RIS felt that there is a huge scope for energy and water cooperation in the South Asian region. Although sources of fossil fuels are limited in the region and demand is high, she added, there is immense potential for new and renewable energy cooperation in South Asia though several initiatives in this regard have been taken in the past.



PHALGUNI SUNDARAM BISWAL

Mr Phalguni Sundaram Biswal, Freelance Researcher noted that India has played crucial role in achieving sustainable development goals and contributed in global development discourse. He also underlined that ethos and spirit of India's development cooperation.

SWASTIKA PRADHAN

Ms. Swastika Pradhan, PhD Scholar, Department of Political Science, Sikkim University spoke on the hydro politics between India and Bangladesh. Hydro Politics has gained the attention of the Policy makers, academicians and Researchers alike more so in the light of the water being a scarce resource. The Hydro Politics between India and Bangladesh becomes important to ponder upon given the fact that both the countries shares 54 common rivers between them yet till date have only one water sharing agreement i.e., the Ganges Water Sharing Agreement 1996. Since then various attempts have been made by both the sides to discuss and negotiate the distribution, allocation, use of the water resources particularly the Teesta but have met with a failure. In fact the Teesta Water Dispute of late has been a thorn in the mud between the two where several attempts at negotiations has been unsuccessful thus bringing to fore the ineffectiveness and failure of the policy makers as well as the statesmen of both the sides. Ms. Pradhan argues that the issue between India and Bangladesh is not just about sharing of the waters of the Teesta but also sharing the benefits that arise out of it. In fact if both the nations adopt the approach related with Benefit sharing it would help in resolving the issue. Further she emphasises on the Track II diplomacy while dealing with Teesta water sharing as the there has been a disagreement due to the non incorporation of the stakeholders in decision making.

Logic of Sharing and Impact Assessment



SESHADRI CHARI

Mr Seshadri Chari, Chairman, China Study Centre, MAHE, Manipal, Karnataka highlighted the philosophical basis for the India's development partnership. India should not be considered as an emerging donor, as often referred in the global development cooperation lexicon. Development cooperation is not new for us. It started before our independence. India was leading partner in Afro-Asian conference held in New Delhi in 1946. He argued that aid fatigue in developed countries has resulted into relook at the process of global development aid; therefore, people are now looking towards India and Brazil. He added that they are not emerging donors, but it should rather be understood as the emergence new development partners.



MILINDO CHAKRABARTI

In his presentation, Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS assessed the logic of sharing: a methodological quest, discussed development cooperation and noted that there is a need to define the term clearly. He noted that development connotations change. Growth and development are not synonymous. Support for positive change in countries to change their livelihood status and catch up with others which are ahead of them in certain notional benchmarks. He noted that the theory of change visualised after the World War II has now changed and policymakers are thinking about a new theory of change and complementary theory of action for the emerging world order. The desired characteristics of the assessment template thus include the tool to assess the theory of change is effective and conceptually sound for delivering changes and, supportive theory of action. So, these tools are required to assess development cooperation. Three well-known approaches to development cooperation include SSC, North-South cooperation, and triangular cooperation. They differ in terms of their respective theories of change, action, and interactions. The SSC has been concerned with not only sharing but also increasing the size of cake through a process of collective action. In the context of North-South cooperation, it is dependent on the logic of giving. The idea is that there is a transfer of resources from developed to developing countries. The theory of action was codified in conditionalities stipulated in 'Washington Consensus'. A new hybrid model called triangular

change is evolving whose theory of change is yet to take shape. Two unique features of SSC include its guiding principles. These guiding principles form theory of change for SSC. The theory of action for SSC is ingrained in the plurality of modalities. The assessment template for SSC, therefore, needs to look at whether guiding principles are being followed and what are pluralities in modalities that are being followed in the context of SSC. The assessment should look at value for society and the extant methods that are available today need redesigning.

JYOTSNA BAPAT

Dr Jyotsna Bapat, Prominent Commentator on environmental issues and impact assessment talked about the standards that governmental agencies should adopt at the time of adopting new projects and governance policies that can be implemented in different stages of projects. The first principle involves comprehensive environmental impact assessment and its management plan to be part of the environment and social sustainability framework. The second standard includes involuntary resettlement for people who are threatened to be displaced from the multilateral developmental project. Third standard concerns the indigenous people and their prior informed consensus. Forest commons that communities like to preserve and built heritages that are created over time. An exclusion list is also important which outlines industries, which would not be implemented. The fourth aspect of the governance project includes risk assessment at a pre-planning stage including financial viability of the projects and risk-readiness of the project including environmental and social sustainability criteria. This also involves drawing impact boundaries and clarification about the role of local communities and partnerships.



SANHDHYA AIYER

Dr Sanhdhya Aiyer, Associate Professor, TISS talked about methodologies to undertake effective impact assessment. Over the years, India has played an important role in the field of development cooperation. New Delhi's development cooperation manifests itself on development compact of five components, namely, capacity building, knowledge transfer, technology and technical assistance, development finance, grants, credits, etc. India is not following the classical notion of development cooperation. India is mainly investing resources in Africa through projects, which increased in the last two decades. The number of projects has increased in Asia. Quantum of resources invested is higher in Asian neighbors compared to African countries.

The effective impact assessment requires robust data set. While data accessed from EXIM Bank shows that investments are being made in energy, healthcare, etc. Focus should be on the quality of the partnership and on middle-income countries, which are dynamic in terms of social categories and economic performances. India needs to streamline its approach to development cooperation so that impact assessment can be carried out effectively. There is a need for multi-sectoral initiatives rather than vertically aligned schemes of development cooperation, especially in the wake of SDGs and Paris Declaration commitments.

SHYAM PARANDE



Bringing Indian diaspora into discussion, Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, said that it is an important element of India's development programme. He called for broader approach based the Indian traditions and values. The spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* is there at grassroots to top level of government. Our traditional knowledge is quite rich in *SevaBhav* (spirit of service) and knowledge. We need to inform and further enrich the global development lexicon.



RIS A Think-Tank of Developing Countries

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas. For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: www.ris.org.in

Research shaping the development agenda



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