



# **Reconstructing International Development Knowledge in the Changing Context of Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges for Northeast Asia Countries**

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# Outline

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- Changing context of globalization
- Changing international development architecture
- Contribution of Northeast Asian countries to International development knowledge
- Challenges and opportunities
- Conclusions and discussions



# I. Changing context of the globalization

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- Changing global landscapes in term of wealth, poverty and inequality: the blurred identity of donor-recipient
- Changing domestic politics in both the developed and developing countries: the rise of populism
- Redistribution/re-balance of global power: voice from the South
- Uncertainty of the relations between the powers: China-US, Britain-EU, US-EU, US-Japan, Korea
- New global challenges: climate change and interdependence
- Economic weapon is more effective than nuclear weapon and war

“tension” and “uncertainty”

## II. Changing international development architecture: ruptured North-South Axis

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- 'Aid fatigue' from both the traditional donors and recipients: failed to meet the commitments, persistence of the global poverty, impact of financial crisis
- Global challenges: climate change, mutual interdependence
- Rise of emerging economies (BRICS)- from recipients to SSC providers
- Controversy about and challenges to the traditional donor-recipient dichotomy
- Seeking for alternative development approaches and cooperation models
- Reflections on the roles of the state, economic growth and institutions for development

## II. Changing ID architecture: emerging narratives and practices



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### **Compromise from the North:**

- From aid effectiveness to development effectiveness (Paris Declaration; Accra Action Plan; Busan Global Partnership Forum; Addis Ababa Action Plan; GPEDC (HLM1-HLM2))
- Universality, Sustainability and inclusiveness (SDGs)
- but still characterized by colonial domination & subjugation

### **South-South Cooperation:**

- advocating Mutual-benefit, win-win principles
- Aid for trade and investment
- Beyond ODA- Concessional loans & OOF

**Question: Is SSC the alternative, or just supplement? What about TRC?**

**International development knowledge is at a crossroad.**



### III. What NEA Countries can offer?

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- From dual identities to mixed identities: recipient-donor & traditional donor, (re)emerging donor and Northeast Asian Donor
- Use their own experience to promote development: focusing on economic growth (export and economic integration), infrastructure projects financed by aid in combination with FDI
- Successful regional integration through development cooperation: economic interdependence, amazingly long-term peace and security, economic prosperity
- Evidence-based development knowledge : role of state, focusing on self-help and participation of private actors

**“Hard Knowledge vs. soft knowledge or derivative knowledge”**

# IV. Opportunities for the NEAC



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- Different Fora for knowledge sharing: NEDCF, EAS, G20, FOCAC, TICAD, NICE organized by ERINA , etc..
- New initiatives: Belt and Road Initiative, TPP
- New financing platform: AIIB, NDB, China's active participation in ADB
- Peaceful situation in Korean Peninsula and opening attitude of DPRK
- United States reversal of the position of the toward trade

**‘prioritize regional integration’ ? Disguised or undisguised multilateralism?**

## V. Challenges of NEAC



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- The fear of China's rise
- Japan's remilitarization
- The uncertain future of American hegemony
- The North Korean nuclear quagmire
- Historical animosity- intrinsic mistrust-can be misused or abused for domestic political purposes
- China-Japan rivalry, Japan-Korea Conflict (comfort women and trade conflict )
- “ Shared norms and values, increased economic, social, and cultural interdependence, and institutionalized cooperation can remove the fear of negative spirals of mutual suspicion, eventually leading to a stable and durable peace in the region”.- European style of liberal transition

**Interest matters: natural formation of intensified partnerships without artificial institutional designs**





## VI. Conclusions

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- The historical experience of development cooperation among NEA Country, especially Japan, South Korea and China, revealed that DC can play an adhesive role for regional integration and diffusing the mistrust between partners.
- Focusing on economic growth and infrastructure and using a substantial share of concessional loans in their ODA are the salient features of NEA donors, which provides a strong reference for SSC and proves effective in East Asia partners countries.
- Experience as recipients and donors, large volume and mature institutional system (Japan and SK) provided hard-evidence for the effectiveness/ defects of the model, which can certainly contribute to restructuring development knowledge.



# Discussion

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- What kind of International knowledge do we need?
- Asianizing international development knowledge? How?  
ontological, Ideational and practice?
- Beyond NSC and SSC, and even Trilateral/Triangular  
cooperation: Multiple actors, effective development, self-help,  
win-win and growth-driven, combination of aid with trade and  
investment
- Anyway, "A harmonious Northeast Asia based on mutual trust,  
solidarity and stability is in line with the interests of all  
countries and the expectations of the international community.  
It is also of great significance to maintaining multilateralism  
and promoting the international order toward a more just and  
rational direction."
- -Xi Jinping



# Thank you!

