

**Speech by Mr. Shigeyuki HIROKI**  
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**At the High-Level Symposium**  
**“South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Recent Trends and Progress”**  
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Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to be granted this opportunity to make a presentation on behalf of the Government of Japan on this special occasion. Let me express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Egypt for doing a wonderful job as the host of this meeting.

“South-South and Triangular Development Cooperation”, the theme of this session, has been widely recognized as one of indispensable modalities of international development. In the past, Japan used to receive development assistance through the South-South cooperation as a developing country, but since then we have become a supporter of the South-South Cooperation from the donor side.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to share Japan’s experience and lessons learned based on our South-South and triangular cooperation.

## **1. Japan’s ODA**

Let me briefly mention the history of Japan’s ODA.

Japan’s ODA dates back over fifty years. On 6 October 1954, Japan decided to join the Colombo Plan, and started technical assistance through acceptance of the trainees and dispatch of experts the following year [For this reason, Japan celebrates 6 October as “International Cooperation Day”].

At that time, Japan was still in the process of a postwar reconstruction and was receiving financial assistance from overseas (including the World Bank) as a developing country. With that assistance, Japan developed important infrastructure, such as the bullet train, that worked as basis for our economic development. So when Japan

started to provide ODA to other countries, she did so with the financial support from other donors for implementing aid. This was indeed South-South Cooperation [It was 1990, when Japan paid off its loan from the World Bank.]

## **2. The modality of triangular cooperation**

Through its own experience, Japan has long recognized the effectiveness of South-South Cooperation and was engaged in this type of development cooperation. Japan's ODA Charter approved by the Cabinet in 2003 states that "Japan will actively promote South-South Cooperation in partnership with more advanced developing countries in Asia and other regions".

Then, how does Japan support the South-South Cooperation?

First, we carry out technical cooperation through the "Third-Country Training" and "Third Country Experts". The "Third Country Training" invites trainees of recipient countries to countries that provide training. The "Third-Country Experts" dispatches experts of the Third-Country or advanced developing countries to recipient countries.

In 2006, Japan provided assistance to a total of 175 courses of Third-Country Training conducted in 36 developing countries. Japan sent out 105 Third-Country Experts in 2005 and 76 in 2006.

Second, we have introduced and promoted the "Partnership Program for South-South Cooperation", a comprehensive framework agreed by the government of Japan and advanced developing countries to jointly support neighboring developing countries and countries with common grounds in language, history, culture and so on. As of March 2004, Japan has concluded Programs with 12 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Third, Japan holds the JICA-ASEAN Regional Cooperation Meeting for promoting the South-South Cooperation in the ASEAN region every year. Under this mechanism, the "needs-resource matching" which promotes assistance from countries with comparative advantage in solving specific issues to countries with similar difficulties in the same regions, as well as sharing experience and lessons learned on the South-South Cooperation are being implemented.

Finally, Japan supports South-South Cooperation through international organizations. We made our financial contributions to the "UNDP Partnership Fund" and the Asian

Productivity Organization available for each organization to tap into their comparative advantage and implement development projects in developing countries.

### **3. Advantages of South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

First, countries that are still in their own developing process and faced similar difficulties in the recent past are in a better position to respond to problems that recipient countries face on the ground, and thus it is easier for recipients to look to emerging donors as a model.

Second, emerging donors also benefit from the experience as a donor that has to guide and support others, since this enhances their own capabilities and capacity further.

Third, given that developed and developing countries have to work together in order to achieve MDGs by 2015, mobilizing every possible resource, South-South Cooperation can make an important contribution to this global effort.

### **4. Future scenario of Japan's Triangular Cooperation**

Japan would like to promote South-South Cooperation further in the future base on the following perspectives.

The first is to further strengthen efforts and cooperation for achievement of the MDGs in Africa. We have started the "TICAD process", addressing African development issues, since 1993 under the principles of "Africa's ownership" for its stability and development and "partnership" between Africa and the international community.

Japan will host the TICAD IV in Yokohama from 28 to 30 May this year. We hope to mobilize knowledge and resources of international community on African development under the theme of "Towards a Vibrant Africa" in the core areas of: (a) Boosting Economic Growth, (b) Ensuring Human Security (includes achieving MDGs and consolidation of peace), and (c) Addressing environment/climate change. Japan would like to better understand the views and hopes of African countries and to relay their messages to the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit.

In addition, I would like to mention that Japan recognizes Asia-Africa cooperation as an important pillar of the TICAD. In this regard, we are pleased to hear more and more Asian countries have been conducting development aid to African countries.

As examples of cooperation in the African region, Japan has carried out the Third-Country Training and dispatched Third-Country Experts with the cooperation of

Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt to other African countries in the areas of health and medicine, infectious diseases, and agriculture and fishery. We have also supported seminars on capacity-building of the police and on democratization between South Africa and Democratic Republic of the Congo; and also supported bilateral cooperation between Uganda and Sudan on the strengthening of basic skills and professional training. We would like to explore positively the possibilities of continuing such cooperation.

The second is to strengthen the relationship with middle-income countries by working with them as partners for support of the South-South Cooperation. We hope that this will add anew layer to our bilateral relations with those countries.

The last is to improve aid effectiveness. Much debate has taken place on how to enhance aid effectiveness in the international community including OECD/DAC. In triangular cooperation too, which involves emerging donors as partners, we would like to address issues of improving transparency of aid, debt sustainability, human rights and governance in collaboration with such emerging donors for the better development outcomes. Hopefully, triangular cooperation will provide good practice for development of the international rules on “capacity-building by the harmonized aid”, toward the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana in September 2008.

## **5. Closing**

This year, it is expected that South-South Cooperation (or emerging donors) will be among important agenda items at the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) in July, the Accra High-Level Forum in September, and the UN “Follow up to the International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus” at Qatar in December. Through these dialogues, we hope that traditional and emerging donors cooperate with each other to build a partnership for better development outcome.

Thank you.