

Introductory Session – “from MDG to SDG” from NGOs’ perspectives

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1. Domestic Process of SDGs

- Initially Government of Japan (GOJ) was very enthusiastic for the formulation of post 2015 development agenda. GOJ began it from the “MDGs Follow-up Meeting” held in June 2011 in Tokyo, and then initiated the “Post-MDGs Contact Group (CG)”, a forum for informal policy dialogue on the development agenda beyond 2015 with some 20 governments. This group held 6 meeting from the end of 2011 to March 2013, almost simultaneous to the UN System Task Team for the post-2015 UN development agenda, followed by the High Level Pannell for Post 2015 Development Agenda, and UNDP’s various consultation meeting on the same topic.
- The enthusiasm of GOJ might have changed since the formation of SDG proposed by G77 members was decided at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in June 2012, and since the merger between SDG and the post 2015 development agenda was not expected.
- 12 meetings to exchange views between MOFA & NGOs on post MDG were held from March 2012 to August 2015, beside several informal ones. Major NGO claims were;
 - Establishment of domestic SDG implementation system
 - Realization of “‘Leaving no one behind’ by putting the last first
 - Revitalization of the Global Partnership
 - Proper reflection of SDGs on GOJ’s ODA policy, etc..

2. Global Process of SDGs

- OWG was a positive process creating senses of ownership and responsibility among all participants and stakeholders.
- In contrast, the process to the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development was lessor open, and its AAAA was neither innovative nor courageous to secure required resources.

3. Positive Points in SDGs

- Continuation from MDGs, especially 0.7% ODA.
- Adoptions of new encouraging, but indispensable goals, such as Goal 12 which requires fundamental transformation of our long-lasting present life style, Goal 10 on inequality that was missing in MDGs.
- New mentions to disability, rights to land and other properties, migrants and so on.

4. Insufficient Points in SDGs

- Not clear mobilization processes of funds for SDGs. For instance, how 0.7% ODA will be materialized, how business sectors' resources will be harnessed to SDG
- Right-based concepts are weak, so need of right-based indicators, especially for fairer distributions and re-distributions of wealth for the poor.
- Despite SFDRR's clear indication that disasters obstruct to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication, an integrated goal for disasters is not adopted.

5. Missing Points in SDGs

- Future of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which used to be called as Aid Effectiveness, and was a vital pillar for MDGs to maintain aid quality. Who will monitor the quality of aid and other resources for SDGs?
- Roots causes of present unsustainability. Without properly understanding them, how we can properly transform this world to more just and sustainable one.

6. Other Concerns

- Need of a strong political commitment as well as a high-level inter-ministerial organ for implementation of SDGs in Japan, but not easy.
- Recently amended GOJ's ODA/International Cooperation Charter is more nationalistic and economic growth oriented than previous ones.

There is a high danger that SDGs will turn out to have been nothing but pie in the sky. To prevent this, academicians and NGOs for global development in the NE Asia where larger economies including close friends of G77 and members of DAC exist together, should find common roles and actions for sound implementation of SDGs within the regions and for the rest of the world.