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## **Competing the Framing Powers of Aid Donors in Northeast Asia**

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### **Abstract**

The three aid donor countries of Northeast Asia – China, Japan, South Korea – have been demonstrating varying approaches and sectoral focus of development cooperation whereas they share some similarities for partnerships. How different are the three models of Asian donors in terms of aid modalities, and philosophies? Is it impossible to coordinate their aid policies on the basis of comparative strengths? Why is it so difficult to enhance cooperation among three donors in designing and implementing aid projects? This study will intersect macro-level grand framing strategies with aid policies among three donor countries towards African partner countries. China is far from being reactive or passive to the others' aid policies, but proactive following its grand strategy in Africa, which contains strategic, planned, and long-term projects. Japan shows its reactivity to DAC member donors and China partially, thereby taking Chinese political considerations into account and allowing proactivism and reactivism to coexist. Korea has been reactive to the presence and actions of others, particularly Japan. As a newcomer, Korea naturally copies with its closest donor, Japan, in order to avert risks. Particularly, China and Japan endeavor to strategize foreign aid to compete with each other for the expansion of their own soft power in Africa. Finally, this study will propose a solution mechanism for development partnership despite the competitive nature of donor countries in Northeast Asia. Its proposed mechanism is to relocate the position of three actors on the basis of comparative strengths: China as a non-OECD-DAC donor; Japan as a West follower; and Korea as a bridge.