

Japanese approaches to Africa

Key texts:

JICA (2002) 'A Study on Japan's ODA to Africa (discussion paper)' JICA
<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/publication/studyreport/country/africa/index.html>

From Abstract:

"The discussion paper consists of four main chapters. The first chapter looks at the overview of both retrospective and current African development with a view to identifying the key challenges of African development at the beginning of the 21st century. The second chapter reviews the shifts in development assistance frameworks in Africa during the 1990s, which culminated in the introduction of the Poverty Reduction Strategies in the late 1990s. Following the two sections, the third section provides a brief analysis on Japan's aid to Africa. At the end of the chapter, some issues and challenges of Japan's ODA in Africa are summarized. Based on the discussions in the preceding chapters, the final section briefly presents suggestions and recommendations for Japan's more effective and efficient ODA to Africa in the coming years."

Ohno, K and Takahashi (2003) 'Renovating Japan's Aid in Africa From Passivity to Action under the Tight Budget policy' GRIPS
<http://www.grips.ac.jp/teacher/oono/hp/documents/Africa7e.doc>

Preface:

"As poverty reduction attracts global interest, Japan's ODA budget is being cut. It is imperative that effectiveness of our aid be improved. While the priority region for Japanese ODA is undoubtedly East Asia, we must also maintain a certain level of visibility in assistance to Africa, which is the center of concern for the global aid community. Not only that, by introducing a new growth strategy, we should become a responsible donor and exercise leadership in a few selected African countries without a budget increase. This will require an immediate reform of Japanese aid to Africa through selection and prioritization, strengthened growth support, and speed and flexibility. Without reform, our aid will be evaluated much less than what we actually contribute, and domestic criticism against such ineffective aid will mount. If our client countries are confined to high performers in East Asia, Japanese aid will face the risk of future decline and international isolation. Renovation of our aid to Africa is the key to regaining confidence and pride in our entire ODA policy.

Surely, African development is a tough issue. International organizations, Western donors as well as Japan itself have suffered cumulative failures. We must remain humble in the face of the enormity of the task. But we believe that Japan as a non-Western donor can make a valuable contribution to Africa, provided that we make good preparation with adequate resources and institutions. It is now recognized internationally that HIPC, PRSP and aid coordination, which mainly aim at administrative and financial improvements, lack insight into the sources of growth. Many low-income countries (including those in Africa) are not entirely satisfied with the current PRSP and yearning for a new approach that gives them more hope. We do

not have to offer a perfect answer at the outset, nor should we be too afraid of making mistakes. What is required today is not the continuation of ad hoc responses but the construction of a consistent strategy which is long-term, comprehensive, and real sector-oriented. In this process, we should stop reacting passively to PRSP and aid coordination, and instead start to actively utilize them for achieving our ultimate aid goal.”

Other relevant articles:

(note: listed here are recent papers that address broad questions of relevance to African development. Highly specific articles are not cited. For evaluations of Japanese aid to specific African countries, see MOFA evaluation reports <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html> ;for anthropological studies, see in particular Kyoto University’s Center for African Area Studies <http://www.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp/>)

Horiuchi, S (2003) ‘African Development and the TICAD Process’ *Japan Review of International Affairs* 17.4 Winter 2003

Hashimoto, R (2002) ‘Sustainable Development and Governance in Africa’ *Japan Review of International Affairs* 16.4 Winter 2002

IDCJ (2003) ‘Thematic Evaluation of Japanese Aid in the fields of Trade and Investment in Africa’ MOFA
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/2002/africa.pdf>

Koizumi, J (2003) *Keynote speech by Japan’s Prime Minister to TICAD III* (Tokyo International Conference on African Development), September 2003 (available from TICAD website <http://www.ticad.net/>)

MOFA (2003) *Diplomatic Bluebook 2003*, ch.2 sect.G: ‘Africa’
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/2003/chap2-g.pdf>

Njinkeu et al. (2002) ‘A Strategic Framework for Using Japanese Official Development Assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa’ ch. 5, *Development Assistance Strategies in the 21st Century: Global and Regional Issues* JBIC Research Paper 16
http://www.jbic.go.jp/english/research/report/paper/pdf/rp16_e05.pdf

Ogura, K (2003) ‘A New Outlook on Africa: Reconsidering Japan’s Foreign Policy’ *Gaiko Forum* Winter 2003

Takahashi, M (2002) ‘NEPAD and Governance in the Twenty-first Century’ *Japan Review of International Affairs* 16.4 Winter 2002

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