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China Agricultural University

Academic Collaboration in Development Cooperation in China

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Background



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- China's emerging leadership in the international development cooperation(IDC): “International expectation coincides with Chinese dream”
 - promoting infrastructure connectivity(Belt and Road Initiative)
 - creating new financial institutions(AIIB,NDB)
 - making commitments to SSC and 2030 Agenda
- The academic capability for China's IDC is far left-behind the practice
 - Most scholars focused on international relations/politics
 - Difficult to dialogue with international scholars due to ideological/cultural difference, etc.

What we have been doing in China



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- To foster the Chinese development cooperation research community and its role in international development dialogues, China International Development Research Network(CIDRN) was established in 2013 on the initiative of China Agricultural University(CAU), with the support of Mofcom and DFID.
- The objective of CIDRN is to create a knowledge platform to promote the capacity building of Chinese researchers in the field of development cooperation in:
 - understanding and articulating China's own development experience
 - engaging with academic and policy communities around the world on global development issues and the effectiveness of development cooperation.



The achievements so far:



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- With 22 member institutes, the CIDRN has created a set of activities that are taking these objectives forward:
- Public events: 23 public events has been organized by CIDRN since 2013. More than 30 internationally renown speakers including scholars, policy makers and development practitioners were invited to present their cutting edge ideas in the field. The audience/beneficiaries include: Chinese academics, government officials and development practitioners (development experts of International organizations working in China also included)
- Research grants: 20 research projects were supported. More than 70 papers, 9 books and 40 policy reports were produced in less than 3 years. 4 major areas were covered by these research: China's role in international development, applying China's development in Low Income Countries, the future of China's development cooperation and Deconstructing China's egagement in Africa in different sectors.
- Policy recommendations: distinguished scholars in the field were called by CIDRN to write policy recommendations on the development issues faced by policy makers in China.

What's more



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- To provide evidences, trends and cases for detailed empirical analysis on South-South Cooperation (SSC), a new information exchange platform among the Southern research institutions and think-tanks, Network of Southern Think tanks(NeST) was established to contribute to developing a suitable evaluation framework and methodologies sensitive to Southern economies. CIDRN is one of the core executive group of NeST. Up to now, NeST has established 5 chapters, including China, Africa, India, Brazil and Mexico(TBC) Chapters.
- NeST has already exerting influence on different international fora and actively participated in international debates. Our team has recently developed a M&E framework for SSC and several case studies on China-Tanzania cooperation has been conducted to test this framework.

Impact exerted...



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- Based on independent reviewers' comments:
- In a very quickly moving environment for development studies also in China, with relatively little money, the Network has created a setting of engagement with relevant actors in China. On content, CIDRN discussed the full spectrum of debates, including those that China's govt. is more critical of, e.g. the role of multilateralism or the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation(GPEDC) etc. And it provided a platform for discussions over the years 2013 to 2016 for high-ranking international speakers, including the UK and Germany's ministers and the EU Commissioner for dev coop.
- The network is highly relevant and was considered a very good focal point for discussions on development, including in engagement with policy-makers. Consequently, the DFID support should be regarded as a good investment in an international network and in the important debate on international development in China; a debate that is likely to be further increasing in importance.

Conclusion



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- In the last few years, as scholars in China's IDT, we do benefit from collaborating with colleagues from both China and abroad. I think Northeast Asia Development Forum is also one of the platforms that we are actively engaged and benefiting from.
- Thanks!