



Concept Note and Programme

## **North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum 2018:**

***Evaluating development cooperation of North-East Asian countries for the achievement of SDG***

**14-15 September 2018**  
**Aloft Seoul Myeongdong, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

### **Organized by**

ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC)

### **In partnership with**

China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Japan Society for International Development (JASID), and Russian Association of International Development Assistance Experts (RAIDAE)

### **Background**

North-East Asian countries are characterized by their experience as both recipients and donors of development aid in recent history, as well as their importance in the development assistance as OECD/DAC members (Japan and ROK) and BRICS donors (China and Russia). Growing presence of emerging donors in North-East Asia is exemplified by the establishment of BRICS New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), as well as China's "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)". 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 and partnership among North-East Asian countries in development assistance will potentially bring significant benefits to recipient countries. It is of particular importance in the context of achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals which calls for broad range of cooperation and mobilization of resources to provide means of implementation.

The North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum was initiated by ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office 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.

The forum strives to achieve 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.

Since the first Forum in November 2014 in Seoul, the Forums have been organized as joint endeavour of partners in the North-East Asia, namely China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Japan Society for International Development (JASID), Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC), as well as a group of Russian researchers that became Russian Association of International Development Assistance Experts (RAEDAE) since its formal establishment in 2016. The Forums brought together researchers and practitioners of development cooperation from the four countries as well as recipient countries in Asia.

The past Forums were jointly organized by ENEA Office and the partner networks taking turns in hosting the Forums most often with other local partners<sup>1</sup>.

- **Republic of Korea** - Seoul in 2014, in collaboration with KAIDEC
- **Japan** - Tokyo in 2015, jointly hosted by JASID and JICA Research Institute
- **China** – Suzhou in 2016 jointly hosted by CIDRN and Department of International Cooperation in Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council of China
- **Russian Federation** - Moscow in 2017, Russian Association of International Development Assistance Experts (RAIDAE) and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)

As a spin-off of the Forum in Tokyo, selected papers were published as a special issue of Asia-Pacific Development Journal (Vol. 23, No. 2, December 2016)<sup>2</sup>, highlighting the role of development cooperation in North-East Asia towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

### *Organization of the 2018 Forum*

Following the tradition, KAIDEC take its turn in hosting the Forum in 2018, jointly with ESCAP ENEA Office. While overarching theme of the Forum is development cooperation in North-East Asia as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, key topics for each Forum are decided in consultation with the partner associations, to capture the most topical and pressing issues in the development cooperation agenda in the North-East Asia. Thus, the Forum in 2018 will highlight evaluation of development cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unescap.org/events/north-east-asia-development-cooperation-forum>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unescap.org/publications/asia-pacific-development-journal-vol-23-no-2-december-2016-0>

## Overview of the 2018 Forum

Evaluation of development cooperation activities has been recognized as a crucial element of accountability, analysis and efficiency of development cooperation. Ensuring the alignment of the various forms of development cooperation with the national priorities of developing countries is recognized as an essential element of development cooperation for both providing and receiving ends of the development assistance.

In North-East Asia, evaluation of development cooperation activities is also an area of key concerns for academics and practitioners of the development cooperation. Modalities and approaches towards evaluation of development cooperation vary among countries in North-East Asian countries. Japan and ROK, as members of OECD/DAC, participate in the DAC Network on Development Evaluation and align the evaluation of their ODA with DAC guideline. Yet the definition and objectives of their development cooperation have expanded beyond ODA, and thus by and large the evaluation system may need to reflect such development. China and Russia are in a nascent stage in developing evaluation framework for their increasing and evolving forms of development cooperation. China, like the number of other governments of the South such as Brazil and Mexico, is designing its assessment system for its development cooperation, following a different path<sup>3</sup>. Russia, a re-emerging player in development cooperation, is also in a stage of developing its evaluation system. While Russia already reports its ODA to DAC, it is also exploring different path in developing its evaluation system.

Despite those different approaches towards development of or alignment with international norms and standards of evaluation of development cooperation, the North-East Asian countries share distinct similarity in its approach towards foreign assistance. For instance, strong focus on economic sector and emphasis on “self-reliance”, “self-help” and implicit or explicit link of development cooperation to its national interest are common among China, Japan and ROK.

Sharing analysis and insights on evaluation methodologies of the development cooperation against those objectives will provide valuable insight for policy makers of development cooperation.

In addition, the Forum offers a neutral platform for open discussion to examine whether and how evaluation scheme develops with wider definition of development cooperation which increasingly covers broader range of modalities and actors engaged in development assistance and addresses wider range of challenges as in Sustainable Development Goals.

## Tentative agenda of the 2018 Forum

- Evaluation of development cooperation in Republic of Korea  
[Roundtable discussion inviting perspectives of KOICA, EDCF, etc]
- Evaluation systems and policies of development cooperation

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<sup>3</sup> ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (2018), DCF Policy Briefs, February 2018, No. 20.

Discussions can highlight;

- *Analysis of country perspectives on international discourse on evaluation – views on OECD/DAC criteria on evaluation, South-South cooperation evaluation framework, motivation behind evaluation exercise, etc*
- *Grants vs loans – what are the key difference in evaluation criteria and why?*
- *Changes in priority areas (e.g., incorporation of SDGs, new national strategy towards development cooperation)– how evaluation capture the change?*
- *Challenges and opportunities in evaluating new forms of development cooperation (South-South cooperation, public-private sector led development cooperation, non-financial cooperation, etc)*
- *Feedback loop of evaluation results into strategies, policies and programmes for future interventions?*
- **Policy/programme level evaluation**  
Discussions can highlight;
  - *How evaluation reflects possible variation of objectives (of donors and recipients)?*
  - *How evaluation is incorporated as part of the planning of development cooperation policies / programmes/ strategies?*
  - *Critical analysis on current evaluation practices at policy / programme levels?*
- **Project level evaluation**  
Discussions can highlight;
  - *How to evaluate catalytic role (both positive and negative) of development assistance (e.g., catalytic role of ODA to engage other actors such as private sector in intervention, impact on environmental sustainability, influence on social cohesion)?*
  - *Critical analysis on current evaluation practices at policy / programme levels?*
- **International cooperation / harmonization in evaluation of development cooperation**  
Discussions can highlight;
  - *What are the key issues and gaps between methodologies/approaches of evaluation at national level and with international framework*
  - *Potential for combining evaluation system of development cooperation, e.g., OECD/DAC and South-South approaches, joint evaluation of bilateral agencies such as JICA and KOICA*
  - *Are there anything unique about evaluation system in North-East Asia?*

### **Expected Outputs**

- Policy brief–type papers on development cooperation (with particular focus on evaluation) in North-East Asian countries (presented and discussed at the Forum)
- Summary of key issues / recommendations on development cooperation
- Publication of full papers (to be further explored) Summary of the discussion of the Forum

### 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 2017 Forum could focus on researchers from Central Asian countries as well as other North-East Asian countries
- Bilateral development organizations or equivalent government office in North-East Asia
- International organizations
- Government officials (at their own capacity)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Interested researchers and development practitioners

### 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 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.

**Russian Association of International Development Assistance Experts (RAIDAE)** is association of researchers and practitioners of development cooperation in Russian Federation officially established in 2016. The association was initiated by the researchers who participated in the first North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum in Seoul in 2014.

## Provisional Programme

14 September 2018 (Friday)	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Opening session</p> <p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sangmin NAM</b> (Interim Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office)</li> <li>• <b>Heejin LEE</b> (President of KAIDEC/ Yonsei University)</li> </ul> <p><b>Congratulatory remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jinho SONG</b> (Vice President, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA))</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:50	Group photo and coffee break
10:50 – 11:00	Overview and scope of the Forum (ESCAP)
11:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 1. Evaluation systems and policies of development cooperation</b></p> <p><i>(Part 1)</i>  <b>Korea Roundtable – Special dialogue with Development Cooperation Agencies in Korea</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Sangmin NAM</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <p>Introduction to KOICA's Evaluation System  <b>Eung Ji KIM</b> (Director of Evaluation Office, KOICA)</p> <p>EDCF Evaluation Framework and Practice  <b>Kyung Jae KANG</b> (EDCF Operations Services &amp; Evaluation Department, Export-Import Bank of Korea)</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><i>Discussions in this session (both part 1 and part 2) may highlight questions such as;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Analysis of country perspectives on international discourse on evaluation – views on OECD/DAC criteria on evaluation, South-South cooperation evaluation framework, motivation behind evaluation exercise, etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>Grants vs loans – what are the key difference in evaluation criteria and why?</i></li> <li>• <i>Changes in priority areas (e.g., incorporation of SDGs, new national strategy towards development cooperation)– how evaluation capture the change?</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Challenges and opportunities in evaluating new forms of development cooperation (South-South cooperation, public-private sector led development cooperation, non-financial cooperation, etc.)</i></li> <li>• <i>Purpose of evaluating South-South Cooperation and key difference from monitoring and evaluation system on North-South cooperation</i></li> <li>• <i>Feedback loop of evaluation results into strategies, policies and programmes for future interventions?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Taekyoon KIM</b> (Seoul National University/ KAIDEC)</li> <li>• <b>Sunghoon LEE</b> (Korea Human Rights Foundation)</li> <li>• <b>Daeshik JO</b> (Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC))</li> <li>• <b>Chuanhong ZHANG</b> (China Agricultural University/ CIDRN)</li> <li>• <b>Alexander IGNATOV</b> (Russian Presidential Economy of National Economy and Public Administration/ RAIDAE)</li> </ul>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:45	<p><b>Session 1. Evaluation systems and policies of development cooperation</b> (continued)</p> <p>(Part 2)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Huckju KWON</b> (Seoul National University/ KAIDEC)</p> <p><b>Presentation:</b> Developing evaluation systems of South-South cooperation <b>Jixia LU</b> (China Agricultural University/ CIDRN) / <b>Chuanhong ZHANG</b></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Rapporteur team (one from each network) to formulate recommendations / key findings of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIDRN: <b>Jixia LU</b></li> <li>• JASID: <b>Hisahiro KONDOH</b> (Saitama University)</li> <li>• KAIDEC: <b>Eun Mie LIM</b> (Ewha Womans University)</li> <li>• RAIDAE: <b>Andrei SHAKHAROV</b> (Russian Presidential Economy of National Economy and Public Administration)</li> </ul>
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 – 18:00	<b>Session 2. Policy/programme level evaluation</b>



	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Hamza Ali MALIK</b> (Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP)</p> <p><b>Presentation:</b> Challenges and concerns of Japan's development cooperation - critical analysis on policy / programme level evaluation <b>Yoko ISHIDA</b> (Hiroshima University/ JASID) / <b>Tatsufumi YAMAGATA</b> (Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO/ President of JASID)</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Discussions in this session may highlight questions such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How evaluation reflects possible variation of objectives (of donors and recipients)?</i></li> <li>• <i>How evaluation is incorporated as part of the planning of development cooperation policies / programmes/ strategies?</i></li> <li>• <i>Critical analysis on current evaluation practices at policy / programme levels?</i></li> </ul> <p>Rapporteur team (one from each network) to formulate recommendations / key findings of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIDRN:</li> <li>• JASID: <b>Nobuko KAYASHIMA</b> (JICA Research Institute)</li> <li>• KAIDEC: <b>Eunshil HAN</b> (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea)</li> <li>• RAIDAE: <b>Anastasia MAXIMOVA</b></li> </ul>
18:30 –	Reception
<b>15 September 2018 (Saturday)</b>	
9:30 – 11:45	<p><b>Session 3. Project level evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Sanae Ito</b> (Nagoya University/ Vice President of JASID)</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b> A critical review of the Practices of Development Evaluation in South Korea: Focusing on KOICA's ex-post Evaluations (1998-2016) <b>Hyuk-Sang SOHN</b> (Kyung Hee University/ KAIDEC)</p> <p>Evaluation of development cooperation experience <b>Kazuhisa ARAI</b> (Evaluation Department, JICA/ JASID)</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Discussions in this session may highlight questions such as ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How to evaluate catalytic role (both positive and negative) of development assistance (e.g., facilitation of other actors such as private sector in</i></li> </ul>



	<p>intervention, impact on environmental sustainability, influence on social cohesion)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical analysis on current evaluation practices at policy / programme levels?</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteur team (one from each network) to formulate recommendations / key findings of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIDRN: <b>Miankui MAO</b> (Hohai University)</li> <li>• JASID: <b>Tatsufumi YAMAGATA</b></li> <li>• KAIDEC: <b>Woochoel KANG</b> (Export-Import Bank of Korea/ EDCF)</li> <li>• RAIDAE: <b>Andrei SHAKHAROV</b></li> </ul>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:15	<p><b>Session 4. International cooperation / harmonization in evaluation of development cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Heejin LEE</p> <p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <p>(tentative title) "Between West and East: is it possible to combine OECD DAC and South-South approaches when creating a development cooperation evaluation system?".</p> <p><b>Anastasia MAXIMOVA</b> (RAIDAE)</p> <p><b>Discussions:</b></p> <p>Discussions in this session may highlight questions such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key issues and gaps between methodologies/approaches of evaluation at national level and with international framework</li> <li>• Potential for combining evaluation system of development cooperation, e.g., OECD/DAC and South-South approaches, joint evaluation of bilateral agencies such as JICA and KOICA</li> <li>• Are there anything unique about evaluation system in North-East Asia?</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteur team (one from each network) to formulate recommendations / key findings of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIDRN: <b>Xiaomin ZHANG</b> (Beijing Foreign Studies University)</li> <li>• JASID: <b>Sanae ITO</b></li> <li>• KAIDEC: <b>Hanah Zoo</b> (Hallym University)</li> <li>• RAIDAE</li> </ul>
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:15	Summary and closing
15:30 – 16:30	<b>[Network focal points meeting]</b>