

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION REVIEW

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Editorial

Development Cooperation Review (DCR) aspires to capture holistic narrative around global development cooperation and fill an important knowledge gap towards theorisation, empiricisation and documentation of Southern led development cooperation processes. Despite growing volumes of development partnerships around the Southern world, there remains an absence of detailed information, analyses and its contribution to global development processes. Even though there have been sporadic efforts in documenting some of the activities, a continuous effort in chronicling the diverse experiences in South-South Cooperation (SSC) is still absent. RIS has endeavoured to launch DCR, a monthly periodical, to fill this gap.

SSC fast emerged as an important pillar of international cooperation. Complemented by its diversity in forms, modalities and practices, and moving away from the traditional 'one size fits all' approach, SSC operates on the principles of mutual sharing and solidarity. DCR is designed to bring policymakers, officials, researchers, academics and the development practitioners onto a global platform to share their ideas, experiences and concerns vis-a-vis development cooperation. The periodical would further allow us to feature special write-ups, analyses, opinion pieces, commentaries and in general the South's take on the emerging narrative of global architecture of development cooperation, including ODA.

The necessity of a publication that analyses development cooperation landscape through a Southern lens cannot be over emphasised, given the prevailing practice of looking at SSC with a typical Northern perspective. Through this publication, readers can keep themselves abreast of efforts carried out worldwide and the latest information about diversified efforts at development cooperation. The periodical will review and analyse bilateral/multilateral cooperation efforts, highlight key developments and issues in SSC and other narratives of development cooperation, besides underlining its discernible trends and patterns. In the evolving narrative on SSC, different modalities and divergent ideas are emerging.

The five founding modalities of India's development cooperation broadly include: capacity building, trade and investment, development finance, grants and technology cooperation. These are collectively known as the 'development compact'. The purpose of DCR is also to highlight developments through the notion of 'development compact' with all possible pluralities associated with the term and simultaneously inform relevant stakeholders about the growing relevance of SSC in contemporary global affairs.

The inaugural issue of DCR is an eclectic mix of special articles, perspectives, conference report, book review and statistics on SSC. In the first special article, Sachin Chaturvedi discusses the forthcoming 2nd UN Conference on SSC which is the 40th anniversary of BAPA process. In the second article, Sanusha Naidu discusses the intra-African and Africa's

external engagements with other countries under the spirit of SSC. The third article by a PhD scholar from Kyrgyzstan explains the involvement of her country in SSC and policy steps taken by the government to streamline and strengthen SSC initiatives. Innovation and technological progress have also been described in the article. There is a brief discussion on the Kyrgys and Russia led Eurasian Economic Union as well.

The next article by the Azerbaijani diplomat discusses involvement of Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) in the country's policy on SSC. The last article by Wafula James Bichachi is a detailed review of the lessons of East African Community (EAC) in SSC. The article discusses the objectives behind setting up of EAC, its achievements, benefits for the region and challenges over the years.

In the perspective section Milindo Chakrabarti talks about the heterogeneity among the South and then engages in a discussion as to whether the heterogeneity within global South affects SSC or not. The perspective section will be an on-going series in our subsequent issues of DCR which will deliberate on issues linked to development cooperation.

The inaugural issue also enumerates the key takeaways from the Delhi Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation which was held on 24-25 August 2017. Popularly referred to as 'Delhi 3', the Delhi conference on SSC and Triangular Cooperation has become a regular and flagship conference of RIS with 'Delhi 1' and 'Delhi 2' having taken place in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

There is a book review on the issue of China-Latin America relations with emphasis on investments. The review talks about boosting trade through sectorial diversification, new targets for Chinese investments and Venezuelan case and the shift in development finance. The penultimate section talks about India's ongoing development cooperation initiatives in Fiji and other Pacific Island Countries. The inaugural issue ends with SSC in Statistics where the integration of the South in Global Value Chain is empericised.

DCR is an evolving and a natural outcome of valuable work put in by members of platform like the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) and Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC). The members of editorial advisory board consist mostly of members from the aforementioned platforms.

DCR further invites policymakers, officials, researchers, academics and the development practitioners to contribute to the forthcoming issues.

Countdown to Conference on 40th Anniversary of Buenos Aires Plan of Action

Remembering BAPA and Way Forward



*Sachin Chaturvedi**

As developing countries look forward to for deeper cooperation among themselves, they very much realize the rationale for partnership and economic cooperation across the board... BAPA + 40 would be a great opportunity for North, South, East and West to combine their efforts for a better world for all.

As the world is getting set for celebrating 40th Anniversary of Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the larger South is looking forward for greater integration and accomplishment of goals with which the journey started. Capturing some of the movements which contributed to the genesis and the evolution, what is now popularly called as BAPA, the United Nations has agreed to celebrate it through its General Assembly in 2019. The idea is to bring the key elements of Sustainable Development Goals, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and our collective commitments to Paris Climate Change Agreement upfront for contributing to richer, deeper and pragmatic South-South Cooperation, which is going beyond the equator divide.

As may be recalled, many of the developing countries which came out of the World War II, needed global support to overcome impediments of those years. The Third World solidarity got all the key developing countries together and created forums through which they could work to create a more level playing field to promote their interest in the international economic order. NAM became the initial vehicle for that purpose, and later the G-77 emerged as the key grouping of the developing countries. It is worth recalling that the economic and trade interests of developing countries at the United Nations and other such fora were largely seen in direct conflict with the West. The third wing institutional mechanisms also contributed to the rise of G-15, out of NAM, as a means for engaging the G7 developed countries in a dialogue over reforms of the international economic order. There were certainly some progress in promoting economic cooperation among the sovereign countries and the Western economies for wider global gains. Process, negotiations and international

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arrangements evolved further with the end of the cold war around 1990. Against this backdrop, South-South Cooperation and its evolution has to be viewed in light of a small group of developing countries that emerged as significant economies with financial, technological and management capabilities. The BAPA agenda focused on technical cooperation among developing countries. This particular institutional arrangement provided scope for partnership across the board. The very idea behind TCDC actually reflected the central elements of South-South Cooperation, viz-a-vis self-reliance and self-help. Technology occupies a major place in this arrangement. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action proposed reshaping and transforming of proper economic sphere, whereby South-South Cooperation could create a congenial environment for joint development and mutual benefit among development partners. The joint development efforts were directed towards finding out common solutions for common problems through peaceful engagement. The support of the United Nations facilitated to obliterate the distinction between North-South and South-South Cooperation. That the idea of 'moral' power has a basis for cooperation was largely appreciated by all the actors involved. It was way back in 1961 at the NAM Summit in Belgrade, Nehru said: 'That the power of nations assembled here is not military power or economic power, nevertheless it's a power called moral power'. In the recent times the spirit has been reinforced. Prime Minister Modi while launching the International Solar Alliance talked about the economic growth and potential cooperation among developing countries. He said: "A dream that we saw in 2015 during COP-21 in Paris has become a reality in Delhi today.

I thank all the nations of the world who have become part of the ISA family".

The idea of change in the global order evolved with greater emphasis when the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) floated the idea of improving terms of trade and its articulation in the New International Economic Order (NIEO). This was a phase during which larger investment linkages within the South acquired larger importance in the national economic policies of developing countries along with added political significance to the pursuit of a reformed global economic architecture with Southern perspective. In this process, the South explored for complementarities in skills and resources, and for evolving different practical modalities for implementing the action plan in this regard for them. Two important examples for this are the Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) that followed the adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action launched in 1978.

As developing countries look forward to for deeper cooperation among themselves, they very much realize the rationale for partnership and economic cooperation across the board. In the days to come, there would be more conferences and seminars, discussion papers and other substantive publications. The world would await many such and other efforts to shape and concertise the new institutional arrangements wherein 'no one is left behind'. The leading global economies have the moral obligation to ensure this, though there may be innumerable global challenges to face. BAPA + 40 would be a great opportunity for North, South, East and West to combine their efforts for a better world for all.

Africa and South-South Cooperation

Revitalising the Engagement



*Sanusha Naidu**

But as much as China and India have been identified as the main proponents of Africa's repositioning towards the South-South Cooperation platform, so too have others players been part of the mix. These include formal partnerships with the Arab region, the South American continent, South Korea and Turkey

Africa's engagement in South-South Cooperation (SSC) is not a 21st Century phenomena. The continent's role and interaction with SSC can be traced back to the period of decolonisation where national liberation movements looked towards the experience and support especially from Asia to shape their own independence struggles.

In fact, the Bandung Conference that saw the emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) found resonance among newly independent African states seeking to inform their own political sovereignty and economic development path. The attractiveness of South-South Cooperation and its alignment to Africa's push for an independent economic development trajectory underlined the continent's developmental visions such as the Lagos Plan of Action; the Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AF-SAP) and adoption of the Abuja Treaty.

The global economic crisis of the 1970s and the onset of the Cold War not only interrupted Africa's development policy of action but it also pushed the continent into a contestation between the West and the Communist Blocs. Not only did this witness a reordering the continent's development landscape, but it also saw the embedded footprint of the Bretton-Woods Institutions as pivotal actors in Africa's development trajectory for more than 30 years.

Fast-forward to the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the 21st Century and Africa's development partnerships have once again come under the spotlight. This time around it has been spearheaded by the global interest in China and India's footprint across the continental landscape. While China is seen as having a more catalytic presence in the continent's external relations that has been part of the stimulus in the 'Africa Rise' narrative, the

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prevailing view appears to be underlined by the impression that the continent's development agenda has also been revitalised through a renewal of the South-South Cooperation engagement.

Such a re-imagining of Africa's development cooperation has brought into focus the nature of the continent's development partnerships. The latter has provoked a parochial discourse, which advocates a rivalry that sees traditional Western actors pitted against emerging Southern partners. This framing of the developmental narrative in the African context has become a preponderant rationale around whether the model of South-South Cooperation provides a better fit for the continent's framework for development.

But as much as China and India have been identified as the main proponents of Africa's repositioning towards the South-South Cooperation platform, so too have others players been part of the mix. These include formal partnerships with the Arab region, the South American continent, South Korea and Turkey, in addition to FOCAC and the India-Africa Forum. All of these engagements exemplify that Africa's South-South Cooperation is becoming

more expansive than being confined to just a single type of relationship.

Yet, in defining Africa's future development prospects the above mentioned partnerships under the banner of South-South Cooperation in addition to other bilateral relations should not be seen nor confused as being the panacea for the continent achieving its own development model.

What is appealing, now that South-South Cooperation emerges as a competing trend in the global narrative on development, is that Africa is not being boxed into picking sides or ascribing to a particular consensus as part of its development trajectory.

The flexibility of what South-South Cooperation offers is the ability to enable Africa to choose the development path that it can still own. This is perhaps what makes the continent's rejuvenated approach to South-South Cooperation much more appealing among current African governments.

It is time for Africa to chart its own development path, and looking at extrapolating significant lessons from its engagement through South-South Cooperation, it should be an important driver towards this end.

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Cuba to highlight importance of SSC

Cuba intends to highlight the importance of South-South cooperation and its willingness to strengthen it at the 35th FAO Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. Cuba will also appreciate the support received from FAO for various development projects carried out in the country. The program of the 35th Conference includes among the main issues of debate the ending of hunger and the eradication of all forms of malnutrition in the region. It also foresees the focus on a truly transformative agenda towards the objectives of sustainable development, and will also be a favourable moment to raise awareness of the State of Food Security in the world (SOFI 2017).

Source: Cuba Will Highlight South-South Cooperation in FAO Forum in Jamaica. *Prensa Latina*, 27 March 2018.



Kyrgyzstan in South-South Cooperation



*Asel Azhykulova**

It may now be argued that Kyrgyzstan international cooperation should not be built on donor-recipient relationship anymore but on the basis of development partnership

Introduction

Kyrgyzstan is a land of high Tian Shan Mountains and beautiful and untouched nature. It is located in Central Asia along the Silk Road, the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean, bordering China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Kyrgyz people, who were nomads in the past, settled down during the invasion of Russians and remained a part of Soviet Union for around 70 years. Today, Kyrgyzstan has a market-based economy with a certain level of democratic civil society that has been built since independence obtained in the year of 1990. Since then, the country has opened up its borders to rapidly carry out market reforms to interact with foreign countries in the globalised world.

With a population of 6 million, Kyrgyzstan is a lower middle income country with GDP of US\$ 7.404 billion (2014 est.) and GDP per capita (PPP) of US\$ 1.250 (2014 est.). The economy is dominated by agriculture and minerals extraction. Agricultural sector contributes 19.3 per cent to GDP, industry sector contributes 31.1 per cent, and services sector contributes 49.6 per cent

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(2014 est.). Labour force is 2.615 million (2014 est.), unemployment rate is 7.6 per cent (2014 est.) and poverty level is 37 per cent (2013 est.). Annual budget comprises revenues as US\$ 2.036 billion and expenditures as US\$ 2.214 billion (2014 est.).¹

However, Kyrgyzstan is highly dependent on international donors, which forced the country to liberalise its economic and political environment as conditionalities for aid, which is the main cause of her instability, inflation, and vulnerability of domestic market. In addition, it has an unfavourable taxation system which is not actually attracting FDI due to a corrupt governance system and no reasonable strategic government programme for development.

International Trade

Kyrgyzstan was the first country among countries of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to be accepted into the World Trade Organisation. Her international exports account for US\$ 2.009 billion (2014 est.) and imports account for US\$ 5.537 billion (2014 est.). Kyrgyz Republic's (KR) trade is mainly with the WTO member countries and CIS countries. The major export items include gold and various primary products. Imports are dominated by energy sector due to energy dependence. Imports exceed exports which have caused the negative balance of trade. The liberal trade regime has induced the growth of foreign trade to US\$ 7,267.7 million in 2012 with 147 countries due to MFN treatment in all WTO member countries. Overall values of export and import tend to grow, but due to the dependence of export goods on climate conditions, the relative values fluctuate from year to year.

The main exported commodity that is gold which contributes around 29.7 per cent, followed by vegetables and fruits, milk and dairy products, tobacco, cotton, textile, non-organic chemicals, electric power, cement, and electric filament bulbs, which contribute over 50 per cent of export. The WTO membership assured access to raw materials, supplies, and equipment and has promoted the establishment of clothing and knitwear production. The key trading partners in 2012 were: Russia (27.6 per cent), China (17.5 per cent), Switzerland (7.7 per cent), Kazakhstan (12.7 per cent), Turkey (3.1 per cent), Uzbekistan (3.5 per cent), USA (3.5 per cent), Germany (3 per cent), Japan (3.0 per cent), Belarus (2.4 per cent), etc. The Kyrgyz products are exported to: Switzerland (28.9 per cent), Kazakhstan (21.4 per cent), Russia (11.6 per cent), Uzbekistan (10.0 per cent), China (3.2 per cent), Turkey (2.6 per cent), and Tajikistan (2.1 per cent). The leading trade partners, where its main export product (gold) goes, are Switzerland, Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

China has become a valued trading partner for Kyrgyzstan. The primary import items are mineral products (fuel and energy resources), products of chemical industry, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment, base metals, wood, pulp and paper products, products of light industry, land transport vehicles, plastic and articles thereof, rubber and articles of rubber and various food products. The Kyrgyz Government introduced the rules to simplify procedure of customs clearance of goods imported by natural persons in 2004. (The value of goods imported under this scheme has increased by 3.8 times over this period.) China imports from Kyrgyzstan and then

exports manufactured Chinese goods to Central Asian countries and Russia. It has, therefore, become one of the factors holding back the modernisation of the Kyrgyzstan economy (which is non-competitive) by losing the domestic market to foreign (Chinese) goods which have been produced by imports from Kyrgyzstan.

Innovation and Technological Progress in Kyrgyzstan

Why could Kyrgyzstan not utilise all the advantages of being an intermediary country between China and Russia? Kyrgyzstan is still lacking in innovation and technological progress. This is the reason why Kyrgyzstan has chosen a capitalist system and liberalised the economy through international cooperation with the developed world. At the time of independence it was urgent for the Kyrgyz Government to change the planned economy to a competitive economy so as to stimulate innovation and technological progress. But ideally while choosing the way to modernise the economy, it is important to consider the country's cultural, historical, and socio-economic peculiarities. Quick adoption of changes and rapid transition from a communist economy to a capitalist market economy led to very negative consequences for Kyrgyzstan. (The GDP level of 1990 at the time of transition could be achieved only in 2009). Kyrgyzstan is gradually moving towards socio-democratic way of pragmatic development, which is in search of a strategy for sustainable and inclusive economic development. In this regard, the role of government is very important for promoting and implementing gradual institutional changes with adequate adoption to social-economic peculiarities.

Strategy for Economic Growth in Kyrgyzstan

Among exemplary models of economic growth, there are comparative advantages model, catching-up or outstripping models of economic growth that are adopted by countries at various stages of development and facing different conditions and forces of globalisation (when one product competes with the world products). Kyrgyzstan's current economic situation should be reversed by catching-up model by following the East Asian miracle development model and then implementing outstripping economic model of growth through building a competitive economy (Musaeva, 2010). This is possible if Kyrgyzstan can motivate educated people and establish an efficient and effective public sector which in turn stimulates (not replaces) private sector for innovative and technological progress and export-oriented macro-economic stability with strong institutions that work with close cooperation with international partners for attracting foreign investment, technology and experts with outstanding experience. The miracle of economic development of East Asian countries showcase that even in conditions of limited resources it is still possible to grow in few decades. Kyrgyzstan has the potential to grow and develop within the model of East Asian countries miracle of economic development. For doing so, the country needs to basically determine its strengths and weaknesses and work on government's optimal adjustment for strengthening fundamental economic structures.

Extraction of minerals (gold) and exporting agricultural goods alone cannot be the engine of economic development. Regarding the strengths of Kyrgyzstan, it

is worth noting that its educated people are ready to face these challenges of development. Also it has abundant sources of natural and organic agricultural goods. These resources should be utilised through concentrating on complex manufacturing and adding value to raw materials for an export-driven macro-economic policy. Kyrgyzstan can evolve a national export policy for hand-made garments which are of high quality and are well-known and have a high demand in foreign markets. Tourism sector can also be an added advantage if appropriate policy framework for it is also in place. It is worth noting that size of population and environmental conditions do not only allow massive production and industrial development, but can also enforce the development of exclusive type of export-oriented manufacturing. Furthermore, development in Kyrgyzstan requires an enhanced utilisation of workforce and resources, equally substantial effort for research and development through learning from experiences of Japan, South Korea, China and India, and also finding its own way of sustainable and inclusive development.

Kyrgyzstan and Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

Kyrgyzstan became a full-fledged member of Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in early 2015, built on the foundation of a customs union between Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. It is worth noting that once again this joining process was implemented very fast and without adequate analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the country and its comparative advantage in this Union. What was wrong is that no rigorous analysis was done to put in place a regulatory system

and institutional settings favourable for growth of the country. The principle of Eurasian economic cooperation is based on influence-based diplomacy, but economic, science and technology mutual diplomacy are more important for sustainable and inclusive growth of Kyrgyzstan. Having no privilege of rejecting to join the EAEU, Kyrgyzstan has to look for opportunities and get maximum benefit.

South-South Cooperation and Kyrgyzstan Potential Growth

As mentioned, Kyrgyzstan joined EAEU in early 2015. The current situation of the EAEU is that it is based on more of a traditional North-South Cooperation framework than South-South Cooperation. As we all know, that South-South Cooperation is built on the principles of mutual interests through an exchange of knowledge, experience, technology, investment, information, and capacity building among developing countries. Nevertheless, Kyrgyzstan should not follow the former liberalised type of environment, but the regulated system that carefully conducts international relations to first of all protect its own national interests. Owing to conditions of heavy competition and limited resources, the potential of Kyrgyzstan should be directed towards selecting most effective areas of economy that would have a maximum impact on GDP growth. The country needs to put in a legal and institutional framework to promote the private sector. The educated civil society in the country went against the current situation in the country, for instance in March 2005, April 2010, and June 2010, and meetings were held to persuade the government to build up infrastructure for sustainable economic development.

At present, Kyrgyzstan is not actively involved in South-South Cooperation (SSC), which is unfortunate because SSC is not discussed and promoted at the government level. Kyrgyzstan does not have strong bilateral relations with ten major bilateral contributors (Brazil, China, India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela), each with development assistance programmes of more than US\$ 100 million per annum, and the eight smaller bilateral Middle Eastern, Asian and Latin American contributors (Argentina, Chile, Egypt, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Tunisia). SSC in Kyrgyzstan is limited to trade, particularly with China (import - US\$ 2.48 billion), Turkey (import - US\$ 275 million), United Arab Emirates (export - US\$ 221 million). Three Southern multilateral institutions, which cover a large number of programmes, namely the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) have not shown adequate concern for Kyrgyzstan. In addition, the government and civil society have not shown much interest in think-tanks supporting SouthSouth Cooperation.

If we look at India-Kyrgyzstan bilateral commercial relations, they were limited to US\$ 38.53 million in 2014-15 (import - US\$ 37.76 million, export - US\$ 0.77 million, making up the Kyrgyzstan's share in India's total global export just 0.01 per cent.). Diplomatic relations that started in 1992 between India and Kyrgyzstan envisaged setting up of resident missions and entering into several agreements on culture, trade, economic cooperation, civil aviation, investment promotion and protection, avoidance of double taxation

and consular convention. Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation; IT Development Centre in Bishkek; a potato processing plant in Talas; ITEC training programmes should promote bilateral and multilateral commercial relations based on trade, investment and financial support with emphasis on human resource training programmes and technical support. The potential of Kyrgyzstan for exporting exclusive value added agricultural and knit goods can be promoted through business associations in India. Complementary role of producing one part of TNC goods can be implemented through IT Development Centre and Fellowship programmes or universities of both India and Kyrgyzstan. Relevant training for people of Kyrgyzstan can be organised through setting up branches of TNCs of India (TATA Group, Hindalco Industries, Core Education & Technologies, Polyplex Corporation, etc.). This can provide employment to many people.

Conclusion

It may now be argued that Kyrgyzstan international cooperation should not be built on donor-recipient relationship anymore but on the basis of development partnership with particular emphasis on providing opportunity to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth of the country.

For this there is need for adequate institutional architecture that could be promoted by active involvement in the Southern multilateral institutions of Kyrgyzstan. The overall recognition of SSC can be enhanced by involving think-tanks through the Network of Southern Think-tanks (NeST) that assists in developing networks for inter-regional collaboration.

In this regard, it is also vital to involve business associations, trade unions and chambers of commerce of the Southern countries to establish a dialogue among business partners from Kyrgyzstan. Through active research in collaboration with think-tanks for evolving cohesion on policy making by government, Kyrgyzstan may have enhanced opportunities for accessing various platforms for exchanging and sharing the model of SSC. For this, there is need to launch capacity building programmes for researchers, businessmen, government officials (Ministry of Economic Development), particularly in research and development projects, and for studying of different ways of sustainable development within the framework of South-South cooperation. Conducting workshops on overall emerging economic issues and successful cases of South-South Cooperation across sectors, countries, and regions, think-tanks, business communities, etc., would be of great importance.

Endnote

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RECENT HAPPENINGS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Brazzaville Declaration

In an unprecedented move to protect the Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin, the world's largest tropical peatlands, from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo and Indonesia jointly signed the Brazzaville declaration that promotes better management and conservation of this globally important carbon store. The Brazzaville Declaration aims to implement coordination and cooperation between different government sectors to protect the benefits provided by peatland ecosystems. The equivalent of three years of global greenhouse gas emissions is stored in the Congo peatlands. The agreement is the beginning of a deep collaboration between Indonesia – covered by vast expanses of peatlands – and the Congo Basin.

Source: Historic agreement signed to protect the world's largest tropical peatland. *United Nations Environment Programme*. 25 March 2018



Azerbaijan in South South Cooperation



*Anar Hidayatov**

AIDA also implements joint projects through partnerships with different international organisations and agencies such as the UNDP, OIC, IDB, APC Colombia and other global donor agencies.

Introduction

South-South Cooperation is a platform developed by developing countries overtime to help each other in achieving development goals. Republic of Azerbaijan is not left in this endeavour as it established Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) in 2011 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the main aim of supporting the efforts of international community in the context of Global South addressing their social and developmental problems. This indicates keen interest of Azerbaijan in improving links and the support system for strengthening international development cooperation with African, Asian and Latin American countries in the broader framework of Global South.

AIDA was established to implement the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the political, economic, cultural, peace and security in the Global South on the basis of principles of cooperation, efficiency, transparency and equality of

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rights. This can be evident from the way it organised its activities in two directions: humanitarian aid and international development assistance based on the bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Furthermore, AIDA activities were earlier guided by the “Millennium Development Goals” and presently by “Sustainable Development Goals” supporting the developing countries for poverty reduction, development of science, culture and health sectors, wider application of information-communication technologies, efficient use of energy resources, various scholarship programmes, as well as for implementation of other humanitarian and development programmes. More than 30 countries have so far benefitted from these programmes and it is expected that with time the number of beneficiaries will increase.

Moreover, AIDA also implements joint projects through partnerships with different international organisations and agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC Colombia) and other global donor agencies.

Azerbaijan International Development Agency Programmes

AIDA has two core areas for implementing its programmes: (1) humanitarian aid, and (2) international development assistance. These are discussed in detail in the following sections.

Humanitarian Aid

AIDA implements various projects in the field of humanitarian aid with

the core purpose of eliminating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters around the world and to restore the living conditions of the disaster-affected people. In most of the cases the humanitarian aid is provided as an urgent humanitarian assistance upon the appeal from the disaster-hit country. In other cases, humanitarian aid is provided to the aid requesting country within the frame of pre-accepted and aid-oriented programmes. The following are some of the projects executed by AIDA in the area of humanitarian aid:

- **Alliance to fight avoidable blindness campaign in African countries:** AIDA, within the frame of strategic cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank, has developed and successfully undertook campaigns from 2012-2014 on a project called “Alliance to fight avoidable blindness” in nine African countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Benin, Guinea, Cameroon, Niger, Mali and Libya). Under this initiative, AIDA mobilised Azerbaijani ophthalmologists to participate in the campaign annually within the stipulated period mentioned above. In general, the campaign helped more than 10000 people to restore their vision and created conditions for their involvement in labour activity.
- **Gaza Strip of the State of Palestine:** In 2014, AIDA provided humanitarian assistances via the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Gaza which aimed at eliminating the consequences of destructions and humanitarian crisis arising from the armed clashes. As such, financial aid was provided by AIDA via UNRWA

to the Gaza Strip as a response to the UN Security Council's Statement of 21 November 2012 related to ceasefire and worsening of the humanitarian situation, and calling on the provision of humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine.

- **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:** In 2014, Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA provided financial assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in order to eliminate the adverse consequences of floods arising from heavy rains for the agriculture, energy and other sectors of the country's economy.
- **Philippines:** In 2013, Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA provided financial aid to the Philippines through framework of humanitarian programmes implemented by UN World Food Programme in the Philippines for the recovery of the devastating consequences of the Typhoon Haiyan that led to loss of thousands of human lives, hundreds of destroyed houses and a severe shortage of food, water and other necessities.
- **Syria:** In 2012, Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA provided financial aid to Syrian refugees settled in Amman city of Jordan as a result of the 2012 events in Syria, in order to improve their living conditions.
- **Cuba:** In 2012, AIDA provided financial assistance to Cuba aimed at liquidating the consequences of hurricane "Sandy" that occurred in 2012.
- **Panama:** In November 2012, AIDA provided financial aid to Panama in order to eliminate the consequences of humanitarian disaster caused by continuous rains.

- **Burkina Faso:** In 2011, Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA provided financial aid to Burkina Faso as a response to the appeal of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to eliminate the food insufficiency and food crisis in Burkina Faso as a result of humanitarian crisis caused by the 2011-2012 droughts.

International Development Assistance

The second aspect of Government of Azerbaijan South-South Cooperation programme is development assistance. Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA has executed various projects in the field of development assistance which are mostly implemented in developing countries with focus to stimulate their socio-economic development. Depending on the priorities of these countries, development assistance is provided in the form of either financial or technical assistance that aims at strengthening international cooperation and promoting peace between developing countries. The following projects have been executed by AIDA in the area of development assistance:

- **E-governance project in Afghanistan:** In close cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Development Programme, AIDA has provided assistance within the framework of a project aimed at establishing E-governance system in Afghanistan so as to increase efficiency in functioning of government structures in the country.
- **Scholarship programme for international students:** AIDA offers several international students an

opportunity to participate in its scholarship programme that allows them to study at Azerbaijani universities.

- **Visiting research fellowship programme:** Within the framework of a joint programme between AIDA and local think-tanks, the Agency has provided various research opportunities to international researchers interested in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea region. As such, from 2012 to 2015 researchers from 15 different countries have conducted various researches in Azerbaijan.
- **Capacity building courses and seminars:** AIDA, together with the Azerbaijani universities and research institutes, has organised various capacity building courses and seminars in various areas in order to strengthen human capital of developing countries. In cooperation with the Colombian Agency for International Cooperation (APC Colombia), AIDA conducts seminars on processing of energy

resources at the Scientific Research Institute of Geo-technological Problems of Oil, Gas and Chemistry of the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy for oil specialists from 26 countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa. These seminars have motivated discussions on the scientific exchange and future cooperation opportunities between the oil industry professionals in Azerbaijan and those countries.

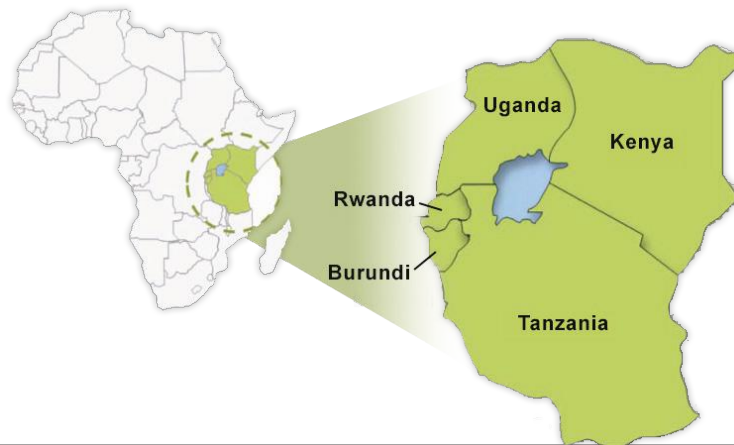
- **Support for the development of the Palestinian city of Al-Quds:** As a result of Donor Conference on the Strategic Plan for the Development of the City of Al-Quds, and establishment of the Islamic Safety Net to support the State of Palestine, held in Baku in June 2013, and based on the calls at the conference for the improvement of economy, health and education systems and the overall infrastructure in Palestine, AIDA is currently committed towards selecting developmental projects to be implemented in the near future.

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Chinese Development Cooperation Agency

The new agency, the International Development Cooperation Agency, will answer to China's highest executive body, the State Council, and consolidate roles that had been divided between the ministries of commerce and foreign affairs. It comes as China, the world's second-biggest economy, is dispensing development cooperation in all forms, from loans at both market and concessional rates to donations, making the transition from recipient to donor. The State Council said the new body would take over all aid-related work in a push to strengthen strategic planning and coordination, and consolidate management of the programmes.

Source: China launches mega aid agency in big shift from recipient to donor. *South China Morning Post*. 13 March 2018.



Leveraging on the Strengths

The Lessons of the East African Community in South-South Cooperation



*Wafula James Bichachi**

The East African Community was established...in 1999... with the broad objective to integrate the region by “developing policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among partner states... for their mutual benefit”

Introduction

East Africa is composed of five countries, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. The East Africa Community (EAC) was established in 1999, which initially consisted of three member countries, with the other two (Rwanda and Burundi) joining later. All the five countries became independent during 1961 to 1963. And for over 30 years, these countries experienced numerous challenges and hurdles that almost all post-colonial third world countries faced all over the world.

Besides the colonial and post-colonial challenges, the five countries are also characterised by the following conditions:

- They relied heavily on ODA from their former colonial masters and the Nordic countries (UK, USA, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Netherlands).
- They received technical assistance mostly from the development agencies of the western

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countries (NORAD, CIDA, SIDA, USAID, DFID, and JICA).

- They had been victims of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of the IMF and World Bank prescribed in 1980s to cure the economic conditions therein.
- Many were highly indebted and had even benefited from Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC).
- They had extremely weak and fragile economies, susceptible to any economic shocks especially fall in export commodity prices and drop in growth rates in the donor countries.
- They were characterised by low intra-regional trade volumes, since domestic manufacturing was very low in almost all the countries with the exception of Kenya, which had a slightly better manufacturing sector.
- They relied on imports largely from abroad even for basic commodities which were available in the neighbouring countries.
- They were mutually hostile to each other politically, with some being responsible for political subversion of other countries, mostly on the instigation of foreign interests.

However, despite these situations, the five countries had three major leverages or strengths, which lay dormant and unexploited:

- Large population with a combined regional population of over 130 million people, which is a potentially viable market for intra-regional trade as well as an important destination for foreign investments;
- Immense natural resources base, with some of the largest mineral

and agricultural resources as well as tourism; and

- Relatively stable macro-economic environment which could be an important foundation for economic growth and development.

It was the realisation of these leverages that the leadership in the region in 1990s decided to explore the formation of the East African Cooperation, based on the first East African Community (1960-1977) which had collapsed, which aiming at benefiting from closer cooperation and integration of the countries.

Objectives of East African Community (EAC)

The East African Community was established by the Treaty signed in 1999, with the broad objective to integrate the region by “developing policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among partner states in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defense, security, legal and judicial affairs for their mutual benefit”

In pursuance of this broad objective, the EAC planed to attain the following stages/phases:

- A Customs Union
- A Common Market
- A Monetary Union
- A Political Federation

The above phases/stages of integration are aimed at strengthening and regulating industrial, commercial, infrastructural, cultural, social, political and other relations between the partner states to ensure accelerated, harmonious and balanced development in accordance with the fundamental principles of the community.

Achievements of East African Community

Confidence-building: East Africa Community (EAC) has been in existence for more than 16 years. From its inception to date its main achievement has been the implementation of confidence-building that has spurred and energised efforts of “Partner States” in regional integration. “Partner States” have expanded the spirit which enhanced the basis of the cooperation among member states from the initial threshold of mere cooperation to a higher level of integration, with the ultimate objective of being a “Political Federation”.

Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP)

East Africa Community (EAC) has also recorded achievement with a new initiative called the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP), in which three of the EAC states (Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya) have been joined by South Sudan, to promote and develop joint infrastructural projects connecting the four countries.

These projects are as follows:

- The Standard Gauge Railway (linking the four countries)
- Oil refinery project
- Other cooperation programmes in the fields of tourism, ICT, defence and security, immigration, power generation and transmission.

Various economic achievements and successes: EAC has also recorded achievements in various areas of economic integration which are summarised and outlined below:

- Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union
- Establishment of the East African Community Common Market

- Signing of the Protocol on the establishment of an East African Monetary Union
- Convertibility of the currencies of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
- Capital markets development and crosslisting of stocks
- Joint infrastructure development projects (e.g. Arusha-Namanga-Athi River Road)
- Harmonisation of the EAC axle load (vehicle weight) limit
- Harmonisation of standards for goods produced in East Africa
- Reduction of national trade barriers
- Implementation of preferential tariff discount
- Free movement of stocks
- Harmonising operations of Ministries of Finance and Central Banks during national budget preparation and presentation
- Mutual recognition of health certificates issued by national bodies for goods traded in East Africa
- Launch of the East African Payment System (EAPS) that facilitates secure transfer of payments and settlements within the region
- Commencement of the construction of the standard gauge railway.

Socio-cultural integration: EAC has also recorded various achievements in the area of socio-cultural integration which are summarised and outlined below:

- Operationalisation of the East African passport, in which the EAC passport grants a holder a six month multiple-entry visa in the region;
- Implementation of seven-day grace period for personal motor vehicles crossing national borders among the EAC Partner States;

- Establishment of special immigration counters for East Africans at ports of entry, issuance of temporary travel documents to facilitate travel within the region by EAC citizens;
- Abolition of student visas for East Africans;
- Standardisation of university fees for citizens of East Africans and implementation of student and lecturer exchange programmes at university level;
- Implementation of cross-border disease control programmes; and
- Harmonisation of procedures for granting work permits.

Political/security/defence: EAC has also recorded various achievements in the area of political, security and defence integration which are summarised and outlined below:

- Removal of all political hostilities among the partner states.
- Joint military exercises by EAC called “Partner States Defence Forces”.
- Establishment of fora for chiefs of Police, Directors of CID and Directors of Operations and Intelligence to coordinate peace and security matters, joint patrols, sharing of criminal intelligence and surveillance to combat cross-border crime.

Institution building: East Africa Community (EAC) has also recorded various achievements in the area of institutional building that support and facilitate inclusive integration of the region in several strategic sectors which are summarised and outlined below:

- Establishment of the East African Court of Justice.
- Establishment of the East African Legislative Assembly.

- Establishment of the East African Science and Technology Commission.
- Establishment of the East African Health Research Commission.
- Establishment of the EAC Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA).
- Establishment of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission.
- Establishment of the Inter-University Council for East Africa.
- Establishment of EAC Chief Justices Forum.

Benefits of EAC to Member States

Besides the above mentioned achievements, there are also very visible benefits derived from this regional cooperation arrangement between the member states which are as follow:

- Increase trade levels between member states through a series of policies and regulations. (Total intra-trade grew from US\$ 1.6 billion in 2005 to US\$ 3.8 billion in 2010 which is more than 100 per cent increase. It has been projected to grow to US\$ 6.5 billion in 2015);
- Revenue growths for partner states was significantly high at an average growth rate of 11 per cent per annum;
- Investment levels in the partner states have grown remarkably high, especially in capital intensive sectors (like oil and petroleum, mining and telecommunications);
- Promotion of production and consumption of locally manufactured goods;
- Greater opportunities to exploit economies of scale;
- Joint projects are being implemented by partner states (e.g. Roads, railways);
- High economic growth levels have been realised in the partner states, averaging

- between 5 per cent to 7 per cent;
- Economic stability in the region experienced from reduced and stable prices, despite global recession and economic instability; and
- Less dependency on donors for budget support, with each country now able to finance up to 80 per cent of budget from domestic revenues.

Challenges Experienced by EAC

Despite the achievements and benefits recorded, EAC has faced a number of challenges which are as follow:

- Diversity among the member states in a wide range of areas including perception, economic potential, resources and population;
- Overlapping and multiple membership of some partner states with other regional economic communities (such as COMESA, SADC), thus lead to conflicting arrangements;
- Implementation of some of the protocols have been extremely difficult owing to bureaucratic problems and domestic disputes; as well as conflict of interests;
- Fear of loss of sovereignty among partner states in the process of regional integration;
- Challenges of availability of resources and resource mobilisation (limited financial resources and budgetary constraints); and
- Challenges in the harmonisation of some domestic laws and policies.

How the challenges are being mitigated and resolved

Constant engagement by partner states through organs and institutions to minimise any differences and effects of diversity with the view to harmonise and

create uniformity and unanimity where required;

- Attempts are being made to harmonise the EAC, COMESA and SADC under a tripartite mechanism to promote coordination;
- Constant involvement of the people, civil society and private sector in the integration process to create collective ownership of the cooperation and discourage nationalist tendencies;
- Engagement with friendly partners, (notably India, China, and others) in the emerging world to raise resources needed for infrastructure and investments; and
- Spreading the benefits of integration as much as possible, so that all member states move at a similar pace and level.

Lessons for South-South Cooperation

- Developing countries need to identify what first appear to be their weakness and use them to enhance more cooperation amongst themselves.
- The institutional framework for South-South Cooperation is a very important. Many countries engage in cooperation without a detailed institutional framework. This in the long run is not sustainable. For successful cooperation to be realised, it is important to create institutions, not just signing agreements (eg. EAC, BRICS, IBSA).
- Increased collaboration between partner states in the South by sharing development experiences and pooling efforts and resources together to provide a big drive for economic development, as seen in the East African Community.

- South-South cooperation can be an effective tool for promoting development in the developing world as an alternative to aid and donations from the developed world, especially if the developing/emerging economies in the South give leadership. For EAC, India and China have provided support in this partnership.
- South-South cooperation still faces numerous challenges, notably problems of diversity, limited resources and unequal international political and economic order, which must be addressed so as to reduce the world imbalance.
- Though South-South cooperation may not entirely substitute cooperation with

the North, it is going to be the most sustainable and appropriate form of cooperation for the developing nations.

Conclusion

The experience of EAC is one of the most visible form of cooperation in the Global South that leveraged on mutual strengths to achieve socioeconomic development under the South-South model of development partnership. Despite the fact that East African countries are among the poorest in the world, important leverages of interdependence, rich natural resource base and relatively big populations, and the desire and will for cooperation have yielded immense benefits for the partner states.

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Morocco to continue to acknowledge SSC

Morocco's Head of government, El Othmani emphasized that African Continental Free Trade Agreement comes in line with Morocco's return to the African Union, insisting that Morocco will continue to acknowledge South-South cooperation in Africa and maintain the participation in an integrated Africa under the supervision of King Mohammed VI. The head of government pointed to the African organization's "frail" economic and bilateral trading, saying that the agreement is the "road" to the empowerment of Africa.

Source: Morocco Will Continue to Acknowledge South-South Cooperation and African Integrity: El Othmani, *Morocco World News*. 23 March 2018.

Lexicon and Syntax of Development Cooperation

Heterogeneity among South, Does it Affect SSC?



*Milindo Chakrabarti**

There is little doubt about the sustainability of SSC in view of the growing heterogeneity among South... SSC did not materialize out of the homogeneity of economic indicators across the Southern countries. SSC emerged because of its philosophy of solidarity being subscribed to by the Global South irrespective of their changing economic might.

In the realm of international cooperation and global financial assistance, scholars have given due credit to the post Second World War success and Marshall Plan for emergence of development cooperation as a concept. The idea of development cooperation has diverse facets, which largely aim to support national and international priorities; formulate development oriented agendas; favour developing countries and institute cooperative relationships to promote giving (OECD/DAC model of Cooperation) and sharing (South-South Cooperation) arrangements. The given idea of OECD/DAC model has its theoretical underpinnings in Two-gap theory. The cooperation was designed to take care of two distinct gaps the developing countries were suffering from: gap in resources to meet the capital deficit and gap in foreign exchanges (because of unfavourable balance of trade) to procure required capital from the developed world.

Northern countries over the years formed a system where transfer of financial assistance to the developing countries, involved imposition of macroeconomic and political conditionalities. In classic terms, these conditionalities were supplemented with concept of selectivity, wherein aid agreements were concluded with those countries whose policies synchronised with the donor countries' objectives (Paul et al., 2004). Incidentally, being driven by attitudes of giving, the efforts under OECD/DAC model have always been vertical under a donor -donee relationship and the recipient countries enjoy very little freedom in decisions linked to architecture of development cooperation.

A complementary modality evolved long ago, which in many cases ran antithesis to the ideas of conditionalities and interference in the national policy space of partner countries.

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This complementary model of support does not emerge out of the two-gap theory and maintains a relationship of horizontality among the partners engaged in such efforts – in the true spirit of collective action. Often it is found the partner countries have been helping each other simultaneously sharing the advantage they enjoy across sectors. It was more intensive of support in the form of intangibles, given the obvious scarcity of tangible resources faced by the countries engaged in such a model of cooperation. The spirit of cooperation was largely dictated by logic of sharing (knowledge, experiences and goodwill of solidarity). Over the years, its modality and principles evolved further and came to be referred as South-South Cooperation (SSC).

However, unlike their Northern counterparts who gathered evidences and collated them to emerge with a theoretical framework governing the OECD/DAC approach towards international development cooperation, social scientists from the South, barring the exceptions of Raul Prebisch and Samir Amin, did not come forward to develop an alternative theoretical framework that would help rigorously explain the dynamics and pluralities in SSC.

A typical distinction between the “North” and the “South” runs in terms of visible difference in their level of development – economic, political and social. The line, when it was drawn, also took note of the high degree of socio-economic homogeneity within each of these groupings and such homogeneity was amenable to measurability using some quantifiable indicators. South-South Cooperation was conceptualized as a natural phenomenon as a club of members who share common characteristics. Over the years, however, specially since the beginning of the new millennium,

the degree of homogeneity among the Southern countries has started receding, giving rise to a serious doubt about the sustainability or otherwise of the process of SSC as distinct from the OECD-DAC model of development cooperation, which, incidentally, has been named as North-South Cooperation (NSC).

There is little doubt about the sustainability of SSC in view of the growing heterogeneity among South in terms of the measurable and quantifiable indicators. One has to keep in mind that SSC did not materialize out of the homogeneity of economic indicators across the Southern countries. SSC emerged because of its philosophy of solidarity being subscribed to by the Global South irrespective of their changing economic might. The Nairobi Outcome Document 2009 clearly identifies the guiding principles of SSC as non-interference in the domestic matters, non-conditionality, sharing of mutual benefits, demand-driven cooperation among others. Needless to add that by now, there has been considerable divergence in terms of socio-economic indicators across the Southern countries. Such incidence of increased heterogeneity need not necessarily hamper the sustainability of SSC as long as the constituents to SSC subscribe to the non-negotiable guiding principles that exemplify the spirit of solidarity and sharing. Even Japan, a distinguished member of OECD, is often found to be committing to the principles of SSC.

To conclude, one may observe that the extent of homogeneity observed among the Northern countries earlier, is no longer visible today. Still they all pursue the principles of NSC so far as their individual models of development cooperation are concerned. However, it is now imperative that earnest efforts are made to engage scholars and researchers from the South to collect and collate evidences that help theorize the dynamics of SSC.

Key Takeaways from ‘Delhi 3’ Conference on SSC*

RIS has been at the forefront of facilitating policy makers and other relevant stakeholders for South-South Cooperation (SSC). The first conference on Southern Providers was held between 15-16 April, 2013 and ‘Delhi 2’ was held during 10-11 March, 2016. The third conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation – popularly coined as ‘Delhi 3’ - was organised during 24-25 August, 2017. Following are the key takeaways from ‘Delhi 3’.

- SSC is not a substitute for the North-South Cooperation; these partnerships are complementary.
- Southern countries have started setting up institutions and are institutionalising this developmental learning process.
- SSC mandate needs to be explained to make it clear to all. The vocabulary has to be refined to be understandable to taxpayers of the developing countries to know why the resources are needed to collaborate with others when there are many needs at home.
- It is to be decided: how do we incorporate the knowledge that already exists? How do we incorporate different institutions? How do we incorporate non-governmental organisations, local governments, sub-national governments?

SSC Framework and Emerging Global Order

- There is need to bring back the essential element of ‘Solidarity’ in SSC as there are chances that the idea may be lost in systematization of SSC.
- The SSC Framework to be in alignment with the Global Order driven by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- SSC is a multi-actor phenomenon that seeks active involvement of private sector, government and civil society.
- At the same time the challenges the world facing across borders and even domestic problems sometimes require global solutions and cooperation. Thus agenda 2030 must feature as part of the broader framework within not only North-South Cooperation (NSC) but also SSC.
- So the international system is impacted by SSC just as SSC gets impacted by the global system.
- The changes related to SSC and the global systems are that a narrative has emerged from the South, accompanied by southern institutions and concrete linkages, which have challenged traditional northern narratives and domination.
- Innovative solutions of tomorrow are being invented in the South and such solutions are less expensive and more technologically intensive. Markets exist for such

*Compiled by RIS Team

solutions in these countries like India and China. Large market makes them cheap due to economies of scale. For example, Light Emitting Diode (LED) distribution programme in India.

- Emphasis on opening up networks of technological innovation (promoting cooperation between North and South) and use it to the benefit of the SDGs and the global agenda.
- Closing the global governance gap on SDG 17.
- Moreover, as a blueprint of partnership for sustainable development, SSC introduces itself as a space capable of complementing traditional cooperation without replacing it, promoting within the Global Alliance for Sustainable Development a dialogue between peers, fostering mutual understanding, integration and alliances around common goals among different countries and development actors.
- The process that will culminate in the Buenos Aires Conference of 2019 would provide a unique opportunity to review lessons learned over the past four decades, and to reach a deeper understanding of Buenos Aires Plan of Action's (BAPA) message in a different international context.

Banking, Finance, Investment and the Legal Regimes

- One problem that arises is that Asia is a net saver and saves around 34 per cent of its GDP. The saving needs to be remitted through the financial markets in developed countries which add to transaction costs. There is a need to build an Asian financial market which will lower the transaction and financial costs.
- Another challenge that is faced is the management of reserves in a productive way. In the case of trade, developing countries need to start with strong regional value chains to build Global Value Chains (GVC).
- The legal regimes are also very important. We go to London and other countries for arbitration since developing countries do not have legal institutions at the regional level that can carry out this responsibility.
- Leveraging the presence of large developing countries like India, China, Brazil, and South Africa in G20 to prioritise and bring focus on re-capitalisation of development banks with an aim to give boost to infrastructure financing.

Role of Civil Society and Private Sector

- Civil society and private sector's role is more important when we are in a journey to humanizing the development goals. Civil society and corporate sector are not only crucial and critical but they are stakeholders in the entire process.
- Civil society must be in the centre-stage in the discourse. Civil society must have spaces, must have voices and should not be on periphery.

Impact Assessment

- The four dimensions are: political dimension with two indicators of the demand side, leading cooperative interaction and enhancing government capacity and national influence; economic dimension with indicators of localization strategy and efficiency first; the social and environmental dimension with indicators of professional skills developing and developmental working spirits and living philosophy; and the learning and sharing dimension with indicators of parallel experience sharing and flexibility and adaptation based on interaction.

SSC and Small Island Economies

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) remain fragile and critically vulnerable group of countries. Policy issues concerning SIDS are discussed at various levels with latest focus on the implications of the Blue Economy.
- SDGs make special reference to the SIDS. There are conceptual issues and we need to ensure as to whether SDGs can address some of the vulnerabilities faced by the SIDS and whether SSC can cater to them.

Future Research Agenda and Policy Imperatives

- This renovated narrative would ideally allow SSC providers to cooperate with traditional donors to generate - on a just basis taking into account the much larger opportunity cost of each “cooperation unit” they provide - the needed global goods and better support poorer and less capable countries attain the SDGs.
- The South proposed to guide such cooperation on the basis of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).
- The BAPA+ 40 meeting scheduled in 2019, should not shy away from reflecting on these issues.
- It is also important to strengthen the cooperation between Southern providers and the UN and mainstream South-South Cooperation at the UN level focussing on improving governance, living standards and addressing difficult global issues.

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

African Continental Free Trade Area

The Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) is expected to fulfil a major part of the integration efforts under Project 2063 of the African Union. If it emerges, it will be the largest FTA since the emergence of the stilted WTO and connect nearly 1.2 billion people (just under the population of India) in a new trade order. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) estimated that the CFTA has the potential both to boost intra-African trade by 53.2 per cent by eliminating import duties, and to double this trade if non-tariff barriers are also reduced. CFTA proposes to reduce tariffs on 90 per cent of its products. In addition, 27-member states signed an agreement on the free movement of persons. This is like a visa free agreement for 90 days for all or designated categories of people.

Source: A New Dawn for Africa as 44 Countries Sign CFTA Deal. *All Africa*. 22 March 2018

Book Review

Chinese Economic Engagement in Latin America: An Update



*Bernabe Malacalza**



The recently launched *Latin Finance* Report (Latin Finance, 2017) on Latin America-China Investments highlights some developments and new features with respect to Chinese economic engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean. It seems that the patterns of Chinese policies towards the region are moving in directions that differ from those of the last decade.

Stated briefly, three particularly important signs of new focus could be identified. Firstly, Chinese new paths appear to be in line with the policy paper on Latin America from November 2016, in which the China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs set out a detailed vision of how China wanted to develop its relations with the region. Secondly, the transformation of

China's domestic economic policy is partly responsible for this change for the fact that it is becoming less resource intensive and more concentrated on consumption and services. Thirdly, as a result of a learning process, Chinese development finance seems to be shifting from unilateral basis to more consensual platforms. These new approaches are also consistent with some broad-based guidelines that have been established for the promotion of trade, investment and development finance in the region.

a. Boosting trade through sectorial diversification

Context matters: US President Donald Trump decision to pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and to forge

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protectionist policies is in contrast with Xi Jinping's active defense of free trade agreements and commercial openness. To put it another way, Trump's trade policy is driving Latin America into China's arms.

During the 11th Business Summit China-Latin America and Caribbean (China-LAC) that took place in Montevideo at the beginning of December, 2017 Latin American economies expressed their interest to Chinese proposals such as the promotion of a free trade zone with CELAC countries, intensify financial cooperation and strengthen the joint construction of infrastructure. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Panama and the China on June 12, 2017 has also been of crucial importance for the region because of the Panama Canal and China's Silk Road Initiative.

b. New targets for Chinese investments

China's decision to shift from an export-oriented economy that required large supplies of raw materials to one based on domestic demand has implications for the Latin American perspectives.

According to a report from the *Atlantic Council*, (Avendano et. al. 2017) foreign direct investment from Chinese companies has topped \$110 billion in Latin America since 2003. But the main point is that Chinese firms are shifting from extractive industries to the service sector, especially transportation, finance, electricity, renewable energy and information and communications technology. As evidence, "China's investments in extractive industries accounted for more than 60% of Chinese FDI in Latin America from 2003 to 2012 but dropped to 37% in the following four years to 2016" (Avendano et. al. 2017).

The patterns of this cycle seem to become more robust. The five largest Chinese investments last year reflect these trends. Sinosteel agreed to spend \$450 million to develop the El Mutún iron and steel project in Bolivia; Zotye's \$307 million to build a car factory in Brazil; Jinko Solar invested \$224 million in renewable energy projects in Mexico; Sany spent \$133 million on a prefabricated house factory in Argentina; and Chinese investors will also play a relevant role in the privatization of 14 power companies that belong to the Eletrobras holding bloc.

c. The Venezuelan case and the shift in development finance

The Venezuela's crisis has had profound consequences, particularly for Chinese development finance. After the Caracas' downturn, Chinese loans to countries with poor economic records had to be reviewed. The main lesson is that China should not open itself up to greater default risk and financial losses. So, as the role of Chinese private sector players increases, it is likely we will see tighter credit conditions, which have to date been absent. In fact, new initiatives such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have promulgated more robust environmental and social requirements, which on paper are similar to the principles embodied in World Bank safeguards.

There are also changes in loans' scope and governance. During high-level visits to the region in 2014 and 2015, Beijing announced the launching of new three regional funds: the China-LAC Industrial Cooperation Investment Fund (\$20 billion) and the Special Loan Program for China-LAC Infrastructure Project (\$10 billion), both administered by the China Development Bank, and

the China-LAC Cooperation Fund (\$15 billion), which is being conducted by the China Eximbank. In 2016, the China Eximbank lent \$198 million to Ecuador for the Yachay education complex, which specializes in science and technology fields, and \$40 million to a security project in Bolivia. Not only that, the China-Brazil fund, which earmarked \$20 billion for investments in Brazil this year, will be its first bilateral fund.

The report still has many unanswered questions. But the main puzzle to be solved is whether Latin America can take advantage of these new dynamics in order to promote development and social inclusiveness. Getting the maximum benefit and reducing risks from Chinese trade, investment and development finance

will depend on the State's feasibility of establishing robust development policies for reducing inequalities. It should also be a big incentive for Latin American countries to rethink South-South Cooperation and regional integration as strategic collective actions for structural change.

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Annual T20 Africa

Addis Ababa on 14-15 April, 2018

Annual T20 Africa conference will take place in Addis Ababa back-to-back with the African finance ministers' meeting. The objective of the meeting is to discuss policy briefs and present some of the findings during a policy dialogue with policy makers. Different sessions are as follows: The Future of Work and Education for the Digital Age; Climate Action and Infrastructure for Development; Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture; Gender Economic Equity; Cooperation with Africa; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Trade, Investment and Tax Cooperation; Social Cohesion, Global Governance and the Future of Politics; International Financial Architecture for Sustainability and Development; Migration.

International Meeting on Triangular Co-operation

Lisbon, 17-18 April, 2018

This international meeting will bring together a wide range of practitioners and officials from the different actors involved in triangular co-operation. It will provide an opportunity for participants to share knowledge and experiences on how triangular co-operation contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, on management practices and tools, as well as on the links between strategic discussions and lessons from engaging in triangular co-operation.

The conclusions of this international meeting can feed into the preparatory process for the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Co-operation in Buenos Aires (BAPA +40 Conference) in March 2019 with a view to encouraging debate and joint action on triangular co-operation.

India: Committed Development Partner with Pacific Island Countries



*Vishvas Sapkal**

Hearts of India and Fiji beat synchronously. India also felt the pain of Fijians after the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016. Indian relief assistance worth US\$ 3mn reached Fiji on the seventh day after the Cyclone hit Fiji.

Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) is a multinational grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Islands nations which include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The relations with Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) were given a big impetus with the third FIPIC Summit held at Suva, Fiji in May, 2017. Two previous FIPIC Summits were held in 2014 and 2015 in Suva and Jaipur respectively. India is a committed development partner vis-à-vis the PICs and provides assistance as per their requirements. India and its FIPIC partners share excellent cooperation at international forums. Government of India has increased Grant-in-Aid to all Pacific Island Countries to US\$200,000 annually to be rolled over to provide a wider scope for development cooperation.

A brief description of the kinds of development support provided by India to the PICs follows below.

Fiji

Fiji is one of the important partners in FIPIC. In spite of being geographically distant, India and Fiji have traditionally enjoyed warm and cordial relations on the strong foundations of historical and cultural linkages. In contemporary times, India provides

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development partnership to Fiji through its principles¹ of South-South Cooperation (SSC) under the set of modalities referred to as ‘development compact’² across various sectors.

Assistance for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

The small island nations spread across the Pacific Ocean evoke romantic notions of life on an island paradise for many around the world. But beyond the beautiful beaches and coral reefs, the low-lying atolls and mountainous, forested volcanic islands, crisis is already occurring: The grueling storms and rising tides of a changing climate threaten to swallow the land and lives of many who call Pacific Islands their home. The Pacific Islands’ contribution to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is negligible, but—like other Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—they suffer disproportionately the effects of global warming, out of the threat of rising sea level.

India is committed to providing assistance in ‘Climate Change Adaptation’ process. India will be carrying out solar electrification of 200 houses in each of the 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs), including Fiji. Barefoot College, Rajasthan is implementing this US\$ 1.5mn project. Under the project, India has provided six-month long training to 70 ‘Solar Mamas’³ from 14 Pacific Island Countries at Barefoot College till September 2017. Earlier, 43 ‘Solar Mamas’ from seven PICs completed one-month refresher training held in Fiji in August-September 2016. Solar Mamas were also trained for making candles, sanitary napkins and mosquito-nets, etc.

‘India Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference’ was held in May 2017 in Fiji. India also contributed

US\$ 1mn for assisting Fijian Presidency to COP23.⁴

Assistance to Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector

India has manifested, time and again, that it is a committed development partner of Fiji. One example, among many, of such partnership is India’s continued support to Fiji’s SME sector. As per Indian Prime Minister’s announcement in November 2014, India provided FJ\$ 4.7 million (eq. US\$ 2.2mn) till September 2017 to the Fijian SME sector. The Fijian Government provides FJ\$ 1000 (eq. US\$ 500) to individual small entrepreneurs to start a vast range of activities. Various enterprises supported under these arrangements are engaged in canteen businesses, poultry, bee keeping, livestock farming, market vending, bakery, sewing, carpentry, roadside stalls, tailoring and handicraft businesses.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

Hearts of India and Fiji beat synchronously. India also felt the pain of Fijians after the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016. Indian relief assistance worth US\$ 3mn reached Fiji on the seventh day after the Cyclone hit Fiji. India also contributed US\$ 1mn to the Fijian Prime Minister’s Rehabilitation & Relief Fund and also participated in Fiji’s ‘Adopt a School’ Programme by providing US\$ 1.3mn to Fiji for repair/renovation of 20 schools in February 2017.

Assistance to Agriculture & Sugar Industry

Five tons of vegetable seeds worth US\$ 1.2mn were handed over to Minister of Agriculture, Government of Fiji in October

2016. The farmers of Fiji have much appreciated the high yields from these vegetable seeds.

India continues to provide its assistance to the Fijian Sugar Industry. Earlier, India extended US\$ 55.78mn Line of Credits (LoC) for upgradation of sugar mills in Fiji, another US\$ 70mn LoC is under implementation. In addition to financing under LoCs, in December 2017, Indian High Commissioner handed over a cheque of FJ\$ 2,172,576.35 (US\$ 1.06mn) to Prime Minister of Fiji as India's assistance towards Fiji Sugar Corporation's strategic plan to revitalize the sugar industry in Fiji for procurement of agricultural equipment and vehicles (in a spirit of ensuring mutual benefit accruing to the partners). Ten mill engineers from Fiji Sugar Corporation completed thirty weeks' training at the Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI), Pune, India in 2017.

Assistance for Human Resources Development and Capacity Building

Every year, more than 100 Fijian officials avail scholarships under 'Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)' Scheme, which provides training from out of 370 types of various courses ranging from sanitation, management, water resources development, information technology, etc. in Indian institutes of repute. Annually, more than 30 Fijian students avail themselves of scholarships for Graduation/ Post-Graduation/ Doctoral courses in renowned Indian universities as well.

Thus, on the path of development, India is firmly holding the hand of Fiji and remains committed to the wellbeing and prosperity of the friendly people of Fiji.

Countries of Concurrent Accreditation of High Commission of India, Suva

During the year 2016-17, India provided US\$ 690,846 to the Government of **Cook Islands** for 16 various community development projects. Construction of hospital has been part of these packages. Earlier in 2015-16, the Government of India provided US\$124,332 to Cook Islands for ten community development projects.

Recently, India provided US\$ 1.1mn to **Kiribati** for carbon neutral solar lighting for the urban District of South Tarawa in December 2017. The project would help Kiribati save millions of dollars in energy expenses and also help to reduce carbon dioxide emission by replacing Kerosene lamps or other such fuels which contributes to greenhouse gas. It will also promote opportunities for school children without access to electricity to study at night. Since 2006, the Government of India had given US\$ 534,108 to Kiribati for various community development projects for modernising government press, purchase of generators, cherry picker truck, health equipment for hospitals, renovation of clinics, etc.

India provided US\$ 450,175 for construction of Sea Wall in Anetan District of **Nauru** in August 2015 that was inaugurated by the Indian High Commissioner along with Nauru's Parliament Speaker on 30 January 2018. The High Commissioner handed over a Mahindra vehicle worth AUS\$ 39,268.82 (eq. US\$ 31,180 approx.) to the Speaker of the Nauruan Parliament on 30 January 2018. India also provided US\$ 41,419 towards uniforms of Nauru Police on the occasion of celebration of their 50th Anniversary of Independence on 31 January 2018.

India provided US\$ 300,000 for Tsunami Alert System in July 2014 to **Tonga**. US\$ 115,000 was provided in October 2014 for 'Upgrade to the Office of the Public Service Commission ICT Infrastructure' and US\$ 71,627 was provided for 'Spectrum Monitoring including Detection of Interference and Illegal Transmission in September 2015.

India has recently provided an assistance of US\$ 275,122 to **Tuvalu** in November 2017 for construction of three Government buildings. Also, in November 2017, India provided a grant of AUS\$ 10,000 (eq. US\$ 7837) to the Government of Tuvalu for holding SME trade fair in Tuvalu.

Following Cyclone Pam in March 2015, India gave a grant of US\$ 250,000 to **Vanuatu** as humanitarian assistance. In October 2016, India provided US\$ 190,000 to Vanuatu Foreign Minister for procurement of IT equipment for 76 schools in Vanuatu. In January 2018, India further provided US\$ 200,000 grant assistance to Vanuatu for purchase of LED bulbs and energy efficient equipment for fighting the climate change.

Project for Seven Pacific Countries under India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Apart from providing bilateral development support to PICs, India also contributes to multilateral funds which have been instituted at the UN level for the development of SIDS. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation established in 2017. It is supported and led by the Government of the Republic of India, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and

implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund supports Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on least developed countries and small-island developing states. United Nations agencies implement the Funds projects in close collaboration with partnering governments.

First such project launched under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund in September, 2017 was Climate Early Warning Systems in seven Pacific Countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Tonga). The US\$ 1mn project aims to increase resilience from natural disasters of these seven PICs and will be catalytic towards achieving the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda and Goal 13 in particular which relates to action against Climate Change.

Endnotes

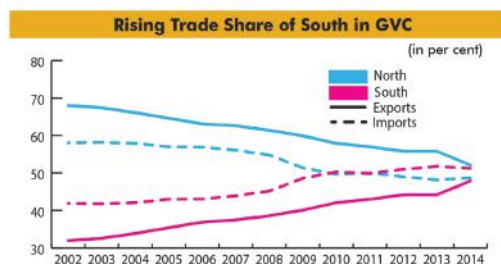
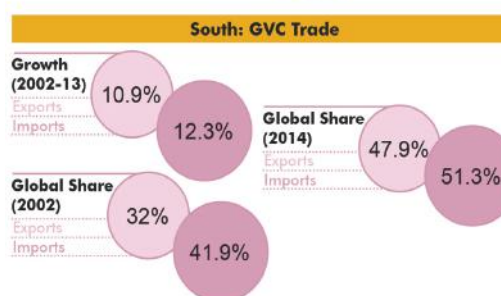
- ¹ For detailed discussion read FIDC Policy Brief 7 <http://fidc.ris.org.in/sites/default/files/7.pdf>
- ² For detailed discussion read FIDC Policy Brief 8 <http://fidc.ris.org.in/sites/default/files/8.pdf>
- ³ For details <https://www.barefootcollege.org/the-making-of-solar-mamas/>
- ⁴ COP23 was organised by Republic of Fiji in Bonn, Germany in November 2017 which concluded with what was called the 'Fiji Momentum for Implementation,' which outlined the steps that need to be taken in 2018 to make the Paris Agreement operational.

SSC in Statistics

Integration of the South in Global Value Chain*

Trade has been the driver of growth in the world economy during the last three decades and, moreover, trade sector is mostly led by Global Value Chain (GVC) sector for these years. GVC has been one of the faster growing segments in the global trade since the 1960s. This process was bolstered and the global trade in GVC surpassed the level of US \$ 27 billion in 2014. Taking into account the strong economic benefits associated with the GVC, the South is expected to gain from the GVC sector. The global share of the South has been persistently growing during the last two decades including during the recent episode of recession.

While South has posted a rising share of exports and imports in the world GVC trade, North has witnessed a declining trend in this regard during 2002-2014. Global share of the South in the GVC imports outshined that of the North since 2009. In parts and components sector, five sectors are emerging as important in global GVC trade including chemicals, plastics, base metals, machinery and automobiles. In these sectors, the South has not only registered better growth performances but also their import performance has been much better than their exports. In short, the South is emerging as a key player in world GVC trade in the 21st century.



* Resurging South Stylized Facts, (2016): Prepared by RIS Team.

Editorial Board



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi is Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based autonomous Think-Tank. He was also a Global Justice Fellow at the MacMillan Center for International Affairs at Yale University. He works on issues related to development cooperation policies and South-South cooperation. He has also worked on trade and innovation linkages with special focus on WTO.



Mr. Amar Sinha is Distinguish Fellow at RIS and retired from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) as Secretary Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, in June 2017 after a diplomatic career spanning 35 years. He has served in different capacities in Indian Missions around the world. He also served an ex-officio Director on the Board of EXIM Bank of India.



Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti is **Managing Editor of DCR** and Visiting Fellow at RIS. Besides teaching for more than 31 years he has extensive experience in policy development and practice, and wide exposure of working in different sectors such as: natural resources, community development and key cross-cutting issues like environment, governance and institutional development.



Mr. Pranay Sinha is a Visiting Fellow at RIS and leads work regarding Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) at its Global Secretariat. He has served as Non-DAC Research Fellow at the College of William and Mary in the USA. His development cooperation experience includes working at the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India during 2006 to 2008 on a UNDP seconded Aid Coordination Project.



Mr. Pratyush Sharma is a Researcher at RIS and was a Global Governance Fellow at German Development Institute in Bonn, Germany. He has an interdisciplinary background in Social Sciences with a MA degree in Diplomacy, Law and Business from O. P Jindal Global University. His research areas are International Development Cooperation and South-South Cooperation.

Editorial Advisory Board



Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar is the Acting Chairman of RIS and Patron of FIDC and has had an outstanding career in the Indian Foreign Service lasting 36 years which culminated in his being India's Ambassador to France based in Paris. Under his watch, the Indo- French strategic partnership was strengthened and consolidated further in spheres such as defence, space, nuclear and solar energy, smart cities and investment. Ambassador Kumar also has strategic understanding of India's ties with some of her key neighbours such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives.



Mr. Jorge Chediek is the Director of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, leading United Nations system-wide promotion and coordination of South-South cooperation for development. In March 2016, Mr. Chediek was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as his Envoy on South-South Cooperation. Prior to this, he served as the UN Resident Coordinator/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Brazil (2010-2015).



Prof. Li Xiaoyun is Chairman of NeST and Chair of China International Development Research Network (CIDRN) based in China Agricultural University, Beijing. For more than 20 years, Prof. Li has made a significant contribution to development studies, education and applied policy research capacity for rural development in China. He has been one of the most influential experts for rural development policies in China and has also directed and supervised most donor interventions in China.



Mr. Dinkar Asthana is FIDC Board Member and Joint Secretary in DPA-II, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in August 1990. He has served in the Indian Missions in Bonn, Bangkok, Colombo and Mexico City. In New Delhi, he has served in the Policy Planning, Pakistan, Protocol and Multilateral Economic Relations Divisions besides, briefly, as Joint Secretary (SAARC, BIMSTEC & Border Connectivity) before taking over his current assignment on 1 February 2016.



Prof. Anuradha Chenoy is a Chairperson of FIDC and former dean at School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has been chairperson of Area Studies Director in the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies. She has written many books, monographs and articles in the domain of security studies, development studies and gender studies. She has held short term consultancies with the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNESCO, Action Aid International, UN Women, UN Peace keepers. She has also evaluated the work of organisations like Focus on the Global South and the Asia Europe Peoples Forum.



Prof. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos is a Board Member of NeST and chief executive of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), an independent foreign policy think-tank based in Johannesburg. She holds an MA in International Relations (cum laude) from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.



Dr. Rajesh Tandon is a Board Member of FIDC. He holds a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA and an electronics engineer (IIT, Kanpur) with a graduation in management (IIM, Calcutta). Dr. Rajesh Tandon is an internationally acclaimed leader and practitioner of participatory research and development. He founded the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), a voluntary organisation providing support to grassroots initiatives in South Asia, and continues to be its Chief Functionary since 1982.



Dr. André de Mello e Souza is a Board Member of NeST and Senior Research Fellow at Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA), Brazil. He has a Master and PhD in Political Science from Stanford University. He has experience in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations and International Political Economy in particular. His areas of study include intellectual property; non-governmental organizations; international regimes; international cooperation for development and globalization.



Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva is a Board Member of FIDC and Jean Monnet Chair and Director, Europe Area Studies Programme, School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He has an extensive international teaching experience as well as proven project management expertise. He is a recognized expert in the area of regional cooperation, European Studies and issues concerning Afghanistan and Indian Northeast. In addition, he has an extensive knowledge concerning energy security, development aid and India's relations with the EU, Russia & Central Asia.



Dr. Thomas Fues is an economist and former Head of Managing Global Governance programme at German Development Institute, Bonn. His research areas were inter- and transnational cooperation, global governance and United Nations. His core responsibilities in education and training included development policies in the German Bundestag and development policies of Federal states and municipalities. He has been an active proponent of NeST.



Dr. Ruchita Beri is a Board Member of FIDC and Senior Research Associate and Coordinator, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and United Nations Centre at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. She researches on political and security issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, India-Africa relations and Emerging Powers in Africa. She is currently the Vice President of the African Studies Association of India, a member of the Africa Committee of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). She is also a member of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) Task Force on Blue Economy.



Dr. Philani Mthembu is the Executive Director at Institute for Global Dialogue. He pursued a joint doctoral programme (Dr. rer. pol.) with the Graduate School of Global Politics, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), and the School of International Studies at Renmin University, Beijing (China). The focus of his dissertation was on the rise of emerging powers as sources of development cooperation in Africa.



Mr. Amitabh Behar is FIDC Board Member and is the Executive Director of the National Foundation for India (NFI). He is the Convener of National Social Watch Coalition and was the Co-chair of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP- 2010-2016) and for five years was the convener of the Wada Na Todo Abhiyaan (Don't Break Your Promises Campaign) in India. Over the years he has worked on issues promoting governance accountability and social action. He is one of the leading experts of people centred advocacy and was the Executive Director of the National Centre of Advocacy Studies (NCAS).



Dr. Siriporn Wajjwalku is associate professor of Political Science at Thammasat University, Thailand. She is Chair and Founder of Network of International Development Cooperation, project coordinator for Thailand Research Fund and President of Japanese Studies Association in Thailand. She has written extensively on Japan's politics and foreign policy, foreign assistance, international development cooperation, and food security, regionalism, regionalization, and regional integration.



Prof. Harsh V Pant is a Distinguished Fellow and Head of ORF's Strategic Studies programme. He holds a joint appointment with the Department of Defence Studies and King's India Institute as Professor of International Relations. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow with the Wadhvani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC.



Prof. Mustafizur Rahman is a Distinguished Fellow at Centre for Policy Dialogue. He is an economist by training. Prior to joining CPD, Professor Rahman taught at Dhaka University where he also served as member of the University Senate. He has served as a member of various national bodies set up by the Government of Bangladesh including National Coal Policy Review Committee, Regulatory Reforms Commission and Core Committee on Connectivity.



Dr. Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay is the Director of Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), a pioneer civil society organisation, based in New Delhi (India), working on citizen participation, democratic governance and civil society development since 1982. He has extensively worked on local governance, citizen participation and social accountability issues. He has also worked on capacity building projects with particular emphasis on participatory learning, monitoring and evaluation, organisation development, strategic planning, and participatory training methodology



H.E. Prof. Bishwambher Pyakuryal is currently Ambassador of Nepal to Sri Lanka and Maldives. He has taught Economics at Tribhuvan University for 39 years. He holds a Master as well as a Ph.D. in Economics from Nepal and USA. He is the Chairman of inter-governmental organization South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP) and member of the governing council of Colombo Plan.



Dr. Sreeram Chaulia is Professor and Dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs of O.P. Jindal Global University. He holds a Doctorate (Ph.D.) and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Political Science and International Relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, USA. His areas of specialisation include diplomacy, foreign policy, comparative politics, international political economy, international organisations, armed conflict, humanitarian practices, and contemporary world history. He has over eight hundred publications to his credit.



Dushni Weerakoon is the Executive Director and Head of Macroeconomic Policy Research at the IPS. She has over 23 years of experience at IPS, and functioned as its Deputy Director from 2005 to 2017. Her research and publications cover areas related to macroeconomic policy, regional trade integration and international economics. She has extensive experience in the arena of public policy through her research and direct engagements in policy formulation.



Dr. Swaran Singh is Professor for Diplomacy and Disarmament at Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Prof Singh has 25 years of experience in research and teaching and he lectures at major institutions like National Defence College, Defence Services Staff College, and all other major military institutions such as Foreign Service Institute, Indian Institute for Public Administration, etc.



Mr. Harsh Jaitli is FIDC Board Member and is Chief Executive Officer of Voluntary Action Network India (VANI). VANI is an apex body of Indian voluntary organization. VANI worked towards strengthening the voluntary sector in India. For almost two decades, he has been active in capacity building and research based advocacy efforts on the issues like environment, health, local governance and organisational development.




Dr. Nisha Agarwal is FIDC Board Member and has been working on poverty, inequality and development issues for more than three decades. She has been the CEO of Oxfam India since its inception in March 2008. Prior to that she worked with the World Bank on development issues for 18 years. She has a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Virginia, USA. She has also worked as a Research Economist at the Impact Research Centre, University of Melbourne, Australia.


About Development Cooperation Review

Development Cooperation Review (DCR) is a monthly journal that aspires to capture the holistic narrative around global development cooperation and fill an important knowledge gap towards theorisation, empiricisation and documentation of Southern led development cooperation processes. Despite growing volumes of development partnerships around the Southern world, there remains an absence of detailed information, analyses and its contribution to global development processes. Even though there have been sporadic efforts in documenting some of the activities, a continuous effort in chronicling the diverse experiences in South-South Cooperation (SSC) is still absent.

About Network of Southern Think Tanks

Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) was established on the sidelines of the first high-level meeting (HLM) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Mexico in April 2014, and as a follow-up to the Conference of Southern Providers held in Delhi in April 2013. The network has committed itself to 'generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on South-South co-operation (SSC) approaches to international development'. A collaborative initiative for the South by the South, NeST is primarily a think tank and academic forum that provides policy inputs into the arena of SSC. NeST welcomes inputs from a diversity of Southern stakeholders, through the open engagement of governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), private sector institutions and various Southern practitioners, to contribute towards creating a unified understanding and framework for debates around SSC.  @NeST_SSC

About Forum for Indian Development Cooperation

FIDC aims to encourage detailed analysis of broad trends in South-South cooperation and contextualise Indian policies by facilitating discussions across various subject streams and stakeholders based on theoretical and empirical analysis, field work, perception surveys and capacity building needs. At the domestic level, the FIDC has worked towards raising the awareness about various dimensions of the development cooperation policies through seminars, discussion meetings and publications and focused on sectoral analysis in the areas of agriculture, health, education, human resource development, infrastructure projects, environment and other social areas including gender and humanitarian assistance.  @FIDC_NewDelhi



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MESSAGES

India's multifaceted and substantial cooperation with the developing world affirmed its continued and unqualified commitment to strengthen the ethos of a world in which everyone works together for sharing of resources for peaceful coexistence.

– **Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, India**

As the shrillness of certain global debates threatens to block out all else, the issues covered by the Development Cooperation Review remind us of what the South can achieve through cooperation.– **Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive of South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa**

This is a very good initiative and I must compliment you and your team for this. There is truly an information gap on this subject both in our country and abroad.

– **Amb Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary of India**

“DCR is exactly the publication many interested in SSC and TDC have been waiting for. Scholars and practitioners from South and North alike will turn to it as authoritative source of information and informed debate.”– **Thomas Fues, Former Head of Managing Global Governance at German Development Institute, Germany**

Great initiative. It fills an important gap, and can be an vehicle for mobilising new knowledge on SSC.– **Rajesh Tandon, Founder and Chairman of Participatory Research in Asia, India**

The publication will undoubtedly represent a significant contribution to knowledge on SSC. – **Andre de Mello e Souza, Senior Research Fellow, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada, Brazil**

Your idea of coming out with DCR is very appropriate and timely. This will also help in creating and documenting knowledge and leanings of the diverse stakeholders. – **Harsh Jaitli, Chief Executive officer of Voluntary Action Network India, India**

This is indeed a great contribution to the world of knowledge and policy, and will continue to open up spaces for an informed discussion on South-South Cooperation and Trilateral Cooperation in an evolving international development landscape. It remains an imperative for research institutions from the global South to play an equal role in shaping the global discourse, and I have no doubt that the Development Cooperation Review (DCR) will play that role as a contributor to the world of ideas and implementation. – **Philani Mthembu, Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa**

Call for Contributions

We invite contributions from interested readers on issues related to development cooperation in general and South-South Cooperation in particular. Contributions may also capture theory, practice and associated debates on development cooperation. Reviews of latest publications - books, monographs, reports - are also welcome. Any institutional upcoming events on development cooperation may also be captured in DCR. The contributions should be restricted to not more than 1500 words.

For editorial information, contributions, feedback and comments: mail to milindo.chakrabarti@ris.org.in and dgooffice@ris.org.in