

**Concept Note for
North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum 2016:**

Development cooperation for Sustainable Development Goals

**28-29 October 2016
Garden Hotel Suzhou (tentative), Suzhou, China**

Organized by

ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office, China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), and
Department of International Cooperation, Development Research Center of State Council of China

In partnership with

Japan Society for International Development (JASID), Korea Association of International Development and
Cooperation (KAIDEC), and Association of International Development Assistance Experts (AIDAE)

Background

The North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum was initiated by East and North-East Asia Office of ESCAP to facilitate analytical discussions on policies and practices of development cooperation in North-East Asia as well as potential areas of collaboration among North-East Asian countries. This initiative followed the preceding events the office organized in 2013 - "Seminar on North-East Asian Development cooperation in Post 2015" in collaboration with China Agricultural University and China International Development Research Network (CIDRN).

The first Forum was held in November 2014 in Seoul in collaboration with Korea Association for International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC), and supported by China International Development Research Network (CIDRN) and Japan Society for International Development (JASID), as well as Russian researchers on development cooperation. The Forum brought together researchers and practitioners of development cooperation from four North-East Asian countries, namely, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation with the following objectives.

- To create a platform of researchers and practitioners to critically review and analyze trends and policies of development cooperation in North-East Asian countries based on their research and experiences.
- To create an international network of academic associations, research institutions, government institutions, inter-governmental organizations, and UN organizations engaged in issues related to development cooperation in North-East Asian countries.
- To identify potential areas of collaboration among North-East Asian countries in development cooperation and assistance.
- To marshal the potential of North-East Asia in making a fundamental difference to the development of Asia Pacific region.

The Forum has forged a genuine partnership among the participating networks as a platform for exchange of views on development cooperation of the countries in the subregion. Attendees at the Forum as well as representatives of the networks strongly urged its continuation in the coming years. Thus, the second Forum was held in October 2015 in Tokyo, hosted by JASID and JICA Research Institute, supported by other partners. The ENEA Office and the partners, including the principals of the networks, held a meeting immediately after the Forum to discuss the way forward.

Thus, third Forum in 2016 will be organized in China, jointly hosted by CIDRN and Department of International Cooperation of Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council of China. It will highlight the role of development cooperation in North-East Asia towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Overview of the 2016 Forum

North-East Asian countries is characterized by their experience as both recipients and donors of development aid in recent history, as well as their importance in the development assistance either as OECD/DAC members (Japan and ROK) or emerging donors (China and Russia). Growing presence of emerging donors is exemplified by their recent initiatives to establish New Development Bank BRICS or Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

As recognized in the Accra Agenda for Action, improving the complementarity of donor efforts and the division of labour among donors can reduce the fragmentation of aid and improve its effectiveness. Given the wealth of experience gained during their transformation from recipients to providers of development assistance and their growing significance in various forms of development cooperation, cooperation among North-East Asian countries in development assistance will potentially bring significant benefits to recipient countries.

Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals is ambitious development agenda, requiring unprecedented scale of resources. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which provides a comprehensive set of policy actions to finance sustainable development, reiterates the call to mobilize all sources of finance, technology and innovation to implement the sustainable development agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights equally prominent role of North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation in enhancing knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, technology transfer, etc. The North-East Asian countries have long been devising various modalities in their development cooperation activities in both financial and non-financial forms.

Thus, following the 2nd North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum, the 3rd Forum focuses on development cooperation in implementing Sustainable Development Goals, with particular focus on potential cooperation among North-East Asian countries.

Expected Outputs

To be published electronically on the websites of ESCAP as well as of partner networks.

- A brief description of the presentations (1-2 pages) as well as presentation slides (if applicable)

- Background papers of the presentation (optional)¹
- Summary of the discussion of the Forum
- Survey on national ODA policies (to be circulated among respective network members) (tbd)

Forum Participants

- Members of the partner networks
- Researchers on development cooperation from recipient (partner) countries in Asia-Pacific (selection of countries to be further discussed). The 2016 Forum could focus on researchers from Central Asian countries as well as other North-East Asian countries
- International organizations
- Bilateral development organizations or equivalent government office in North-East Asia
- Government officials (at their own capacity)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Interested researchers and development practitioners

Annotated Provisional Programme

| 28 October (Fri) | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 – 9:45 | Opening session |
| 9:45 – 11:15 | Session 1 China Roundtable <i>Moderator: ESCAP-ENEA</i> <i>Panelists: 5 including 4 from partner networks</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Coffee break |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Session 2 Infrastructure development for SDG implementation <i>Moderator: KAIDEC</i> <i>Presenters: CIDRN, JASID, AIDAE</i> <i>Discussants: KAIDEC, non-member</i> |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | Session 3 Partnership of state actors for SDGs implementation <i>Moderator: JASID</i> <i>Presenters: CIDRN, KAIDEC, non-member</i> <i>Discussants: JASID, AIDAE</i> |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break |
| 16:00 – 17:30 | Session 4 Partnership of non-state actors for SDGs implementation <i>Moderator: DCAR</i> <i>Presenters: JASID, KAIDEC, AIDAE</i> <i>Discussants: CIDRN, non-member</i> |

¹ Background paper is optional. If submitted, it will be uploaded on the Forum website.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | Reception |
| 29 October (Sat) | |
| 9:30 – 12:15 | Session 5 Panel discussion - Government policy on development assistance for SDGs <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Lead panelists: 5 including one from each partner network</i> |
| 12:15 – 12:30 | Closing |
| 12:30 – 1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:30 – 3:00 | Network focal points meeting |

Session 1 China Roundtable

[Format: Panel discussion with panelists from each NEA country and one from developing countries participants.]

China has increasingly become a key player in development cooperation, with emphasis on South-South cooperation and mutual benefits. In particular, China has made various initiatives to support developing countries in financing, technology and capacity building, for instance, through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and the New Development Bank (NDB). In light of stated commitment to sustainable development and these recent initiatives to support developing countries, in particular such areas as infrastructure development, this session will exchange views on China's scope to align their initiatives with sustainable development goals (for instance SDG Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation).

Session 2 Infrastructure development for SDG implementation in light of inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability (of infrastructure)

Quality and resilient infrastructure is a foundation for inclusive and sustainable development, as reflected in the Goal 9 of Sustainable Development Goals. Infrastructure contributes to a broad range of sustainable development goals, beyond economic development. For instance, rural infrastructure to enhance agricultural productivity, would contribute towards the goal of ending hunger (Goal 2), and energy infrastructure for ensuring access to clean and energy (Goal 7).

NEA countries are actively engaged in supporting infrastructure development in other developing countries, via official channel of development cooperation, private sector, and/or combination of both, in various modalities, particularly in finance and technology. This session will highlight how NEA countries' development cooperation in the area of infrastructure development contributes to achievement of sustainable development, in particular, building inclusive, resilient and sustainable infrastructure. The session invites views from both NEA countries and developing countries on the receiving end.

Session 3 and 4 Partnership for SDGs implementation

The Sustainable Development Goals include targets which spell out how to support implementation of each Goal. In addition, the Goal 17 specifically focuses on how to strengthen the implementation through global partnership.

While development cooperation is aimed to support national efforts of developing countries to achieve SDGs, the scope of development cooperation for SDG is significantly broader than narrowly defined development assistance for implementation of MDGs, given various modalities, principles, sectors, and the wider scope of development partners, etc.

Development cooperation for implementation of SDGs takes various modalities including financial and non-financial cooperation, knowledge sharing, technology and capacity building, trade, etc. For instance, emphasis of development cooperation could be on ownership and priorities of recipient countries, or on mutual benefits of development partners, as often reiterated in South-South Cooperation context. SDGs also suggest development cooperation in wide range of areas, from poverty reduction, health, education to trade, technology, infrastructure development, etc. Furthermore, development cooperation could involve state and/or non-state actors from donor and recipient countries, international organizations, etc.

This session will thus highlight partnership for implementation of SDGs from two perspective; State actors (session 3) and non-state sectors (session 4), particularly in the context of North-East Asian countries. Session 3 could highlight development cooperation led by state actors of North-East Asian countries and partner countries; varying approaches and sectoral focus of development cooperation in North-East Asian countries and views of partner countries, etc., and discuss potential for partnership among NEA countries for the benefit of partners.

Session 4 could highlight partnership of non-state actors such as NGOs, academia, and private sector in North East Asian countries. For instance, with broader scope of SDGs and associated global partnership, even private sectors' involvement of infrastructure investment may be defined as development cooperation. Potential or existing partnership of non-state actors for development cooperation both within North East Asian countries and with developing partners may be highlighted.

Session 5 Government policy on development assistance and achievement of SDG

[Format: Open discussion facilitated by a moderator and representatives of the partner networks. Each representative may be asked to introduce participants from its network and direct specific questions to its members in light of their experiences and research interest.]

The session is intended to be open discussion following the discussion of previous sessions, highlighting on government policies and strategies related to the themes of the sessions. It could discuss how recent government policies on development cooperation are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals, for instance in such areas as infrastructure investment, bilateral or multilateral partnership for development cooperation, public private partnership, south-south and triangular cooperation, etc.

Partners profile

ESCAP ENEA Office is a subregional office of ESCAP, covering 6 member states (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation) and 2 associate members (Hong Kong, China and Macao, China).

China International Development Research Network (CIDRN) is a network of Chinese scholars interested in international development from different disciplinary backgrounds such as international relations, development studies, economics and other related fields have formed an informal network to share their research both amongst themselves and with policymakers in China, and beyond.

Japan Society for International Development (JASID) is an academic society that tries to bring together knowledge and experience about international development and cooperation from multiple disciplines, ranging from economics and management to politics, sociology, anthropology, agriculture, technology, medicine, and so forth.

Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC) is an academic association of of scholars from academic institutes in multidisciplinary subjects, government personnel working in development cooperation, private sector business personnel in charge of overseas investment, and field workers of NGOs.

Association of International Development Assistance Experts (AIDAE) is association of researchers and practitioners of development cooperation in Russia, which was formally established in 2016. The establishment of association was initiated by the researchers who participated in the first North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum in Seoul in 2014.