



Overseas Development Institute

News Release

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A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO BRIDGE RESEARCH AND POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A partnership to boost civil society participation in global policy debates has been announced in London. The UK's Department for International Development has entered into a six-year agreement with the Overseas Development Institute, the UK's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. The two will work together in a long-term effort to help think-tanks and NGOs around the world contribute more effectively to policy in such areas as aid, trade and poverty reduction. The programme will sponsor research to understand better how policy is made, build capacity through training and advisory work, and help southern civil society organisations target key decisions for improved policy impact.

The agreement, worth at least £4.8m over the six years to 2011, is one of a series of Programme Partnership Agreements signed by DFID with leading NGOs. This is the first time such an agreement has been signed with a UK-based think-tank.

Welcoming the Agreement, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Gareth Thomas MP, said "The UK government is committed to an active and informed debate on development issues. ODI is recognised as leading the world in applying careful research to global policy problems. We are pleased to be able to support its work, and help it build stronger networks with the South".

The Director of ODI, Simon Maxwell, commented that 'ODI and its many partners want to see research being used to make the world a better place – and want to see decisions which affect the lives of the world's poor underpinned by good analysis. Our mission is to find new ways to build bridges of this kind between research and policy. We very much look forward very much to working with DfID'.

- Ends -

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Notes to Editors:

- The Department for International Development (DFID) was established in 1997, as the successor to the Overseas Development Administration, previously part of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). DFID's overall aim is to reduce global poverty and promote sustainable development, in particular through achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For more information see www.dfid.gov.uk
- ODI is Britain's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. Its mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty, the alleviation of suffering and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. Locking together high-quality applied research, practical policy advice and policy-focused dissemination and debate, ODI works with partners in the public and private sectors, in both developing and developed countries. It has about 55 researchers and a turn-over of £7.5m (2003-4). Further details are on the website (www.odi.org.uk)
- As a registered charity, ODI is dependent on outside funds. It is supported by grants and donations from public and private sources.
- ODI Council members include: Baroness Jay; Lord Holme; Sir Timothy Lankester; broadcaster, Zeinab Badawi; Lord Desai; and Guardian Economics Editor, Larry Elliot.
- Partnership Programme Agreements are agreements between DFID and influential civil society organisations in the UK which set out at a strategic level how the two partners will work together to meet the International Development Targets (IDTs). Strategic funding is provided, linked to jointly agreed strategic objectives. Since 1997 DFID has negotiated 15 PPAs with a range of organisations including VSO, OXFAM, Save the Children and others. For further details see: <http://62.189.42.51/DFIDstage/AboutDFID/files/civilsociety/Csd-ppa.htm>
- The PPA signed between DfID and ODI foresees activity in four areas:
 - i. Research and training to help research institutes, think-tanks and NGOs understand better how evidence can contribute to pro-poor policy;
 - ii. Establishing regional capacity to support developing country research institutes, think tanks and NGOs in their policy work;
 - iii. Improving the accessibility of research-based contributions to policy, through work on publications and websites; and
 - iv. Strengthening networks to improve participation in current policy debates, by partners in North and South.Further details are available at www.odi.org.uk/rapid/ppa

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