

Japan's Policy-level ODA Evaluation: Reflections by a Third-Party Academic Evaluator



Vietnam Office of Export-Import Bank of Korea (2015)



KOICA's Vietnam Office (2015)

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Structure

1. Introduction
 - A variety of Japan's ODA Evaluation Exercises
2. MOFA's Policy-level ODA Evaluation
3. Reflections by a Third Party Academic Evaluator
4. Concluding Remarks

1. Introduction: A Variety of Japan's Evaluation

	Name	What to be evaluated	Evaluator	Organizer
1	MOFA's Policy-level Evaluation	Japan's ODA policies	External experts	MOFA
2	Evaluations by Other Ministries and Agencies	Policy/Program/Project conducted by a particular ministry / agency	The ministry / the agency	The ministry / the agency
3	Operations Evaluations by JICA	Program/Project conducted by JICA	External experts or JICA's officers*	JICA
4	Partner Country-led Evaluation	Japan's ODA programs/projects conducted for a particular recipient country	Experts from the recipient country	MOFA (Japan)

Note: MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan), JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

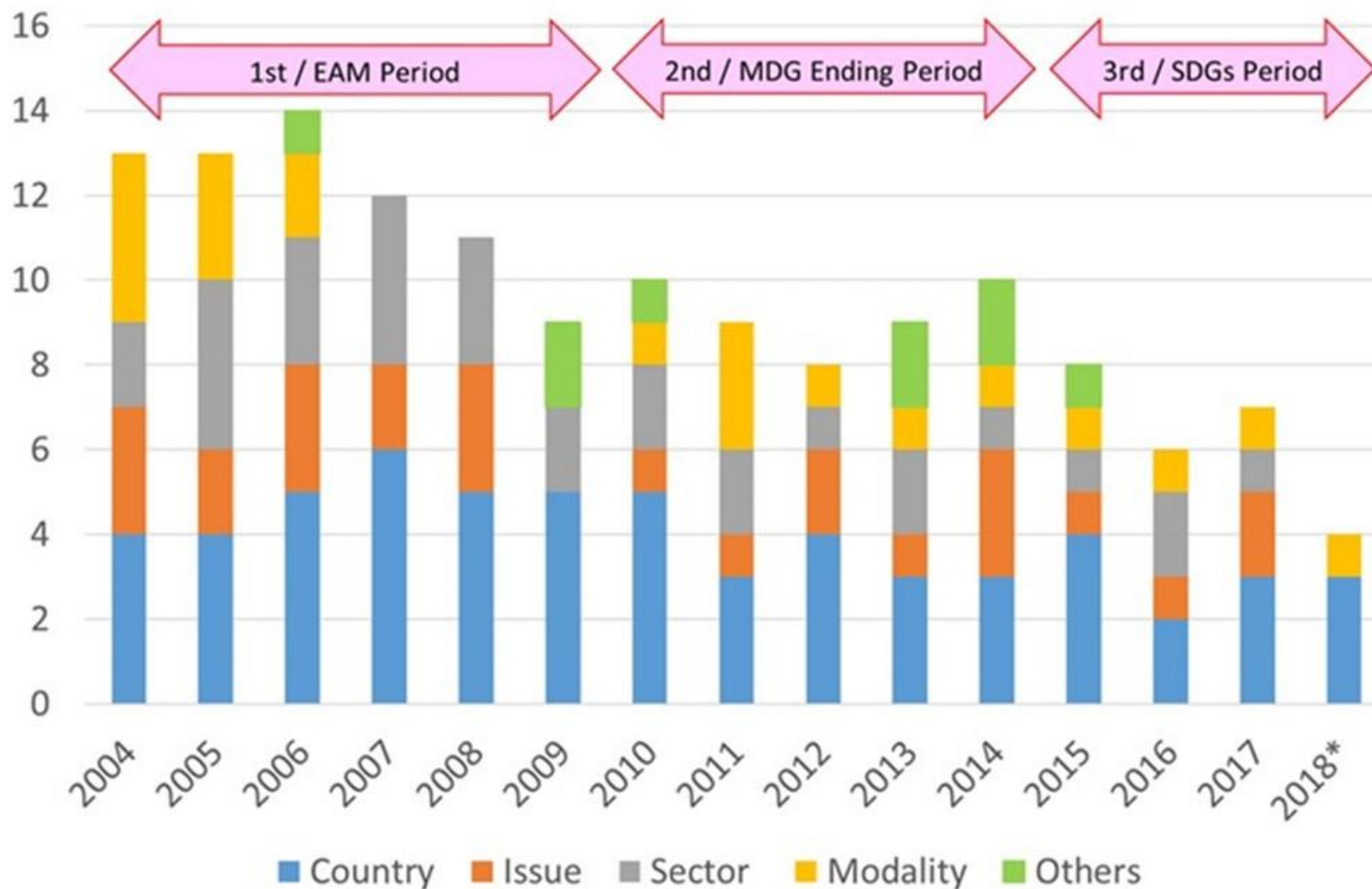
MOFA's Evaluation Projects for Which Author Served as Chief Evaluator

Fiscal Year	Country / Issue	Contractor	Advisor
2006/07	Madagascar	KRI International Corp.	Takumi Moriyama (University of Tokyo)
2007/08	Nicaragua	International Development Center of Japan	Takashi Tanaka (Chubu University)
2008/09	“Initiative for Japan’s ODA on Water” and “ Water and Sanitation Broad Partnership Initiative (WASABI)”	Mizuho Information & Research Institute, Inc.	Yukio Tanaka (University of Tokyo)
2009/10	India	Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.	Fumiko Oshikawa (Kyoto University)
2011/12	Aid for Trade	Mizuho Information & Research Institute, Inc.	Atsushi Ohno (Ritsumeikan University)
2014/15	Japan’s Contribution to the Achievement of the MDGs in the Health Sector	Mizuho Information & Research Institute, Inc.	Etsuko Kita (Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation)
2015/16	Vietnam	KPMG AZSA L.L.C.	Kenta Goto (Kansai University)
2016/17	Paraguay	KPMG AZSA L.L.C.	Yoko Fujikake (Yokohama National University)

Note: For 2006/07-09/10, this author was a member of the [Expert Advisory Meeting on ODA Evaluation](#), assigned by DG of International Cooperation Bureau of MOFA.

2. MOFA's Policy-level ODA Evaluation

Number of MOFA's Policy-Level ODA Evaluation Projects



Note: For details, see Figure 1 of Yamagata (2018).

How MOFA's Evaluation Works

- Team members (per project)
 - Scholars: a Chief Evaluator and an Advisor
 - Consultants: 2-3 employees of a "contract-winning" firm
- Costs: Around 135,000 USD
- Time frame: June - March next year
- Trip: One-time 1-2 weeks to recipient countries by all the team members
- Products: A full report in Japanese and summary reports in English / other languages.
 - 1st Draft by January
 - Comments - revisions exchanges with stakeholders for completion.

3. Reflections by a Third Party Academic Evaluator

Values of MOFA's ODA Evaluation

- Constructive recommendations.
 - Example: How can Japan make "aid coordination"?
 - ✓ To work with a dominant donor in a country where Japan is a minor donor (e.g. Madagascar)
 - This is a strength over the statistical approach of project evaluation (e.g. RCT)
 - ✓ The statistical approach does not tell any reasons of a success / failure.

Challenges of MOFA's ODA Evaluation

1. Independence

- i. Requirements of "de facto" Approval of Evaluation Report by Stakeholders
 - ✓ Strong bargaining power to stakeholders
- ii. Selection of Countries, Priority Issues and Sectors to Evaluate
 - ✓ Those to be praised are likely to be selected
- iii. Selection of projects to visit

2. Resources

Concluding remarks

- To make good and feasible recommendations, an evaluator must have **high competency** in knowledge of (1) international cooperation, and (2) country and issue to be studied.

References

- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MOFA\), Japan \[2018\], Annual Report on Japan's ODA Evaluation 2017, MOFA.](#)
- Yamagata, Tatsufumi [2018] "Japan's Policy-level ODA Evaluation: Reflections by a Third-Party Academic Evaluator", a paper presented at the North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum 2018 "Evaluating development cooperation of North-East Asian countries for the achievement of SDG," Seoul, Sept. 14-15.