

ESCAP/CIDRN/ CAU-CIDGA Webinar

(Special session of CIDGA/CIDRN Global Development Cooperation Webinar Series)

Development Cooperation in North-East Asia in addressing COVID19 pandemic:

Initiatives by development cooperation agencies in China (CIDCA) and Republic of Korea (KOICA)

Thursday, 30 July 2020

2:00 – 4:00 pm (Beijing), 3:00 – 5:00 pm (Seoul/Tokyo)

- What are the responses of the bilateral development cooperation agencies now to help other countries while their government is overwhelmed with domestic challenges?
- How COVID19 affected the current development cooperation work (e.g., suspended operation, expanded scale of cooperation, etc?)
- Has the current development cooperation changed the way and scale they operate?
- What would be the direction of post-COVID development cooperation on health issues?

The outbreak of the COVID19 posed serious threats to developing countries which have limited capacity to cope with the pandemic. The sense of urgency and call for cooperation is reflected in a resolution¹ adopted by the governments of Asia and the Pacific region at the 76th session of the ESCAP Commission in May 2020. It calls for strengthened regional and global cooperation in the fight against the COVID19 pandemic, with solidarity to support those most affected, particularly in developing countries. How to build back better from the crisis through regional cooperation will be the key theme for the discussion at the 77th Commission session in 2021².

China, Japan and Republic of Korea were one of the first hit by the pandemic and responded with various policy measures including the fiscal expenditures at an unprecedented scale for their population. While these countries seem ahead of the curve in containing the COVID19, “no one is safe until everyone is safe” and supporting developing countries are common interest for the whole society.

Responding to COVID-19 pandemic tests the fiscal resilience of most countries in the world. With shrinking fiscal space in both developed and developing countries, a key question for many developing countries would be the current and post-COVID landscape of international development cooperation. While the usual context of development cooperation, emergency assistance or humanitarian assistance, may be beyond the mandate /scope of the bilateral development cooperation agencies, the COVID19 pandemic have significantly affected them in their operation, scope or scale.

Thus, the webinar aims to stock-take and share the latest stories of the bilateral development agencies in the North-East Asian countries on their responses to the pandemic, focusing on the questions above.

¹ “Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific”

² “Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific”

PROGRAMME

Opening

- *Mr. Ganbold BAASANJAV, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office*

Special welcome

- *Ms. BAEK Sook Hee, Vice President, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)*
- *Mr. GONG Yuanshi, Vice President of China Agricultural University*

Moderator:

- *Ms. XU Xiuli, Professor, Dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University*

Responding to COVID19 Pandemic – experiences of bilateral development cooperation in North-East Asia

Presentations:

- *Mr. TIAN Lin, Director-General of Department of International Cooperation, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA)*
- *Ms. KIM Hyunwon, Director-General of Climate Crisis and Pandemic Response Department, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)*

Discussion: new landscape of post-COVID19 development cooperation of North-East Asian countries?

Discussants:

- *Mr. LI Xiaoyun, Lead Chair Professor, China Agricultural University/Chair of China International Development Research Network (CIDRN)*
- *Mr. KWON Huck-ju, Professor, Seoul National University/ President of Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC)*
- *Mr. YAMAGATA Tatsufumi, Professor, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University/ President of Japan Society for International Development (JASID)*
- *Ms Celia REYES, President of Philippine institute for development studies (PIDS)*
- *Ms. Marzia MONGIORGI-LORENZO, Head, Economics and Strategy Unit, PRC Resident Mission, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank*

Q&A

Wrap-Up