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DCR

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Contents

Editorial	1
 Papers	
Weaving the Future: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into International Cooperation	4
<i>Selina Baños and Andrea Vignolo</i>	
Reimagining Development Partnerships: Circular Cooperation	13
<i>Jonathan Glennie and Paty Alemañy</i>	
Japan's Approach to South-South and Triangular Cooperation: A Platform for Co-Creation and Mutual Learning	22
<i>Sachiyo Yasunaga, Minako Yamamoto and Ryutaro Murotani</i>	
China's Participation in Tripartite Co-operation: History, Characteristics and Challenges	31
<i>Haisen Lin, Chuanhong Zhang</i>	
 Interview	
Papa Amadou Sarr.....	41
 Book Review/ Reports	
Emerging Trends in Social Policy from the South – Challenges and Innovations in Emerging Economies	46
<i>Pratyush Sharma</i>	
 SSC Statistics	
Global Trends of Triangular Cooperation	53
<i>Sushil Kumar</i>	

Editorial

This issue of the DCR is in keeping with the tradition of presenting its readers with quality and insightful perspectives on various issues of development cooperation and its different facets from distinct geographies. Ideas around development and development solutions are truly a global endeavour with no singular entity staking a claim over it. Mutual learning through global literature and international case studies in the development sphere and their localisation, and adaptability assists a country in adopting the development solutions for their benefit. We subscribe to the idea that developmental solutions from the Global South for the Global South are well attuned to the development of the Global South. The content of this issue also intends to carry that objective further.

It is now widely argued that it is important to provide space to indigenous knowledge systems and their worldviews consisting of their cosmic visions. The first paper in this issue titled “Weaving the Future: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into International Cooperation” by Selina Banos, and Andrea Vignolo deals with this concern. The authors argue that international cooperation needs a re-think in the wake of challenges and the erosion of confidence due to multiple environmental, social, economic, cultural, and geopolitical crises which have compromised the existence of humanity and the planet. The authors have sought to relook at international cooperation through the lens of the ‘indigenous science’ which they claim is based on networks of interconnectedness. According to indigenous cosmovisions, such interconnectedness can be understood as a network intertwined with their natural environment in such a way that they conserve and protect it. In the same way, they recognise that each species has a role and that alteration of one part can have repercussions in the whole system. We are sure that future issues of DCR would have the opportunity to publish a few more articles in the domain of cooperation network linked with the indigenous cosmovisions to take this idea to a level of implementable details from the perspective of international development cooperation.

In continuance of providing novel ideas related to development cooperation, the second article in this issue deals with the concept of ‘circular cooperation’ in the paper titled “Reimagining Development Partnerships: Circular Cooperation” by Jonathan Glennie, and Paty Alemany the authors have claimed that the traditional North-South Cooperation is fraught with the problem of verticality and the donor-

recipient model of cooperation has had limited success in bringing the desired development to the countries of the Global South. The authors claim ‘circular cooperation’ has emerged as a modality aiming to overcome North-South divisions and foster mutual benefit among all nations by emphasising reciprocity, respectful relationships, and democratic decision-making in global cooperation strategies. The operational principles mentioned in the paper are quite similar to that of South-South Cooperation (SSC). In the paper, the limitations of ODA have been explained in detail which according to the authors were the main reasons for the rise of the idea of ‘circular cooperation’. The paper mentions how the ‘circular cooperation’ if adopted could add value and offer support to the Northern countries in their quest towards achieving development.

Triangular Cooperation is emerging as an important and distinct component in international development cooperation. In this issue, the paper on Japanese approaches to South-South and Triangular Cooperation has provided a platform for co-creation and mutual learning. The explanatory paper by Sachiyo Yasunaga, Minako Yamamoto, and Ryutaro Murotani describes the Japanese experience of both being an aid receiver and an aid provider. This has helped Japan’s better understanding of countries of the Global South from the perspective of adaptability and localisation as the country had been an aid receiver in the early post-war period wherein Japan adopted advanced Western technologies and systems and integrated them with the existing local norms and values. The paper goes on to explain the evolution of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and how it developed a system of the Knowledge Co-Creation Programme which has over 85,000 participants globally.

The next paper pertains to the Chinese take on issues of Triangular cooperation. The paper by Haisen Lin, and Chuanhong Zhang titled “China’s Participation in Triangular Co-operation: History, Characteristics and Challenges” draws on the historical origins of the Chinese development cooperation from being an aid receiver to an aid provider to the countries of the Global South. The authors have explained how the aspects of mutual learning, prioritising the agriculture sector, and coordinating the standards between the partners have been essential parameters in making the Chinese development cooperation and triangular cooperation a success and resulted in achieving development for the countries of the Global South. The challenges in Chinese tripartite cooperation have been explained well such as the higher transaction costs associated with dealing different systems in different countries, though Chinese authorities have been trying to harmonise the operational processes.

However, Triangular Cooperation is yet to be fully concretised into a well-defined idea. DCR would look forward to opportunities to initiate meaningful discussions not only on definitional aspects of triangular cooperation but also on its guiding principles

The interview section of this issue has an interview of Mr Papa Amadou Saar,

an experienced development practitioner. Papa Saar made some pertinent points regarding the developmental imperatives of the Global South and the ways in which relevant provider and partner stakeholders in their development journey be aware of the needs, particularities, specificities, history, and aspirations of the developing world. The interviewee further mentioned that an adequate timeline for a development plan to see a positive impact is around 25-30 years, with strategies and action plans renewed every five years. He gave the examples of Singapore and South Korea where achieving sustainable development had a long-term vision. The importance of youth and women-led development was also flagged as an important pillar towards achieving development. Papa Saar explained the importance of triangular cooperation in terms of raising financial resources and incorporating the expertise of other countries in carrying out projects and programmes in other countries of the Global South.

In the book review section, we identify an interesting edited volume titled “Emerging Trends in Social Policy from the South – Challenges and Innovations in Emerging Economies” edited by Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch, and Kelly Stetter. The book is a significant contribution to an important current discourse on social policy in the Global South, which includes a collection of papers by scholars and experts, and offers a critical examination of the ways in which emerging economies are addressing and responding to the complex social challenges that characterise their landscapes. By placing the Global South at the centre of social policy discussions, this work challenges conventional narratives and offers a nuanced perspective that highlights the agency, creativity and resilience of these countries. This book provides ideas that can be applied beyond economies such as China, India, South Africa and Russia to include countries of the Global South such as Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Indonesia. The key themes discussed in the book are in the domain of rights-based approach to social development, innovation in social protection, and addressing various forms of inequalities in the Global South.

The issue ends with SSC Statistics, where Sushil Kumar has elaborated on the global trends of triangular cooperation. The data shows that between 2016 and 2021, the triangular cooperation budget by EU institutions accounted for 37 per cent (USD 165 million), followed by Canada at 15 per cent (USD 69 million), Norway at 14 per cent (USD 62 million), and Germany at 13 per cent (USD 60 million). The paper adds that total funding from DAC member countries between 2016 and 2021 was USD 451 million, which accounted for 0.24 per cent of the total funding of ODA. Agriculture, food security and health sectors have received, the maximum budget for triangular cooperation which were 25 per cent, 15 per cent, and 13 per cent respectively.

We hope that the readers find this issue informative and engaging. As usual we look forward to our reader’s feedback and comments.

Weaving the Future: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into International Cooperation

Selina Baños and Andrea Vignolo*

Abstract: As we approach the end of the deadline to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, this paper proposes networks as a cooperation modality, from a focus on the cosmovision of Indigenous Peoples to contribute to develop solutions based on their ancestral knowledge, to the current challenges to save Mother Earth. This approach gathers diverse contributions from Indigenous Peoples. Taking into account the contributions of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TC) from a perspective that contemplates Indigenous wisdom, it is proposed to favour the work in cooperation networks as a natural and necessary evolution. These networks allow the inclusion of diverse perspectives and approaches, fostering the exchange of knowledge and experiences, based on the recognition of cultural diversity. In addition, they facilitate collaboration among diverse actors, promoting innovative solutions to local, regional and global challenges that take into account the knowledge of the communities.

Keywords: Triangular Cooperation, SSC, SDGs.

Persistent Inequalities: The Dilemma of International Cooperation

With almost 5 years to go before the end of the term to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, this paper seeks to contribute to rethink the international development cooperation system from a perspective that catalyses the efforts of traditional cooperation mechanisms, South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TC) from a holistic perspective of networks

where everything is interconnected. The worldview of Indigenous Peoples emphasises interconnectedness, seeing the world as a living and interrelated system where everything, from land and water to human beings, collectively, and other socio-political institutions, is interconnected, where natural and ancestral solutions are proposed to face various current challenges, to save the Mother Earth.

In September 2024, the Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow, convened by the United Nations, will take place, which

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invites us to rethink the international cooperation system, and seeks to rebuild confidence in a system that has been challenged and eroded by the multiple environmental, social, economic, cultural and geopolitical crises compromising humanity and the planet. The global community and the cooperation system face serious challenges in terms of the environment and climate change.

Climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, sustainable water management, and poverty are realities that affect all of us. However, vulnerable populations are the most exposed to these effects (PAHO, 2021). These phenomena impact our daily lives, the way we live, the way we dress, what we eat and, above all, our relationship with the planet. Successful examples, such as sustainable certifications and bio-products, valuing ecosystem services and collaborative watershed management between local governments and indigenous communities, demonstrate the viability and benefits of integrating western and indigenous practices. These cases underscore the potential for creating cooperation networks that will bring about a substantial shift towards a more inclusive, sustainable and equitable system of international cooperation.

The vision of Indigenous People on the relationship with the land, trees, water and all living and non-living beings on the planet contains ancestral wisdom that can help to face current challenges (Cajete, 2000). This ancestral knowledge can offer valuable and sustainable perspectives that could be the key to effectively address persistent problems,

despite numerous international efforts.

A Differentiated Approach to Development Cooperation

The international system, erected after World War II, was based on the establishment of formal regimes and intergovernmental relations. At the end of the 20th century, international cooperation underwent three major revolutions: in actors, instruments and objectives (Severino and Ray, 2009). In this context, progress is being made towards global governance organised around soft-law rules and informal institutions, where it is recognised that, along with States, civil society organisations and transnational corporations are also actors that influence international policy (Berman, 2017).

In recent decades, the cooperation base has broadened, cooperation between countries of the South has become increasingly important and working alliances between state and non-state actors such as academia and civil society have multiplied, aiming to combine knowledge and efforts for sustainable development.

Although non-state actors have been present in traditional cooperation since the 1970s, the experience they have accumulated “has positioned them in recent years as sources of knowledge, resources, capacities and technology, generating -and requiring- new ways of linking with public actors in favour of a coordinated and effective cooperation in its purpose” (Huitrón, 2020, p.73).

South-South Cooperation (SSC), since 2000, has gained renewed

momentum and consolidated as a cooperation modality for the resolution of common problems of the countries of the South. A cooperation, where the State, since its inception, has been the main agent and actor, occupies a key role in its conceptualisation, implementation and coordination at the technical and political level (Ojeda, 2019). However, in recent years, the Ibero-American region has seen an increase in SSC and TC initiatives that incorporate other non-state actors (SEGIB, 2022). Triangular Cooperation (TC) has been positioning itself as a horizontal cooperation modality that enables the implementation of initiatives through multi-stakeholder, multi-level and multi-sectoral partnerships. A modality that combines technical and financial resources through flexible and innovative partnerships, in order to broaden the scope of cooperation and adapt to specific contexts (UN, 2019).

It is worth mentioning that, although the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015) recognises SSC and TC as instruments of the international development cooperation system that contribute to the implementation of its goals and targets, it is only in the Final Declaration of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires in 2019, better known as PABA+40, that the importance of enabling and incorporating the participation of non-state actors and academia in SSC and TC in order to contribute to sustainable development is evident.

The increasing diversity of agents and actors participating in SSC and TC, challenges governmental administrative and regulatory arrangements. It calls for the design of new forms that consider institutional and cultural differences, to achieve sustainable development with a human right approach. This approach establishes the territory as a key subject through multi-actor collaboration and the construction of alliances and networks, both at a local and global level.

In this sense, changes are required in the international cooperation system that emphasise multidimensional development from a human rights approach. This involves considering cultural diversity and the construction of policies that treat the territory/ Mother Earth as a main subject. Such changes should be achieved through multi-stakeholder articulation and the construction of alliances and networks. This implies challenges in terms of governance, articulation, participation and co-creation of policies.

The world view of Indigenous People is an integral and holistic dimension that permeates all aspects of life, it is a way of understanding the world (Villela, 2009, p. 465). For Indigenous Peoples, everything is interconnected (UNDP Guatemala, 2006): The land, water, animals, plants, human beings, and institutions are part of an interrelated whole. (Villela, 2009, p. 465).

The worldview of Indigenous Peoples, or as Cajete aptly describes, “Indigenous Science”, (Cajete, 2000) offers valuable lessons from the collective

consciousness to address current global challenges, especially the relationship with Mother Earth. Understanding networks of interconnectedness can inspire more sustainable ways of living and managing natural resources, especially those related to Natural Resource Stewardship. By adopting a perspective that recognises the interdependence of all living things, it is possible to develop policies and practices that promote ecological harmony and balance (Berkes, 2012).

While the holistic worldview may manifest differently among different Indigenous Peoples, they share a common ground at its core. The interconnectedness of all things, they perceive the universe as interconnected web of relationships, where each being, each object and each subject is intrinsically linked to the others, forming a fabric where each thread is essential to the integrity of the whole (Cajete, 2000). Indigenous peoples perceive life as a continuous cycle of birth, death and rebirth. Indigenous ceremonies and rituals are often aligned with natural cycles, such as the seasons (Villela, 2009; Basso, 1996). In the Indigenous cosmovision, reciprocity is key. Relationship between humans and nature is based on balance and mutual exchange. Indigenous peoples believe that if something is taken from nature, it is necessary to ask permission and give something back in return with great respect (UNDP Guatemala, 2006; Basso, 1996).

Interconnection networks, according to the Indigenous cosmovision, can be understood as a network intertwined

with their natural environment in such a way that they conserve and protect it, in the same way, they recognise that each species has a role and that the alteration of one part can have repercussions in the whole system. Social and cultural networks are essential for social cohesion, family, and community networks that are based on mutual collaboration, solidarity, collective help and the transmission of ancestral knowledge. Finally, spiritual networks connect individuals not only with each other, but also with their ancestors and nature spirits (Knudtson and Suzuki, 2006). These connections are strengthened through ceremonial practices, meditations and offerings.

The concept of duality is a fundamental theme for Indigenous Peoples, which refers to the idea that there are two opposing and complementary forces in the universe that interact to create a balanced whole (Berke 2012, Smith 2012). In short, Indigenous spirituality and worldview invite us to perceive the world as an intricate web of interconnections, where each element is fundamental to the wellbeing of the whole. This vision becomes crucial for environmental sustainability by providing a framework for building more just and equitable societies.

Promoting Cooperative Networks to Address Global Challenges

Current cooperation mechanisms, such as SSC and TC are attempting to address development challenges in a meaningful way. These approaches are

based on the exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries with similar challenges, promoting greater ownership of the proposed solutions. However, despite progress and positive results, these mechanisms are still not sufficient to fully address social, economic and environmental problems globally as well as locally. SSC in the region is characterised by a collaborative approach among developing countries, sharing technical knowledge and successful practices. This method focuses on solidarity, equity and mutual participation. Conversely, TC enables the participation of other actors, such as developed countries and international organisations, which contribute resources, knowledge and experience. This creates a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to achieve common objectives. Both mechanisms can benefit from the advantages of networks, thereby increasing their scope and the sustainability of the results achieved.

Considering the essence of SSC and TC, cooperation networks emerge as a natural and necessary evolution. These networks allow the inclusion of diverse perspectives and approaches, creating a platform where knowledge, know-how, skills and experiences can be exchanged more effectively.

Cooperation networks can take advantage of this perspective, understood ancestrally by Indigenous Peoples, to create more integral and sustainable solutions, highlighting the relevance of integral individual and collective development. The Indigenous

cosmovision underlines that everything is interrelated and highlights the value of the connection of the surrounding environment.

In particular, the holistic perspective of Indigenous Peoples offers a deep understanding of the interconnectedness between all elements of life, using networks as the basis of the social, cultural, economic and political fabric to address challenges from various directions.

Cooperative Networks: A Holistic Approach

This holistic approach (Scheithauer, 2014-2015) is essential for addressing development challenges, as it allows us to address problems in their entirety, considering all aspects and understanding their complexity.

One of the key elements for building networks is clear and open communication. Approval processes based on real knowledge of the issues, even if they take time to be explained, are crucial to ensure that all parties involved know, understand and agree on the actions to be taken. This inclusive and participatory approach build trust, increase ownership and enable effective cooperation.

Networks as Instruments for Development

As stated in the National Cooperation Plan of the Republic of Panama 'Panama Cooperates 2030' (PNC, 2017), cooperation networks are characterised as a valuable instrument for development. These networks are recognised for

their breadth and openness, promoting dialogue and encounter between a variety of actors. This collaborative approach and constant exchange make it possible to implement innovative mechanisms that offer creative and effective solutions to challenges at both the local and regional levels.

After highlighting the fundamental role of cooperation networks as instruments for development, it is essential to explore concrete examples that demonstrate their effectiveness in practice. These examples not only illustrate the feasibility of this approach, but also highlight its positive impact in various fields. For example, the promotion of certifications and sustainable bioproducts in international markets has emerged as an effective strategy for combating poverty and protecting the environment. Similarly, projects focused on valuing the ecosystem services provided by nature, such as water purification and crop pollination, have proven to be viable and beneficial solutions. Additionally, collaborative watershed management between local governments and Indigenous communities underscores the importance of integrating ancestral knowledge into development policies, thus achieving sustainable water management and improving the quality of life of the communities involved. These successful examples validate the relevance of cooperation networks and highlight their capacity to generate innovative and effective solutions to global and local challenges.

It is pertinent to explore the role of cooperation networks in the creation of knowledge communities in specific areas. These networks, more than mere development mechanisms, act as dynamic platforms that facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences on specific topics, such as natural resource management, gender equity or youth empowerment in communities.

Cooperation networks (Panama Cooperates, 2017; Lopez and Garcia, 2022) both function as development mechanisms and serve as platforms for the creation of knowledge communities in specific areas, such as water management in a watershed, protection of an endangered species, implementation of conservation policies, etc. These networks may well focus on issues such as transboundary natural resource management, gender equity, and youth empowerment, both urban and rural.

Experts agree that development cooperation must adapt to the new times through the implementation of support, implementation and accompaniment networks. The growth in the diversity of actors in cooperation and their roles, together with the introduction of network elements, are shaping new forms of collaboration. There are several successful cases of models of cooperation with Indigenous Peoples that have implemented these concepts.

The relevance of these approaches is confirmed in the 2023 SDG/SDG report, which highlights how, at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, all SDGs

are significantly deviating from their intended trajectories. Despite some initial progress, the pandemic and other crises have stalled global progress on the SDGs. This report underscores the importance of reviewing and strengthening national strategies and multilateral cooperation, emphasising the urgent need to increase investments and reform the global financial architecture.

In this context, the application of collective network building methodologies for the submission of proposals and implementation of SSC and TC mechanisms, especially in environmental protection and climate change mitigation projects, requires a profound debate in the West. Understanding and assimilating this holistic view could significantly transform collaborative proposals. In the future, Indigenous Peoples may make a great contribution to humanity by providing innovative and collaborative mechanisms to address global challenges, for the time being, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) at its 23rd session approved a study for direct funding to support their actions for biodiversity, climate and the protection of Mother Earth. Its holistic vision and focus on the interconnectedness of all elements of life offer a sustainable and balanced model for global development.

In short, promoting cooperation networks is essential to face local, regional and global challenges effectively, allowing the mechanisms we already know to have a wider scope and a more inclusive and holistic collaboration. Taking advantage of the ancestral wisdom of Indigenous

Peoples, adapting the current cooperation mechanisms would allow the creation of Cooperation Networks, which would mean a substantive change in the way of understanding the international cooperation system in a more sustainable way for all.

Global Networks and Ancestral Wisdom: An Integrating Approach

Promoting cooperation networks to address global challenges is an imperative need in the current context. Despite significant efforts through SSC and TC, social, economic and environmental problems remain profound and complex. The inclusion of diverse perspectives, especially indigenous worldviews, can provide more holistic and effective solutions.

Cooperative networks enable the integration of multiple actors and approaches, facilitating an exchange of knowledge and experience that enriches the proposed solutions. SSC and TC have proven to be valuable approaches, but cooperative networks further extend their reach, promoting more inclusive and participatory collaboration. Clear and open communication, along with informed consent processes, are crucial elements for the success of these networks.

Successful examples, such as sustainable certifications and bioproducts, the valorisation of ecosystem services, and joint watershed management between local governments and indigenous communities, demonstrate that collaboration between the West and ancestral knowledge is possible and

beneficial. These cases show that it is feasible to integrate sustainable practices that benefit both local communities and the environment.

Expert perspectives and the growing diversity of actors in development cooperation underline the need to adapt to changing times. The introduction of networking elements and the creation of knowledge communities in specific areas are crucial steps for more effective and dynamic cooperation.

The application of collective network building methodologies and the implementation of SSC and TC mechanisms in environmental and climate change mitigation projects require in-depth debate and adaptation in Western policies and practices. Understanding and adopting the holistic view of Indigenous Peoples could significantly transform the approach to global development.

In the future, Indigenous Peoples have the potential to make a monumental contribution to humanity by providing innovative and collaborative approaches to address global challenges. Their holistic perspective and emphasis on the interconnectedness of all elements of life offer a sustainable and balanced model for global development.

In short, cooperative networks represent a necessary evolution to address global challenges more effectively. By incorporating the ancient wisdom of Indigenous Peoples and adapting development practices to modern times, we can create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

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Reimagining Development Partnerships: Circular Cooperation

Jonathan Glennie & Paty Alemañy*

Abstract: The paper explores the contemporary landscape of international cooperation, highlighting the persistence of outdated frameworks that perpetuate unequal power dynamics between “developed” and “developing” countries. Despite efforts driven by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), cooperation often remains vertical, with Northern countries assuming a dominant role as “donors” and experts. Circular Cooperation emerges as a modality shift, aiming to overcome North-South divisions and foster mutual benefit among all nations. It emphasises reciprocity, respectful relationships, and democratic decision-making in global cooperation strategies. While Circular Cooperation represents a qualitative advance, it acknowledges that other modalities are still relevant depending on the specific context. The paper identifies several areas where Circular Cooperation can thrive, promoting knowledge exchange and collaboration without underestimating the southern experience. Through this lens, the paper calls for a reevaluation of traditional cooperation models/modalities and a move towards more inclusive and solidaristic approaches to international development.

Keywords: Triangular Cooperation, Circular Cooperation, SDGs

Introduction

Despite the paradigm shifts driven by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a significant portion of the international cooperation ecosystem remains entrenched in an outdated approach that portrays “developed” countries as “donors” and “experts,” while “developing” countries are perceived as passive “recipients.” This narrow perspective not only limits the exchange of knowledge and expertise but also perpetuates a hierarchical structure where development initiatives are predominantly determined by the

Global North, undermining southern experiences and solutions.

The urgency of this transformation is underscored by the pressing issues facing humanity, as reflected in the Global Solidarity Score: our world in 2023 is in the Danger Zone, with a Global Solidarity Score of 39 out of 100 (Global Nation, 2023). While the world is not yet at a Breaking Point, it is still far from achieving the Shared Purpose zone we aspire to.

To truly address the complexities of our time, a paradigm shift is needed. It requires building from traditional

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notions of aid and cooperation towards a more inclusive and equitable model. By recognising the unique strengths and perspectives of all countries, beyond their economic status, we can foster a horizontal relationship built on mutual respect, collaboration and solidarity.

From Vertical, Horizontal and Triangular to Circular

According to Alonso and Glennie (2015), development cooperation is

[Any] activity that aims to support national or international development priorities, is not driven by profit, discriminates in favor of developing countries, and is based on cooperative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership.

Utilising geospatial analogies, this section aims to elucidate the existing modalities of development cooperation and explore how circular cooperation can expand upon them, addressing gaps left unanswered by them.

From Vertical Cooperation

Over time, the term “vertical cooperation” has become synonymous, in many contexts, with the official resources made available by members of the OECD DAC, namely ODA. It involves a northern “donor” providing to a southern “recipient” country. The concept of North-South Cooperation has a rich history of theoretical debates surrounding its definition. Since 1961, these discussions have been spearheaded by

developed countries within the OECD/DAC framework. It was within this context that the foundational elements of Official Development Assistance (ODA) were first established (Malacalza, 2011).

Vertical cooperation, widely known and the subject of ongoing academic debates, has several inherent limitations, many of which extend beyond its modality and are rooted in its history. In this paper, our examination will center on a selection of these limitations associated with its vertical orientation, recognising that there are many more historically addressed by movements such as Aid Decolonisation and within contemporary frameworks like Global Public Investment. Following include some of these limitations:

Allocation Mechanisms: The allocation and classification of countries by the OECD rely on metrics established by the World Bank, which use per capita income as the sole indicator for development. This approach, based on minimal economic indicators, fails to capture the complexity and diversity of the realities of aid-receiving countries. It overlooks the strengths and capacities of the participating countries and does not necessarily involve developing countries in their own development processes.

Beyond Finit Aid: The practice of graduation based on income, where countries exceeding a certain per capita GDP threshold are deemed ineligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA), underscores the shortcomings of relying solely on GDP as a measure of development. This approach fails to consider the multifaceted realities of countries’ development trajectories.

Moreover, it creates a rigid system that prematurely terminates cooperation between countries that may still require support to address deep-rooted challenges. These countries often possess valuable best practices that could benefit others, especially in areas not adequately captured by GDP metrics.

Geography constraints: The perpetuation of the belief that knowledge sharing is primarily the responsibility of Northern countries exacerbates a geographic bias in Aid distribution, hindering the holistic development of regions beyond the Global North. This bias is particularly problematic given the challenges posed by an economic development paradigm centered on resource exploitation, which has historically led to complex challenges in diverse ecosystems, raising doubts about its long-term viability and universality. It is increasingly clear that economic growth alone cannot ensure comprehensive development.

Narrative: The narrative surrounding traditional cooperation has long been entrenched in the paradigm of charity, portraying it as a benevolent act of generosity from wealthier nations to their less fortunate counterparts. However, this antiquated perspective fails to capture the multifaceted nature of modern development cooperation. The narrative of charity not only perpetuates hierarchical power dynamics but also undermines the dignity and agency of aid recipients. This patronising attitude not only hampers effective cooperation but also reinforces existing inequalities. Therefore, the narrative surrounding

development cooperation must evolve to reflect the principles of mutual benefit and equality (Glennie, 2020). To make the space more open and inclusive, it is essential to enhance its flexibility. Currently, the structure is quite limited in both its narrative and design. It lacks openness in terms of geography and fails to involve non-traditional actors.

To Horizontal Cooperation

The closest approximation to horizontal cooperation within the current framework is found in South-South Cooperation. Forty-five years after the Declaration of Buenos Aires (1979) and more than 40 years since the establishment of ECLAC's South-South Cooperation Committee, the landscape of international relations has changed significantly from its early days. The growing importance of countries that historically were aid recipients but have now emerged as donors—such as China, India, and South Korea in Asia; Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Cuba, and Venezuela in Latin America; and South Africa in Africa—demonstrates the need to question traditional North-South and even South-South dynamics. We find ourselves at a crossroads, where it is crucial to ensure that these relationships are increasingly tailored to the specific needs of each case (Malacalza and Lengyel, 2011).

In this new context, where some historical aid recipients have emerged as donors, it is important to note that certain South-South Cooperation initiatives may still exhibit a vertical orientation, such as for example a China-Zambia partnership.

As Malacalza has highlighted the dynamic nature of South-South Cooperation :

Similarly, this trend has drawn the attention of academics, politicians and consultants who have dealt with the qualitative differences in this form by using adjectives such as developmental, supportive, flexible, adaptable, horizontal and humanist to qualify it. Thus, in some cases, these characterisations have even identified SSC as a dynamic with a nature, objectives and instruments better (and that should be considered an alternative) to those used by the “traditional” North-South Cooperation (NSC). However, the random use of the term SSC to indicate a wide range of phenomena associated with relations among Southern countries often involves a slight concern to define and delimit its conceptual scope, stimulating a connotative vagueness and making it impossible to generate theoretical knowledge on its dynamics (2011).

Moreover, horizontal approaches can also apply to North-North cooperation, as seen in collaborations among European nations. Traditional classifications are no longer adequate for addressing current challenges. Instead of using outdated structures, we must rebuild them to facilitate honest and efficient exchanges. By “horizontal cooperation,” we imply collaborative efforts among countries of comparable size or nature.

And Triangular Cooperation

In recent years, the concept of “triangular” cooperation has garnered prominence, seeking to transcend the binary donor/recipient relationship and foster engagement in development projects among communities of varying wealth levels, leveraging complementary strengths.

Typically, this involves a high-income country providing funding, referred to as the facilitating partner, a middle-income country offering expertise, known as the pivot partner, and directing development impact towards a low-income country, termed the beneficiary partner. However, even this triangular approach retains verticality, wherein a less affluent country receives support from nations higher up the income hierarchy.

Following is the United Nations’ definition of Triangular Cooperation

Triangular cooperation involves partnerships driven by countries in the Southern hemisphere, often between two or more developing nations, with the backing of a developed country or multilateral organisation. These partnerships aim to implement development programmes and projects. Evidence suggests that Southern providers of development aid often require financial, technical, and expertise support from multilateral and/or developed-country partners while assisting other developing nations (see TCDC/9/3). Northern partners also benefit,

as they can tap into increased institutional capacity in the South and amplify the impact of their aid by leveraging resources from multiple Southern partners. Developed nations increasingly endorse this developmental approach, expressing a willingness to share their experiences and lessons learned. However, they emphasise that the process of triangular cooperation must be led and owned by Southern actors to ensure effective development outcomes. (2016).

While Triangular Cooperation represents a positive step forward in international development cooperation, there is still room for improvement. It often relies on a vertical logic for money allocation and operational dynamics, maintaining a hierarchical structure (donor-recipient framework). Moreover, it tends to oversimplify the global South by understanding it as a homogeneous entity, ignoring the diverse needs and capabilities of individual countries.

Furthermore, the definition provided emphasises the advantages accruing to the global North merely from Southern capacity building, framed as a “win-win” situation. However, this perspective overlooks the potential for reciprocal learning, wherein the North could also acquire valuable insights and best practices from the South.

To Circular

While these modalities of cooperation are undeniably valuable, they still exhibit the characteristics of outdated 20th-century frameworks. In the contemporary landscape, characterised by evolving patterns of education, mobility, and technology diffusion, opportunities for countries and communities across all income levels to contribute and lead have become increasingly feasible.

The notion of Circular Cooperation emerges as a paradigm shift in the field of international cooperation, grounded in the principle of mutuality as a starting point. This approach recognises the importance of reciprocity in designing global cooperation strategies and seeks to optimise the cooperation system by creating an environment based on respectful relationships among stakeholders. It promotes democratic decision-making regarding the scope, purpose, and accountability of contributions.

However, it is important to note that Circular Cooperation will not always be the appropriate modality. The choice of cooperation modality will depend on a series of criteria, especially based on the specific problem to tackle.

Below are several topics identified as compatible with Circular Cooperation, whereby there exists no theoretical or practical basis to presume that Northern countries possess more knowledge or have more experience compared to Southern countries:

Subject Areas and Circular Cooperation

Areas	How the South Can Support the North
Human Rights	Sharing successful grassroots movements and legal frameworks that have advanced gender equality and anti-discrimination policies. Particularly around gender equity, discrimination, youth and migration.
Climate Adaptation	The recognition of indigenous knowledge's significant role in climate change adaptation is gaining traction, as evidenced by its inclusion to consider different knowledge systems within the fifth assessment report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Jan Petzold et al, 2020). This includes urban sustainability, risk reduction, resilience building, among others.
Drug Abuse Management	Offering insights from community-driven rehabilitation programmes and traditional healing practices. This approach, used by South Africa on a local programme, has proven effective in identifying and addressing local public health issues related to substance abuse, promoting the rebuilding of community control over associated harms (Abruso et al, 2022).
Mental Health	Introducing holistic and culturally sensitive approaches to mental health care, including Sarason's (1974) concept of the psychological sense of community (PSOC), which emphasises belonging and being an integral part of a larger collectivity.
Social Programmes to Combat Hunger	Demonstrating successful community-led food security and nutrition programmes. For instance, initiatives such as the "A Community-Led Central Kitchen Model for School Feeding Programmes in the Philippines"+ could offer valuable support in addressing food-related challenges in the global North.
Education	The South can play a crucial role in enhancing access to education and promoting inclusivity by sharing inclusive educational practices and alternative teaching methods. These approaches not only foster greater educational participation but also improve learning outcomes and educational equity. Through collaborative efforts, innovative approaches to education can be shared and adapted, promoting access, inclusivity, and mental health support within educational systems worldwide.
Conflict Resolution	Providing models of community-based conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives, as demonstrated by the research conducted by Wallace (2009) offers valuable insights into effective grassroots approaches for negotiating power dynamics and fostering social change.
Comprehensive Care Systems	Demonstrating integrated health care systems that focus on community involvement and preventative care, as discussed by Mandoki and Brosius (2020) through their research on South Asia care practices, aligns with the contemporary understanding of active aging within the human development framework. This framework emphasises lifelong engagement in meaningful relationships and contexts to delay physical, psychological, and social decline, contributing to overall well-being and quality of life.
Science and Technology	Sharing innovative technologies and collaborative research models, exemplified by initiatives like the Plan Ceibal in Uruguay, could enrich knowledge exchange, as data already show significant impact in reducing connectivity gaps (Rivoir, 2009).

Source: Author's Compilation.

The circular cooperation model aims to build bridges between the global North and South, which is essential for addressing concepts of equity and international solidarity.

As Martins (2020) highlights, The concept of “equity” is often used in global development frameworks to describe actions taken by the global North towards the global South. That is, Northern institutions aim to carry out development in a way that ensures their interventions reach various groups equitably, especially the poorest and most marginalised. However, this does not address the equally important issue of creating systems that foster equity between the South and the North, particularly in the context of entrenched power imbalances resulting from complex histories of colonialism and current-day neocolonial practices (Hickel, 2018).

Circular Cooperation emerges as a paradigm shift, rooted in the principle of mutuality and reciprocity, offering a more inclusive and equitable approach to global collaboration. By promoting a horizontal decision-making process and respectful relationships among stakeholders, Circular Cooperation seeks to optimise cooperation systems for sustainable development.

However, it is important to recognise that Circular Cooperation may not always be the most appropriate modality, and the choice should be guided by specific

criteria aligned with the problem at hand. As we navigate the complexities of development cooperation, it is essential to embrace innovative approaches like Circular Cooperation to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of our collective efforts towards a more equitable and prosperous world.

Embracing Circularity

By recognising the globally relevant contributions of all countries and communities and affording them respect and agency in international partnerships, circular cooperation offers a more compelling and morally sound rationale to engage in collaborative efforts towards sustainable development.

In summary, the concept of Circular Cooperation offers a fundamental shift from outdated models of international cooperation, emphasising mutual respect, equitable partnerships, and shared responsibilities among nations of all income levels towards common goals. By recognising the invaluable contributions of all income level countries and communities and granting them the respect and power they deserve on the global stage, Circular Cooperation provides a more compelling and ethically sound rationale for high-income contributors to engage in collaborative efforts towards sustainable development.

Furthermore, while the concept of Circular Cooperation is still under development, it offers a compelling framework for development projects. This approach recognises their invaluable role as co-contributors to international endeavors, thereby offering a more

compelling and ethically sound self-interest rationale for contributions from high-income participants.

Endnote

See more about this programme here: https://www.ghspjournal.org/content/10/6/e2100391?utm_source=TrendMD&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Global_Health_per_cent253A_Science_and_Practice_TrendMD_1&fbclid=IwAR1Yc8iSutEabb4-3TAuTzaIq5h5gTSc3bhH0d3gfKeUPUrF0pf10B267iE

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Japan's Approach to South-South and Triangular Cooperation: A Platform for Co-Creation and Mutual Learning

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Abstract: The paper addresses global development challenges and the significance of South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focuses on Japan's historical and strategic emphasis on triangular cooperation, which integrates knowledge co-creation and mutual learning. Since the 1970s, Japan, primarily through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has initiated numerous triangular cooperation endeavours, engaging over 85,000 participants globally via its Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP). The paper illustrates Japan's dual role as both aid recipient and donor, which influences its philosophy underpinning its development cooperation. JICA's triangular cooperation has evolved over time, supported by international dialogues, partnerships, and policy initiatives, demonstrating its effectiveness in diverse sectors like health crises, post-conflict reconstruction, and agriculture. Today, Japan seeks to leverage these experiences, viewing triangular cooperation as a platform to co-create solutions and forge new partnerships, aiming to enhance its collective action on global issues and contribute to the SDGs.

Keywords: *Triangular cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Knowledge co-creation, Mutual learning, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Development challenges, Global partnerships.*

Introduction

The world is currently facing multiple development challenges, including post-pandemic recovery, climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and food insecurity, pushing millions into extreme poverty. Estimates indicate an annual financing gap of US\$ 3.9 trillion in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (OECD,

2020). With only 17 per cent of SDG targets on track, the achievement of these global goals is at significant risk (UN, 2024). Recognising the urgency of these challenges, the call for global partnership is more important than ever.

Japan has been engaging in and promoting triangular cooperation for over a half century since the 1970s, making it one of the traditional donors with the longest history in this field.

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The Japanese government has placed triangular cooperation at the center of its development cooperation policy (MOFA, 2013). Based on this strategic direction, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)² has accumulated extensive experience in triangular cooperation with its partner countries around the world. Approximately 85,000 people worldwide have participated in triangular cooperation within its flagship programme, the Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP). Japan and its partner countries provide training courses for third countries, focusing on specific development challenges and joint solution development (JICA, 2024). As a development agency with a wide range of modalities, from technical cooperation to financial cooperation, JICA tailors in its triangular cooperation approaches based on the needs and conditions of its partner countries to maximise outputs and outcomes.

JICA's triangular cooperation has evolved over time with changes in the international positioning of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTrC). Throughout its history of triangular cooperation, Japan has emphasised knowledge co-creation and mutual learning, inspired by its own experiences, since the Meiji Restoration in the 19th century, of adapting Western solutions to fit its local context. Since the initiation of SSTrC, Japan has created various momentum to boost this modality and expanded it globally through agreements with partner countries, networking through international dialogues, and integration into regular development

cooperation programmes as knowledge sharing. Today, triangular cooperation is recognised as a complementary modality to South-South Cooperation for contributing to the achievement of SDGs and addressing global issues. In this context, JICA has utilised its triangular cooperation on the ground to tackle global challenges, such as pandemic responses, mine action in conflict-affected areas, and support for small-scale farmers. Now development issues are becoming more complex and multifaceted. In addition, many emerging and developing countries are proceeding with institutionalisation of cooperation agencies, and actively taking leadership roles in sharing experiences and know-how in managing cooperation programmes. Also, issues that were not commonly addressed by South-South cooperation, such as experiences of fragile and conflict-affected countries, are being addressed recently by sharing knowledge among countries with similar experiences. Against this backdrop, Japan has been shifting its strategy to view triangular cooperation as regional and global platforms for co-creating development solutions and strengthening its ties with like-minded partners through mutual learning.

Japan's Journey in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Japan learned the importance of knowledge co-creation and mutual learning during its modernisation in the 19th century. Japan adopted advanced Western technologies and systems and integrated them with the existing local

norms and values (Kitaoka, 2019), thereby creating solutions tailored to the local context. This approach was further reinforced by its own experience of post-war recovery and subsequent economic advancement. During the reconstruction phase following World War II, Japan received significant aid for infrastructure development, funded by the World Bank and other entities. Simultaneously, Japan became an aid provider by joining the Colombo Plan in 1954 and began to take a leadership role in South-South cooperation (SSC) (JICA, 2005).³

Japan started sharing its development experiences, particularly with Asian countries, emphasising the importance of self-help efforts for aid recipients based on its post-war recovery and economic advancement.

This dual role of being both an aid recipient and donor provided Japan with a unique perspective on the effectiveness of SSC, shaping its development cooperation philosophy. Since then, Japan's philosophy has been that cooperation is not just about bringing finance or ready-made solutions from Japan, but about working together with partner countries to develop solutions that fit each country's context.

Starting in 1994, Japan signed Partnership Programme agreements with 12 countries⁴ that were showing economic growth and gaining potential as new providers of international cooperation. Under these Partnership Programmes, Japan and its partner countries held annual consultation meetings to discuss their joint technical cooperation projects, evaluate the outcomes, and plan for the

following year. While some of these Partnership Programmes are less active today, others continue to thrive.

In 2002, triangular cooperation gained additional momentum through international frameworks for facilitation, such as the JICA-ASEAN Regional Cooperation Meeting (JARCOM), later renamed the Japan-Southeast Asian Meeting for South-South Cooperation (J-SEAM). These frameworks promoted regional knowledge exchange among ASEAN countries (JICA, 2018a). Moreover, Japan supported ASEAN initiatives through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (MOFA, 2022).

Additionally, Japan hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), with the third conference in 2003 advocating for South-South cooperation through the "Asia-Africa Initiative." This initiative involved Asian countries in supporting African development, with JICA ensuring the participation of these countries from the project formulation stage to foster ownership and match needs and resources (JICA, 2005). This approach fostered ownership among the involved parties and matched needs and resources after identifying the needs of the recipient side. These initiatives promoted an understanding of the significance of triangular cooperation and the voluntary efforts of emerging countries.

With these developments, the Japanese government began emphasising SSTRC as effective method for promoting development cooperation. The 2003 Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter clearly stated that Japan will

promote this modality in partnership with countries in Asia and other regions.⁵

Furthermore, JICA established guidelines in 2005 to systematise triangular cooperation. These guidelines highlight the values of JICA's trilateral cooperation, describe practice trends in different regions, and set directions to address future challenges (JICA, 2005).

To promote knowledge co-creation and mutual learning, gathering information on local needs and contexts was crucial. In 2003, JICA underwent a major strategic shift, transforming itself into an independent implementing agency apart from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Under the leadership of Madame Sadako Ogata, who became JICA's president that year, the organisation adopted an on-the-ground approach known as "gemba." This strategy involved assigning more personnel to each country and delegating more authority to its overseas offices, rather than centralising control in its Tokyo headquarters. This shift accelerated the gathering of information on each country's needs and streamlined decision-making in various cooperation efforts, including triangular cooperation (JICA, 2018b).

Today, this approach remains a core aspect of JICA's operational vision. JICA gathers information and assesses needs from 150 developing countries through its 96 overseas offices. In countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, and Egypt, national staff with over 20 years of experience in triangular cooperation share their extensive knowledge with other overseas office staff. Similarly,

Japanese experts are assigned to regions like Central America, specifically the Central American Integration System (SICA), and to Brazil, at the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), to listen to local needs and facilitate project formulation and implementation with JICA.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation as Effective Modalities for Contributing to SDGs.

Triangular cooperation is increasingly recognised as an effective and complementary modality to SSC for contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and addressing global issues. The Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) in 2019 marked a milestone in promoting this recognition and reaffirming its potential. UN Member States acknowledged that SSTRC could leverage and mobilise additional technical and financial resources, enable stakeholders to share a broader range of experiences, and build partnerships and trust among all participants toward achieving the SDGs (UN, 2019). Japan also made an effort to deepen the discussion on the importance of triangular cooperation for BAPA+40. JICA had long been supported by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) to jointly organise the Director Generals Forum for Sustainable Development alongside the United Nations South-South Cooperation EXPO, where delegates from UN

member states shared their respective experiences and learned from each other to further improve the impact of their cooperation. Under its G20 Presidency in 2019, following up the discussion initiated by Argentine Presidency in 2018, Japan enhanced the discussions in the G20 Development Working Group on triangular cooperation by organising a side event in January 2019, focusing on “Effective Triangular Cooperation to Achieve the 2030 Agenda.” The event discussed the role of G20 countries and international organisations in achieving the 2030 Agenda and shared practical examples of triangular cooperation (MOFA, 2019).

In the recent years, Japan has been utilising triangular cooperation by integrating it into its regular development cooperation programmes and projects as integral elements to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and tackle global challenges with its partner countries, focusing on knowledge co-creation and mutual learning. One example is a countermeasure against a health crisis. In response to the spread of the Ebola virus in West Africa, JICA launched a programme aimed at preparing for pandemics and strengthening the capacity of disease control experts in Africa through research. Using triangular cooperation, JICA was able to scale up the programme’s impact from Egypt, Ghana, and Kenya to almost half of the countries on the African continent. Based on this partnership, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana, a partner of the programme,

was able to conduct over 370,000 PCR tests between March and mid-July 2020, representing around 80 per cent of the PCR tests in the country. Furthermore, in January and February of the following year, Ghana hosted an online training on countermeasures against infectious diseases, including COVID-19, with the participation of 15 experts from nine countries in West Africa (GPI, 2021).

Similarly, JICA utilises triangular cooperation to support conflict-affected countries. JICA has supported the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) for over 20 years, enabling it to develop one of the best operational mine action capacities in the world. JICA then encouraged CMAC to start cooperating with other mine-contaminated countries such as Colombia, Lao PDR, Iraq, and Angola, thereby connecting their technology specific to conflict-affected countries to others facing similar challenges. In 2023, CMAC invited staff from Ukraine’s State Emergency Service (SESU) for training to enhance their mine action capacity (JICA, 2023). Now CMAC has accumulated rich experiences of co-creating mine action equipment and methodologies with various partners trying to introduce and develop new technologies, while JICA facilitates CMAC’s cooperation with new partner countries by deploying these new technologies.

JICA implements triangular cooperation to contribute to SDGs, too. From 2006 to 2009, JICA launched the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) approach in Kenya, which strengthened the

capacity of smallholder farmers and nearly doubled their average income. From 2010 to 2015, the second phase was implemented, establishing a unit dedicated to expanding the SHEP approach within the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture. Based on this cooperation, Japan and Kenya began providing training courses on this approach starting in 2014, inviting other African countries (JICA, 2015). To date, 57 countries have adopted this approach, expanding to Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America (Interview with a JICA staff). This exemplifies how triangular cooperation can start small in one country and then expand to other countries and regions.

As illustrated by these cases, JICA follows the golden rule of “Start small and then Scale-Up.” This strategy involves beginning with mutual learning and knowledge co-creation with one partner country and then expanding to other countries or regions if successful. During this process, JICA’s triangular cooperation transforms local institutions into pivotal “Centers of Excellence,” strengthening their institutional capacity (Yamashita, 2022). Therefore, it is not merely an extension of bilateral cooperation but a broad application of co-created solutions to address context-specific regional challenges.

With its long-standing experience in triangular cooperation, JICA supports emerging development cooperation agencies in strengthening their capacity, too. In 2008, during the High-Level Forum on SSC, Directors-General level delegates declared the need to reinforce the management practices

of development cooperation agencies responsible for SSTRc to enhance and increase development results. Following the forum, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) confirmed its support for this endeavour, particularly to assist least-developed countries. JICA and the UNOSSC joined this commitment. From 2012 to 2022, they provided training programmes, inviting approximately 40 countries. Recently, JICA has provided its partner agencies with lectures on JICA’s operations from project formulation to evaluation, supporting them in improving their management practices (Interview with a JICA staff).

Triangular Cooperation as a Platform for Co-creating Solutions.

The revised Japanese Development Cooperation Charter in 2023 focuses on co-creation and solidarity to tackle complex global issues with diverse stakeholders. By recognising the importance of co-creation with various partners including those in developing countries, it reaffirms Japan’s commitment to enhancing SSC and triangular cooperation, working together with both developed and developing countries.⁶ Moreover, JICA launched its new strategies in 20 thematic areas, known as “JICA Global Agenda,” in 2021, which illustrates JICA’s vision and strategies in each of these 20 sectors and aims to bring together diverse stakeholders and capabilities to tackle these challenges and maximise development impact in partner countries. The JICA Global Agenda and its implementing strategies include

many examples of knowledge sharing with good practices of JICA's partner institutions in developing countries in each sector (e.g. Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority for water supply) and its scale-up to the regional and global levels (JICA, 2022). This demonstrates JICA's unique approach, which includes elements of triangular cooperation in its regular practice and co-creation of ideas as the foundation of Japanese cooperation.

In addition, while JICA has been implementing trilateral cooperation in many projects as an integral part of its regular development cooperation operations, without necessarily calling it triangular cooperation, today's development issues are becoming increasingly complex and multifaceted. Additionally, some of the countries that JICA has supported in strengthening their institutional capacity over the past several decades are now promoting institutionalisation of their SSC and taking on leadership roles as emerging partners. There are more and more cases in which JICA works with these newly emerging cooperation agencies. In light of these changing dynamics in development cooperation, JICA is rethinking how it can leverage its evolving assets and what contributions it can make to the global international cooperation architecture.

One new perspective that JICA foresees for future triangular cooperation is that it becomes evident that the need for regional and global platforms for sharing experiences and knowledge of these emerging cooperation agencies

is increasing. These knowledge-sharing exercises among agencies will enhance their common understanding and coordination among them. To date, JICA has been implementing triangular cooperation by partnering with new countries and scaling up bilateral cooperation to other countries. With the emergence of various development cooperation agencies, JICA aims to strengthen dialogues with these new partners who share common values and can jointly create development solutions.

Furthermore, to improve the efficiency of its conventional triangular cooperation schemes, JICA leverages the assets accumulated over years of triangular cooperation as "public goods" for a region to tackle compounded crises and achieve SDGs. In Latin America, for example, JICA is co-creating a platform with its partner countries and their sector-specific institutions as centers of excellence. This platform identifies capabilities for a wide range of development challenges and catalogues them. Additionally, JICA is exploring ways to organise training courses and send experts to third countries more efficiently and quickly. Through these initiatives, JICA aims to streamline the effective use of triangular partnerships as regional and global public goods, promoting knowledge co-creation and mutual learning even further.

By leveraging resources, knowledge, and capacities in complementary ways, the international community can maximise the potential of triangular cooperation to significantly boost progress toward the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda,

especially during this critical Decade of Action. The success of triangular cooperation depends on collective and coordinated commitment. Notably, the G20 Presidency of Brazil has recently prioritised triangular cooperation at the G20 Working Groups and is leading discussions on catalysing this cooperation to build trust and partnerships (OECD, n.d.). In this context, Japan is committed to working together to create an environment that promotes effective SSTRC, based on mutual trust and solidarity, ensuring that SSTRC brings together diverse actors and broadens knowledge and innovation to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Conclusion

This paper examined how Japan, based on the history of its own development experiences, has emphasised knowledge co-creation and mutual learning, embedding triangular cooperation in all aspects of its development cooperation. Considering the changing dynamics in global development cooperation, Japan is now rethinking triangular cooperation as a platform for co-creating development solutions and expanding partnerships with new collaborators. JICA believes that this will mainstream the effective use of triangular cooperation as regional and global public goods. Triangular cooperation has the potential to bring various actors together through partnership and enhance unity, contributing to a fair and equitable international order and the achievement of SDGs. As the challenges, facing the international community, become more complex and multifaceted, it is

becoming more important to share the experiences and knowledge of the countries of the South and promote common understanding and mutual learning in order to make triangular cooperation an even more effective approach.

Endnotes

- ¹ In this paper, “JICA” refers specifically to the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which executes programmes assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Meanwhile, “Japan” typically denotes the collective actions of both MOFA and JICA unless stated otherwise.
- ² South-South Cooperation (SSC) refers to “the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries” (UNFPA, 2016). Japan in the past perceived it as a member of the developing countries until it became a member of Development Assistance Committee of OECD in 1964 (OECD, n.d.).
- ³ These countries include Singapore (1994), Thailand (1994), Egypt (1998), Chile (1999), Tunisia (1999), Brazil (2000), Argentina (2001), the Philippines (2002), Indonesia (2003), Mexico (2003), Morocco (2003), and Jordan (2004) (Yamashita, 2022).
- ⁴ “Japan will actively promote South-South cooperation in partnership with more advanced developing countries in Asia and other regions. Japan will also strengthen collaboration with regional cooperation frameworks and will support region-wide cooperation that encompasses several countries” (MOFA, 2003).
- ⁵ “Japan will strengthen the sharing of knowledge and resources as well as collaboration with other donors, both developed and developing countries that share the common objectives and principles of development cooperation... By promoting multilayered multilateral cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, Japan will provide developing countries with a variety of options” (MOFA, 2023).

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China's Participation in Triangular Co-operation: History, Characteristics and Challenges

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Abstract: China has been an active triangular cooperation player since the early 2000s and China's participation in tripartite cooperation has evolved in three stages: from a reserved participant to a leading player, and has been achieving remarkable results through partnerships with multilateral institutions, developed countries, and the private sector. Key characteristics of China's triangular cooperation include adherence to South-South cooperation principles, emphasis on its own development experiences sharing, mutual learning and complementarity, and prioritisation of the agricultural sector. Despite its many advantages, triangular cooperation led by China also faces many challenges, such as the complexity of coordination, geoeconomics and geopolitical tensions, low capacity of partner countries and effectiveness measuring, etc.

Keywords: Tripartite Cooperation; South-South Cooperation, Global Development Initiative

Introduction

China's participation in international triangular cooperation reflects its evolution from a development aid recipient to a major donor and development partner. The triangular cooperation model combines the resources, expertise, and capabilities of each participant to address complex development challenges, particularly in the Global South. Historically, China received substantial development assistance from international organisations and bilateral donors, which played a crucial role in its economic modernisation and poverty

reduction efforts. These experiences provided China with valuable insights into the mechanisms of international development cooperation and highlighted the importance of effective aid management and utilisation. As China's economy grew, so did its capacity to engage in development cooperation. By the early 2000s, China had transformed into the world's second-largest economy, which allowed it to shift from being primarily an aid recipient to becoming a significant donor and development partner. This transition marked a pivotal moment in China's international role, as it began to contribute to global

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development not only financially but also through sharing its development experiences and expertise.

Triangular cooperation is an international cooperation modality developed on the basis of formally proposed in the Nairobi Declaration issued by the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (HLC) in 2009, South-South cooperation refers to “South-South initiatives facilitated by traditional donor countries and multilateral organisations through the provision of financial resources, training, managerial and technological systems and other forms of support” . Thus, triangular cooperation generally involves traditional donors in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD), emerging donors in developing countries, and recipient countries, and in some cases multilateral international organisations (Zahran, Roman-Morey, and Inomata n.d.). This model leverages the strengths of each player to create synergies that can effectively address development challenges. Traditional donors typically provide financial resources and technical assistance, emerging economies, such as China offer relevant development experiences and innovative solutions, and recipient countries contribute local knowledge and implementation capacity (Zhang, 2017), thus enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of development projects by combining different forms of expertise and resources.

China has definitely enjoyed significant comparative advantages in participating into this kind of triangular cooperation due to its similar historical background with many other developing countries. However, China’s rapid economic growth and increasing global influence have also brought complexities to China’s role in the triangular cooperation, to be a donor or just to share China’s development experiences? Due to these complexities and other challenges faced by triangular cooperation, China has shown some reservations in participating in trilateral cooperation from the very beginning.

Evolution of China’s Participation in Triangular Cooperation

The development of China’s participation in triangular cooperation has gone through two stages: a start-up stage and an expansion stage. Each stage has its own unique background and characteristics, reflecting the process of China’s deepening and expansion in international development cooperation.

Start-up Stage (early 1980s to 2000s)

Between the 1980s and the early 2000s, China was in the early stages of reform and opening up, with rapid economic development but relatively limited experience in the field of international cooperation. At that time, China’s foreign aid was mainly bilateral, and

triangular cooperation was still in the exploratory stage (Gabas and Tang, 2014; Hooijmaaijers, 2018). Due to the global food crisis in the 1980s, many international organisations and developed countries began to focus on promoting agricultural development through multilateral cooperation. China also began to explore cooperation with international organisations in the areas of agricultural technology and capacity building. In 1981, China partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to implement the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) project, marking China's first attempt at tripartite cooperation (Zhang, 2020). In addition, China cooperated with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in a number of small-scale agricultural technical assistance projects.

These projects usually focused on technical training and capacity building. They mainly provide agricultural technology training and technology transfer, and improve the level of agricultural production in recipient countries through expert dispatch and technology exchange. The agricultural technology training project in Kenya, which has carried out by China in cooperation with FAO, is a typical case of this stage. By sending Chinese agricultural experts to teach Kenyan farmers advanced planting techniques and management experience, the local level of agricultural production has been raised. Due to the constraints of experiences and resources, the tripartite

co-operation projects at this stage were usually small in scale and limited in scope of influence.

Expansion Stage (early 2000s to 2010s)

Entering the 21st century, China's economic strength and international status have increased significantly, and it has begun to actively participate in trilateral cooperation (McEwan and Mawdsley, 2012; Zhang, 2017, n.d.). In 2006, China mentioned trilateral cooperation for the first time in the white paper "China's Foreign Aid", indicating that China has piloted triangular cooperation with other multi-bilateral donors on the premise of respecting the wishes of the recipient countries, and with the complementary advantages of other donors. At this stage, China not only provided technical and financial support as an emerging economy, but also began to play a more active role in multilateral cooperation. China signed a series of cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding with international organisations and recipient countries, forming a more systematic framework for cooperation. The Progress Report on China's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, released in 2017, highlights China's trilateral cooperation with the United Nations and other international organisations, as well as with some developed aid donors, to mobilise all types of resources for global sustainable development (Zhao and Jing, 2019). The White Paper, titled

“China’s International Development Cooperation in a New Era” released in 2021, further clarified its proactive stance in trilateral cooperation, stressing that it would continue to explore with all parties to carry out trilateral cooperation and enhance the level and capacity of international development cooperation.

The scale of trilateral cooperation has expanded from single technical assistance to include a wide range of areas, including infrastructure construction, food processing and market development. The areas of trilateral cooperation have also expanded to a wide range of areas such as agriculture, public health, environmental protection and technical training. Since 2012, trilateral aid cooperation has been explicitly included in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. China and the UNDP signed a memorandum of understanding in 2010 committing to promote trilateral cooperation. The Pacific region appears to be an important testing ground for China’s trilateral cooperation. During the Pacific Islands Forum in August 2012, China and New Zealand initiated their first trilateral aid cooperation project to improve the water supply in Rarotonga, the capital of the Cook Islands. All these cooperations have achieved some fruitful results (Bräutigam, 2011).

At this stage, the partners of China’s triangular cooperation have also become more diversified, including multilateral agencies, developed countries, the private sector. The OECD-DAC-China Working Group was launched in the early 2000s to build a mutual learning platform for promoting poverty reduction

through agricultural development and cooperation and conduct special training and experience-sharing activities through international development and cooperation. The projects, such as China-UK-Malawi Aquatic Development Project, the China-UK-Uganda Cassava Development Project, and the China-US-Timor-Leste Agricultural Project, have all achieved good results. China-FAO Trust Fund was established in 2009 with US\$30m from China, marking China’s entry into FAO’s donor community (FAO). The mechanisms to ensure the long-term sustainability and standardised management of cooperation projects were established through the establishment of a Trust Fund to support UNDP FAO and WFP. In recent years, China has also begun to experiment with tripartite cooperation with the NGOs such as with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Mozambique and Zambia on the basis of agricultural technology demonstration centres. This kind of cooperation brings in financial and technical support to make better use of the facilities of Chinese aid projects, which enhances the sustainability and innovativeness of the projects.

The New Era of Tripartite Cooperation (since 2012 to now)

China explicitly stated its position, principles and approaches on tripartite cooperation in the latest white paper on China’s International Development Cooperation in the New Era in 2021. China is open to tripartite cooperation

with pragmatic attitudes and seek such cooperation with various stakeholders through multilateral channels and also encourage the private sector, NGOs and social groups, and charitable organisations to play a greater role based on the principle of mutual respect and mutual learning to enhance mutual understanding and trust. While emphasising its own development experience, the contribution of capital and technology from developed countries and international organisations was also acknowledged to enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation (State Council, 2021).

A series of special funds were put into place to facilitate the triangular cooperation. For example, China- IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Facility was established in 2018 with a US\$10 million initial contribution from China. On July 2, 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a renewed US\$ 10 million contribution to the China-IFAD SSTC Facility. The Facility has effectively leveraged knowledge, technologies, and resources from the Global South to accelerate rural poverty alleviation, enhance productivity, and drive rural transformation (IFAD, July 2, 2024). In 2022, an additional US\$50m from China to the China-FAO SSC trust fund to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote the common development of developing countries, with a focus on key areas of cooperation on global development initiatives such as poverty reduction and food security (MARA, January 14, 2022)

Two pivotal frameworks for China's international development cooperation were established in 2013. The first one is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aiming to enhance regional connectivity through large-scale infrastructure projects. It was reported that Tripartite cooperation with international financial and implementation partners can support BRI projects through better access to financial resources, risk sharing and knowledge sharing (Wang 2024, <https://greenfdc.org/china-belt-and-road-initiative-bri-investment-report-2023/>). The second is the Global Development Initiative (GDI), proposed by China in 2021, underscores China's commitment to supporting sustainable development worldwide. The GDI focuses on areas such as poverty reduction, food security, and green development, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through the GDI, China aims to provide comprehensive support to developing countries, enhancing their capacity to achieve sustainable growth. An additional US\$1 billion was added to the SSC Fund to support multilateral cooperation in 2022 in the areas of poverty reduction, pandemic responses, human capital development, food security, digital connectivity and green development, etc.

Characteristics of China's Tripartite cooperation

Following the Principles and Framework of South-South Cooperation

China's triangular cooperation strictly follows the core principles of South-

South cooperation, namely, mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, demand-orientation and recipient-led. These principles have ensured the fairness and effectiveness of the cooperation projects and truly met the actual needs of the recipient countries (Hooijmaaijers, 2018). For example, in the case of the agricultural technology demonstration centre project in Africa, the specific content and implementation programme of the project are tailored to the actual needs and conditions of the recipient country. This demand-orientated approach to cooperation ensures the relevance and effectiveness of the projects and enhances the satisfaction and participation of the recipient countries. China emphasises respect for the sovereignty and independent choice of recipient countries in tripartite cooperation, without attaching any political conditions. This equal and mutually beneficial mode of cooperation not only strengthens the independent development capacity of recipient countries, but also establishes a closer cooperative relationship.

Sharing Development Experiences

China shares many similarities with many developing countries in terms of their development history and economic and social conditions, which gives China a unique comparative advantage when engaging in tripartite cooperation with international organisations, traditional donor countries and other international actors (U.S. Assistance Programmes in China 2012). China has accumulated

rich experience in poverty reduction, agricultural development, food security, social security and public health coverage, and green development, and those achievements and experiences were of great relevance to other developing countries. For example, China would eliminate extreme poverty by the end of 2020, and inequality had narrowed significantly since 2018. Such similar stages of development and challenges make China's experience easier for other developing countries to accept and apply. In the tripartite cooperation, China has helped other developing countries find a development path suitable for themselves by sharing its own development experience and lessons learned, which has enhanced the practical effects and sustainability of the cooperation projects.

Enhancing Mutual Learning and Complementarity Between Different Partners

One of the main objectives of China's tripartite cooperation is to form a synergy of cooperation and promote common development through the complementarity of the strengths of different stakeholders (Zhang 2020). In its cooperation with traditional donor countries and international organisations, China has made full use of the strengths of all parties to create synergies. For example, China has advantages in agricultural technology and infrastructure construction, while traditional donor countries have advantages in project management, financial support and

technological innovation (Bräutigam, 2011). By complementing each other's strengths, tripartite cooperation projects can better integrate resources and enhance the overall effectiveness of the projects. In the tripartite cooperation, China not only exports its own experience and technology, but also actively learns from the advanced practices and management experience of other partners. This process of mutual learning not only enhances the effectiveness of the cooperation projects, but also promotes China's capacity building and enhancement in international cooperation. China adopts the method of "learning by doing" in the tripartite cooperation, and continuously improves its own capacity and experience by sending officials and implementing projects in cooperation with developed countries. This learning process is not limited to technical and project management, but also includes the understanding and application of international cooperation standards and best practices.

Secondment to UNDP headquarters and regional offices is another source of practice-based learning in China. In September 2013, two senior aid officials from the Foreign Aid Department of the Ministry of Commerce travelled to UNDP headquarters in New York for a six-month exchange programme aimed at improving their understanding of UNDP's aid policies. Joint research between UNDP and the Ministry of Commerce has extended to the Pacific. In 2014, UNDP and the China International Trade Commission launched a joint research project led by

academic Graeme Smith. The research team assessed the needs of Pacific Island countries and identified a number of potential areas for trilateral aid cooperation between traditional donors and China.

Prioritising the Agricultural Sector

The agricultural sector is prioritised in China's trilateral cooperation because agricultural projects are less political and can directly benefit people's livelihoods by contributing to poverty reduction, improving food security and promoting social equity (Gabas and Tang, 2014; Zhang, n.d.). Agriculture is the backbone of many developing countries and one of the areas in which these countries most urgently need improvement. China has rich experience and technical advantages in agricultural technology demonstration, agricultural product processing and irrigation system construction. In its tripartite cooperation, China has, through its agricultural projects, helped recipient countries increase agricultural productivity, promote food security and improve the living conditions of farmers. For example, in its cooperation with Malawi, Chinese agricultural technology experts have helped promote high-yield crop varieties and modern agricultural technology, significantly increasing food production and farmers' income. Through the implementation of agricultural projects, China has helped recipient countries solve key problems in agricultural production, improve agricultural output and quality, and promote poverty reduction and social equity.

Convergence of Coordination and Standards

Compared with bilateral cooperation, tripartite cooperation has a clear comparative advantage in coordinating different efforts and aligning with higher global ESG standards (Morton, 2012). Tripartite cooperation involves the participation of many parties and requires complex coordination efforts. By establishing an effective coordination mechanism, China has ensured that the efforts of all parties work together to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the project. For example, in its water supply projects with New Zealand and the Cook Islands, China has ensured the smooth implementation of the projects and improved the local water supply systems through close coordination with the New Zealand Government and the Cook Islands Government. Through cooperation with international organisations and traditional donor countries, China has gradually aligned itself with higher global environmental, social and corporate governance standards in its tripartite cooperation, enhancing the transparency and credibility of its projects and promoting the standardisation of China's international cooperation. In addition, professionals engaged in tripartite cooperation usually have higher qualifications and credentials, and are able to cope with complex international cooperation environments and ensure high-quality completion of projects.

Challenges Facing Tripartite Cooperation

The tripartite development cooperation faces many challenges. First, compared with bilateral cooperation, the integration of different concepts, policies and modalities is more difficult in triangular cooperation. Although the relevance of China's development experiences to other developing countries is recognised by traditional donors and multilateral organisations, China's distinct approach to international development cooperation is often criticised by traditional donors who consider China to be a game changer rather than a norm follower. It takes more time and effort to communicate and coordinate, thus greatly increasing transaction costs.

Second, geopolitical tensions and geo-economic conflict may thwart the fruitful achievements of triangular cooperation. Geopolitical dynamics play a significant role in shaping the landscape of international development cooperation. China's increasing global influence through initiatives like the BRI and GDI was often interpreted as a challenge to the existing international development architecture established since WWII by the traditional donors, serving as a good excuse for the Western countries to halt triangular cooperation with China. As mentioned above, since 2012, China and the United States have collaborated in the agriculture sector of Timor-Leste, jointly training young Afghan diplomats and fighting against the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, thus setting a good example of how the two

powers co-facilitate a third country to strengthen capacity-building. According to the project list of agreement signed in Beijing in December 2014, the US and China had agreed to cooperate in Asia in various areas including disaster relief, food security, health, preventive diplomacy, ocean protection and preventive nuclear irradiation. However, all these were disrupted by the tensions between them since 2018. Such geopolitical rivalries can complicate cooperation, as countries may be wary of aligning too closely with China for fear of alienating Western partners.

Another significant challenge is the limited local capacity to operate and maintain the advanced technologies provided through China's development projects. Many recipient countries lack the necessary technical expertise and institutional frameworks to manage these projects effectively, leading to a reliance on external support. This dependency can undermine the long-term sustainability of development initiatives. Although triangular cooperation nominally adheres to the principle of recipient ownership, in practice, cooperation is often defined by traditional donors and emerging economies, and the actual needs of recipients have not been given sufficient attention, not to mention recipient-led cooperation.

Last but not the least, the impact of each partners' contribution is hard to be measure and evaluate due to the blended resources and expertise, which leads to the doubtful actual effectiveness of the triangular projects (Corkin, 2011; Lengfelder, 2016; McEwan and

Mawdsley, 2012; Zahran, Roman-Morey, and Inomata, n.d.; Zhang, 2017; Zhao and Jing, 2019). Many triangular cooperation projects lack independent third-party participation in the evaluation process, which may be subject to bias and information asymmetry. Traditional donors and emerging economies may be inclined to showcase the success of the project to prove their contribution and impact, while ignoring the problems and challenges in the project. In addition, without an effective evaluation and feedback mechanism, problems and deficiencies in the project cannot be identified and corrected in a timely manner, affecting the improvement and optimisation of the project.

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A Dialogue on Development Cooperation with Papa Amadou Sarr

Papa Amadou Saar is currently an Executive Director of the Mobilization, Partnerships and Communication Department at Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in Paris and in the past has been associated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Dakar, at the OECD Development Centre in Paris, and at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle.

Development Cooperation Review (DCR): You have worked on development from all angles of triangular cooperation- from recipient to donor; as a minister in Senegal, or through your work at the Gates Foundation and multilateral organisations, and now at the French Development Agency (FDA). What lessons have you learned and what insights have you gained regarding the design of effective development strategies?

Papa Amadou Sarr: Well, that's a great question. Over the last 20 years working in France, the UK, the US, and Senegal, I've learned that development must consider both sides of the story. You can't just copy and paste what you think is best for people in developing nations. You need to account for their needs, particularities, specificities, history, and aspirations.

For instance, a few months ago I was talking to European ministers of French Cooperation about climate change and oil and gas exploitation in Senegal. They suggested we shouldn't develop oil and gas and should focus on renewable energies

instead. But I told them, you can't just tell people what to do. Look at France, the UK, Italy, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia — they have all developed their economies through oil and gas. Why prevent a country like Senegal or Nigeria from doing the same for their development?

Of course, one has to care about the environment and biodiversity, but also care about people's lives, education, healthcare, universities, SMEs, and industrialisation. You need more resources, and while you shouldn't harm the environment, you can develop new tools and methods to mitigate environmental impact. You can't come as a foreign or development professional and dictate actions. In many cases, people in developing nations have learned, studied, and experienced the same education systems. They return home to implement what they've learned for their own countries' development. Learning from experiences is good, but building from local realities and aspirations is key.

This is one of the essential learnings I've experienced. Working with the OECD, the Gates Foundation, and in governments, I've seen how people often prescribe solutions without considering local realities. It's not

about dictating solutions but understanding and working with local contexts.

DCR: It's becoming clear that all institutions' mentalities need to be revised, and your broad experience positions you well to help guide the various stakeholders. What are the key considerations or strategies that should inform development frameworks?

Papa Amadou Sarr: One key learning is the importance of institutional capacity building. Development partners, especially in the US, often bring projects with foreign technicians and experts who implement them. When these projects end, the local capacity to maintain them is often lacking. So, transferring capacities and knowledge to build local expertise is crucial.

BP has trained Senegalese engineers with MBAs in Senegal, France, or the UK. Once the projects end, these trained individuals can continue the work. Another focus should be on collective decision-making. Projects often fail because they're decided in capitals like Paris or Washington without involving local implementers. Involving local administration and the population ensures better appropriation and sustainability.

Additionally, considering economic, social, historical, and political aspects in the operational framework is vital. Among development partners, those that succeed are embedded within local ministries. For instance, USAID works within ministries, making fewer distinctions between their contractors and local officials. Japanese projects are also effective because they implement projects with local partners while controlling resources and procedures.

European projects often come with restrictive conditions, which limit local appropriation. So, taking local capacities and expertise into account is essential for sustainable development.

DCR: The more players involved, the harder it can become to implement projects. How long should a development plan last to be effective?

Papa Amadou Sarr: The right timing for a development plan is around 25 years. When we developed the plan for Senegal, we advised the president that sustainable development requires a long-term vision, similar to Singapore or South Korea. Shorter periods, like eight years, are often disrupted by changes in leadership and governance. So, a plan should last at least 25 to 30 years, with strategies and action plans renewed every five years.

DCR: Triangular cooperation has emerged as a promising approach to contribute to the SDGs, potentially outperforming multilateral or bilateral approaches. Based on your experiences, what have you learned from triangular cooperation? What are its benefits and challenges, especially in a diverse continent such as Africa?

Papa Amadou Sarr: Triangular cooperation allows for quicker and more effective development initiatives by combining resources and expertise from different regions. It avoids the lengthy processes associated with multilateral organisations and brings in concessional resources or grants that can make a significant impact. So, I deeply believe in the potential of triangular cooperation for achieving development goals.

With regard to Africa's specificities, you cannot have a one-size-fits-all approach. Depending on the countries, you have some in the Sahel where they have basic needs in education, healthcare, or higher education. Then you have where the focus is on structural transformation, industry, processing raw materials, oil and gas, like in Senegal and Nigeria, not to mention the different needs of advanced economies such as Egypt, Morocco, or South Africa. So, the focus shifts depending on the region of the continent.

If you have to prioritise, I would say that education, higher education, and vocational or professional training are crucial, as is agriculture, not just the primary sector but also processing and exporting refined products. Finally, the digital economy, which is booming and conducive to job creation, including e-health, agricultural tech, startups, blockchain, AI, and other new technologies to improve youth employment and women's economic empowerment. Focusing on these sectors will create jobs, growth, and improve living conditions.

For me, it's crucial that this model is consistent, well-deployed, and effectively publicised. We believe in leveraging our resources and maintaining strong bilateral relationships with governments and partners. Multilateral and bilateral agencies prefer dealing with familiar partners due to their established project pipelines. Over the past year, I have faced reluctance to work with new private sector donors, despite managing a 12 billion annual investment in developing nations, with 50 per cent allocated to Africa.

My colleagues often question our priorities, but even President Macron of

France has advocated for more triangular cooperation which allowed me to develop, deploy, and establish partnerships with Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Abu Dhabi. Recently, we finalised a 70 million partnership with Qatar for educational development in Senegal, Pakistan, and the Palestinian territories. Such triangular partnerships and grants enable us to achieve our goals.

While our 12 billion annual budget is substantial, the demand from countries is 50 billion. By combining our 12 billion with additional funds from partners like the Gates Foundation, Mastercard Foundation, Qatar, and Abu Dhabi Fund, we can effectively increase our capacity to 20 billion. It's a smart strategy for leveraging and catalysing efforts from various sectors.

Today, there is a replenishment of Gavi in Paris, with numerous heads of state, the private sector, and the Gavi Alliance, which has been instrumental in vaccine distribution globally. The collaboration between the private sector and US-based philanthropists like Bloomberg, Gates, and the Bezos Fund has been transformative. We must continue tapping into these resources to maximise our impact.

Triangular cooperation should include the private sector and major foundations. It's crucial not to view traditional donors as only from Europe and the US. Emerging donors like Turkey, South Africa, India, Brazil, and especially China, are also important to consider.

DCR: Within the realm of development efforts aimed at empowering youth and women, what specific measures or programmes do you consider essential to address the challenges faced by these

groups and foster their participation in sustainable development initiatives?

Papa Amadou Sarr: Africa is experiencing a youth boom. For instance, in my country, around 200,000 youths enter the job market every year. Across the continent, the figure reaches approximately 20 million. To empower these youths and women, we need good training programmes, both university-level and vocational or professional training.

For women, it's crucial to ensure they have equal training opportunities, access to property, credit, guarantee schemes, and the ability to inherit.

For instance, I made a speech defending women's rights, arguing that it's unacceptable for women to be relegated to a secondary status, without access to land, inheritance, and other rights. This is a reality in many sub-Saharan African countries, especially Francophone ones. Women need the right financial tools. Many youth and women lack the guarantees required for bank loans. In Senegal, we created a programme offering \$50 million in loans and grants annually to youth and women entrepreneurs without requiring bank guarantees. This has helped create over 200,000 entrepreneurs in various sectors. This government support is essential.

Increasingly, donors have recognised that they can assist women and youth entrepreneurs without competing against traditional banks. Historically, the Bretton Woods consensus suggested that governments should not provide funding, leaving it to the market. However, market failures exist, and banks often do not lend to the poor or to women who lack collateral. Governments, along with multilateral and

bilateral donors, now understand this gap.

One of the reasons I am here is that President Macron entrusted me with the Choose Africa program. This initiative supports youth and women entrepreneurs with 1 billion in funding, targeting ten pilot countries, including Benin, Senegal, and Togo. We provide these governments with 30 to 100 million to establish and promote entities that support entrepreneurship. Similarly, the African Development Bank is advancing the Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Bank to achieve the same goals.

DCR: As someone with extensive experience in governmental and institutional roles, what role do you believe development banks play in driving positive change within economies and societies? Do you think there's a need for reform within these institutions, and if so, what areas would you prioritise for improvement?

Papa Amadou Sarr: There are ongoing calls for reforms in commercial banks. Larry Summers made a report published during the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF, and President Macron has also called for reforms of international financial institutions.

Discussions are centred around the membership of multilateral banks, capital increases, and delegating funding to development partners like the African Development Bank. Development banks play a counter-cyclical role, being crucial after crises, such as post-war reconstructions or the Covid-19 pandemic. They are regularly involved in important meetings to improve coordination and collaboration, such as the G7, G20, BRICS, COP, and the UN's SDGs meetings.

Locally, more development banks are being created, like the Rwanda Development Bank and the Nigerian Grand Bank, to address key sectors like climate, energy, education, and healthcare. I support this because we need a mix of tools, instruments, and funding. More collaboration and alignment with government priorities are crucial.

We need to adapt and no longer impose prescriptive programmes and doctrines from Washington, Paris, or London. We should respond to local needs, such as restoring beaches in Bali or building roads in Kenya and Senegal.

DCR: Considering the geographical impact of development cooperation, how important is a place-based approach for financial aid and resources? Should initiatives prioritise urban areas, rural development, or strike a balance between the two to prevent issues like mass urban migration?

Papa Amadou Sarr: It's about balancing both. Most people in sub-Saharan Africa

and Asia live in rural areas, so focusing solely on urban development will lead to rural exodus. Governments need to develop rural areas by providing water, electricity, roads, housing, and local agricultural development. If people in rural areas have access to these, they are less likely to move to urban areas.

If people migrate to cities without adequate housing and infrastructure, we risk creating slums and ghettos. This exacerbates internal migration issues and increases urban insecurity. While there's much talk about migration from Africa to Europe or the US, the reality is that 90% of migration is within Africa itself — people moving from Congo to Senegal, or Senegal to Morocco, for example.

Therefore, it is crucial to collaborate with government partners and local leaders to design programmes that address the needs of both urban and rural areas. This balanced approach can help manage migration and ensure sustainable development.

Emerging Trends in Social Policy from the South – Challenges and Innovations in Emerging Economies

Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch and Kelly Stetter (2024). *Emerging Trends in Social Policy from the South: Challenges and Innovations in Emerging Economies*. Bristol University Press, England (300 pp, ISBN: 978-1447367901)

Pratyush Sharma*



Main Features

Emerging Trends in Social Policy from the South – Challenges and Innovations in Emerging Economies, edited by Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch and Kelly Stetter, is a significant contribution to an important current discourse on social policy in the Global South. The volume, which includes a collection of chapters by scholars and experts, offers a critical examination of the ways in which emerging economies are addressing and responding to the complex social challenges that characterise their landscapes. The book is not just a study of policy implementation, but a deep dive into the innovative strategies being developed in response to unique regional and global pressures. By placing the Global South at the centre of social policy discussions, this work challenges conventional narratives and offers a nuanced perspective that highlights the agency, creativity and resilience of these countries.

Before dealing with the main themes and concepts of the book, four of its important features are worth mentioning from the outset.

The first one has to do with the scope of the book. Most books that deal with social policy issues in the Global South focus on its leading economies. However, the Global South is not a homogeneous entity. It includes countries that are often emerging economies, but also others that are at a relatively lower stage of development. This book provides ideas that can be applied beyond economies such as China, India, South Africa and Russia to include countries of the Global South such as Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Indonesia.

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The second important feature concerns the context. The book assumes that the emerging economies of the Global South are not merely passive recipients of global social policy models but are becoming active themselves. These countries have developed different social policy approaches that reflect their unique historical, cultural and economic contexts. Of course, the editors acknowledge the legacy of colonialism, the impact of globalisation and the continuing influence of international financial institutions. However, the central thesis of the book is that, despite these external influences, the countries of the Global South have forged their own path in social policy development. The focus is on how these countries are innovating in areas such as social protection, health, education and employment, often in ways that challenge Western models and assumptions of the North. The editors have compiled a series of case studies and thematic analyses that together illustrate the diversity and dynamics of social policy in these regions.

The third feature of the book is the attempt to view reality through a conceptually rigorous framework. The book refers to debates dealing with globalisation and institutional-evolutionary analyses, while at the same time addressing policy issues in the field of health, informal work, universal basic income, the functioning of international financial institutions (IFIs) and the like. Academics and researchers will find the book invaluable for its comprehensive analysis and cross-regional comparisons. It presents recent

research findings and case studies that can open up new avenues of enquiry and enrich existing scholarship. The book's interdisciplinary approach ensures that it will be an important reference work for understanding the complex interplay between social policy and economic, political and cultural factors.

A fourth feature is that the book helps to disseminate information for policy makers, and for those working in the not-for-profit sector and civil society, the book offers practical examples of how social policy can be designed and implemented to drive meaningful change. It highlights real-world applications and the impact of social policies on communities and provides inspiration and guidance for advocacy and programme development. This valuable collection of social policies can not only inspire other countries in the South. It is also relevant for the developed world. In a world facing complex social challenges, understanding and innovation in social policy is more important than ever. In doing so, this book offers a rich, nuanced examination of emerging trends in social policy from a global perspective, making it an indispensable resource for a wide range of stakeholders. It highlights innovative approaches that have proven successful in different contexts and offers potential templates for your own initiatives.

Key Themes and Concepts

If the book disseminates information about social policy in the context of countries in the Global South and identifies strategies that differ from traditional Western models, it is also

particularly helpful in further exploring a number of issues that are crucial in engaging with social policy and suggesting that others should be explored more broadly.

Rights-Based Approach to Social Development

One of the central themes of the book is the evolving role of the state in social policy in emerging economies. In many cases, the state has been a dominant force in the provision of social services in countries of the Global South, often as part of broader nation-building efforts. However, the rise of neoliberalism and the corresponding shift to market-based solutions has significantly altered the social policy landscape. India provides an interesting example. The analysis in different chapters of the book highlights the dual role of the state as a promoter of market reforms and as a provider of social protection, highlighting the tension between these roles. The rights-based framework of the right to food, labour, education and information is examined. The authors examine the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), digital public goods such as AADHAAR and other identity-based platforms that provide employment to millions of people and has become a cornerstone of Indian social policy. In short, India's experience with neoliberal reforms has led to significant economic expansion, but at the cost of increasing income inequality.

At the same time, the book highlights that judicial institutions such as constitutional courts are playing an

increasingly important role in creating the space for socio-political engagement and the implementation of programmes, especially those based on the new formulation of human rights. However, there are still many obstacles to overcome when it comes to translating these newly established norms, values and principles into a transformative outcome within a rights-based approach.

Innovations in Social Protection

A major focus of the book is on the innovative approaches to social protection that have emerged in the Global South. These innovations have often been born out of necessity, as governments in these regions must meet the needs of a large, diverse population with limited resources. Governments also have to deal with the impact of product and service innovations.¹ The book contains several examples of how countries have developed creative solutions to social challenges, often in ways that challenge traditional Western models of social policy. Let's take two examples.

The chapter on South Africa examines the country's efforts to build a comprehensive social protection system both in the post-apartheid era and in the face of high unemployment and persistent inequality, offering a critical perspective on the potential and limitations of such initiatives. Using the example of the mining sector, which forms the basis of the South African economy, it shows how social, economic and environmental policies interact and overlap with each other. It also highlights the role of civil society as a balancing influence between legitimacy

and sustainability. Authors Sophie Plageron and Lauren Stuart provide an excellent example of the emerging dynamics around the institutions and organisations that facilitate the integration of social development and environmental protection policies.

The chapter on Tanzania describes the characteristics of employment and the need for social protection, especially in the informal sector. It examines the existing social protection framework in the country, including the successes and caveats of the main social assistance schemes, the informal social insurance arrangements that have appeared at the kinship and community levels, and the emergence of formal social insurance schemes for workers in the informal sector. The latter is the result of ground-breaking legislative reforms and constantly evolving insurance packages that are needed in the development context, as cash transfer programmes are still not sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood or serve as a stepping stone out of poverty. In general, the author argues for an expansion of the traditional scope of analysis, which is currently seen as one-sidedly focused on the history of the welfare state in industrialised countries. The author also underlines the new dynamics created by the organisation of informal workers in order to understand the changes in social policy in the Global South.

Addressing Inequality

Inequality is a recurring theme throughout the book, reflecting the fact that while many countries in the Global South have experienced rapid economic

growth in recent decades, this growth has often been accompanied by increasing inequality. The book examines how social policies have been used to address these inequalities - with varying degrees of success.

The case of China is particularly interesting in this respect. The book offers a comprehensive analysis of the country's efforts to reduce age-related inequalities through elderly care services and other targeted social investments. The chapter mentions that 18.7 per cent of China's population, or 264 million people, are aged 60 and over (2021 data). Initiatives such as the New Cooperative Medical Scheme, which aims to improve access to healthcare in rural areas, and the Dibao programme, which guarantees a minimum income for the urban poor, are discussed in detail. The chapter explains how the combination of state, family and market in the care system has come to grips with aspects of elderly care in China. The authors argue that while these programmes have achieved some success in reducing poverty, they have not sufficiently addressed the deeper structural inequalities in Chinese society. This discussion is particularly important given the rapid pace of economic change and the social challenges that accompany it.

Future Directions

Looking at further directions in the study of social policy in the Global South, the book directly or indirectly encourages a deeper examination of several key areas. "Emerging Trends in Social Policy from the South" not only offers a comprehensive overview of social

policy trends in the Global South, but also raises important questions about the future direction of social policy in these countries. The authors take a critical look at the limitations of current approaches and the need for a more inclusive and sustainable social policy. Some of the proposed future approaches are mentioned here.

Proactive strategies

First and foremost, the book calls for the development of more proactive social strategies tailored to the specific challenges of the Global South. One of the recurring criticisms is the tendency for social policy in the Global South to be reactive rather than proactive. Many case studies emphasise that social policies are often introduced in response to economic, social or environmental crises. While these measures have proven effective in addressing immediate needs, they may not be sufficient to tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality. The authors call for a more holistic approach that incorporates social, economic and environmental dimensions into integrated strategies and is based on a long-term vision of sustainable development.

Participatory approaches

The book also emphasises the importance of civil society and participatory approaches as crucial components for social policy and thus for future research in this area. Several chapters emphasise the importance of involving civil society organisations, community groups and

social movements in the design and implementation of social policy. These actors are essential to ensure that social policy is responsive to the needs of marginalised and vulnerable populations and is therefore effective. In order to reconcile economic prosperity with social and environmental prosperity, the “voices” of civil society and the intelligence of the different social actors must be taken into account. There is no doubt that those who are affected by a policy should be involved in shaping the measures that affect them.

In different chapters, the book deals with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the context of social services. An interesting example is Russia, where Socially Oriented Non-Profit Organisations (SONPOs) have played an important role in filling the gaps left by the state during the period of economic transition. Given the far-reaching changes in the structure of social services, where the state has reduced its direct involvement in many areas, NGOs have often been instrumental in providing services that the state was unable or unwilling to provide. This includes supporting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, the disabled, children and the homeless. NGOs have also campaigned for the rights of these groups and influenced policy changes. Another interesting example is China, with the different roles at different levels of government and an emerging new relationship between the bureaucracy and civil society organisations leading to improvements in public sector

service delivery. Further analyses and experiments in participatory approaches are undoubtedly welcome.

“Recipients” Voice

Finally, the principle of participation for which those affected by a policy should be involved in shaping the policies applies of course to development cooperation as well. But do the recipients have a decisive role in shaping the policy that affects them? Is there an in-depth assessment of the practical implementation of this principle? The chapter on Indonesia lies at the intersection of social policy and development cooperation. It examines the country’s health sector since the 1950s and the role of external organisations in this sector, followed by an examination of the relationships between agencies and actors in the development and reform of social and health policy. It examines the involvement of key external organisations

in Indonesia’s social policy development and the principle of country ownership in social policy development. This line of research is important and defines an area ripe for further investigation after years of little or no debate on ‘aid effectiveness’. As the ‘tables’ on which aid is defined are still essentially limited to donors, further work is needed and proposals for change need to be considered.

Endnote

¹ Innovations in health technology significantly affect the supply chains of health services. Innovations in pharmaceuticals, vaccines, medical services, diagnostics and surgical techniques affect the institutions and organizations of health service delivery, and consequently the health system as a whole, through cost to patient considerations, pricing, state procurement, reimbursements, generics availability, and prescription and treatment choices.

Global Trends of Triangular Cooperation

Sushil Kumar*

Triangular cooperation is a transformative modality that provides innovative and flexible solutions to rapidly changing development challenges. It is no longer just a partnership between OECD-DAC members and developing countries and is not a replacement for North-South or South-South cooperation. It is an additional effort in terms of reinforcing international cooperation for development.

Introduction

In 2015, the international community agreed to embark on a journey towards global sustainability, as outlined in Agenda 2030 and the accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and towards addressing the challenge of climate change, as outlined in the Paris Agreement and the international community reaffirmed in Buenos Aires at the BAPA +40 conference that triangular cooperation contributes to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The outcome document (BAPA +40, paragraph 12) also recognises triangular cooperation as a complementary effort to South-South cooperation. It recognised the potential of triangular cooperation to provide a “broader range of resources, expertise, and capacities,” which is being driven by the demand of developing countries

for assistance on their development trajectories, for national development and to meet their international commitments. Triangular cooperation is a dynamic concept that is constantly evolving¹. It offers an opportunity to move beyond the traditional provider-recipient dynamics by creating innovative partnerships and repositioning the roles of cooperation partners. It can be an avenue of mutual learning and knowledge sharing between developed and developing countries. In this context, this write-up examines the global trends of triangular cooperation as well Southern perspective on Triangular cooperation.

Global Trends of Triangular Cooperation

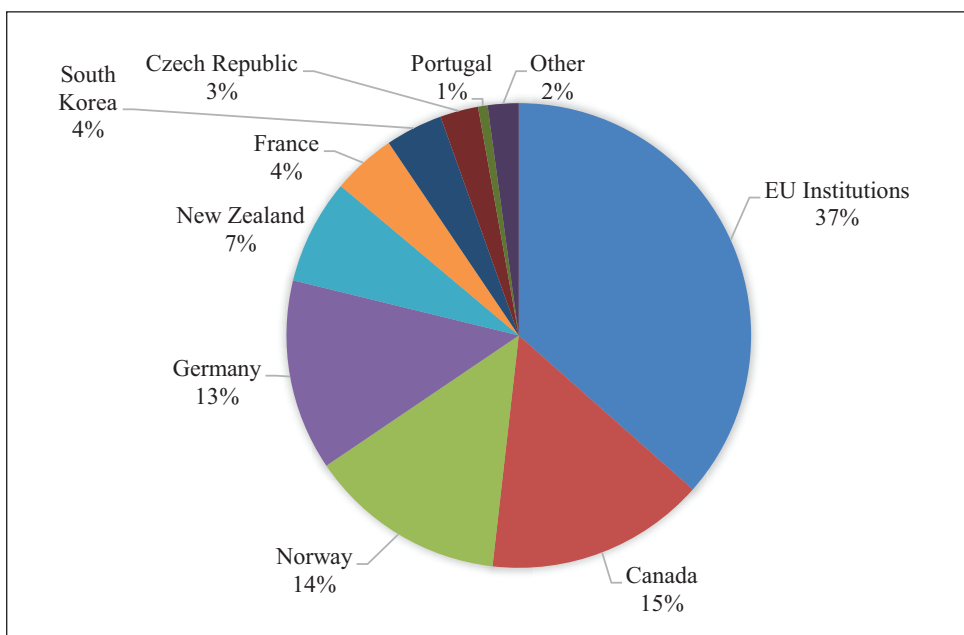
As we are aware, the BAPA 40+ outcome document mentioned that multilateral, regional and bilateral development cooperation providers

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should consider increasing financial resources and technical cooperation to promote South-South and triangular cooperation. Figure 1 shows the share of DAC member countries in funding Triangular cooperation activities. It shows that between 2016 and 2021, EU institutions accounted for 37 per cent (USD 165 million), followed by Canada 15 per cent (USD 69 million), Norway 14 per cent (USD 62 million), and Germany 13 per cent (USD 60 million). It is important to mention that total funding from DAC member countries between 2016 and 2021 was USD 451 million, which accounted for 0.24 per cent of the total funding of ODA (Only two DAC members reported in 2016 that they disbursed USD 26

million through triangular cooperation (at constant 2021 pricing). In 2021, 13 DAC members reported disbursing (OECD/IsDB, 2023). As the BAPA 40+ outcome document mentions, triangular cooperation is an important modality of development cooperation to achieve the Development Agenda 2030. In this context all development cooperation partner countries including DAC member countries² (and multilateral institutions need to increase the funding for triangular cooperation activities to overcome the development challenges in the beneficiary partner countries, which helps them to enhance their capacity to achieve their national development goals.

Figure 1: Triangular Cooperation by DAC Members, 2016–2021 (percentage share)



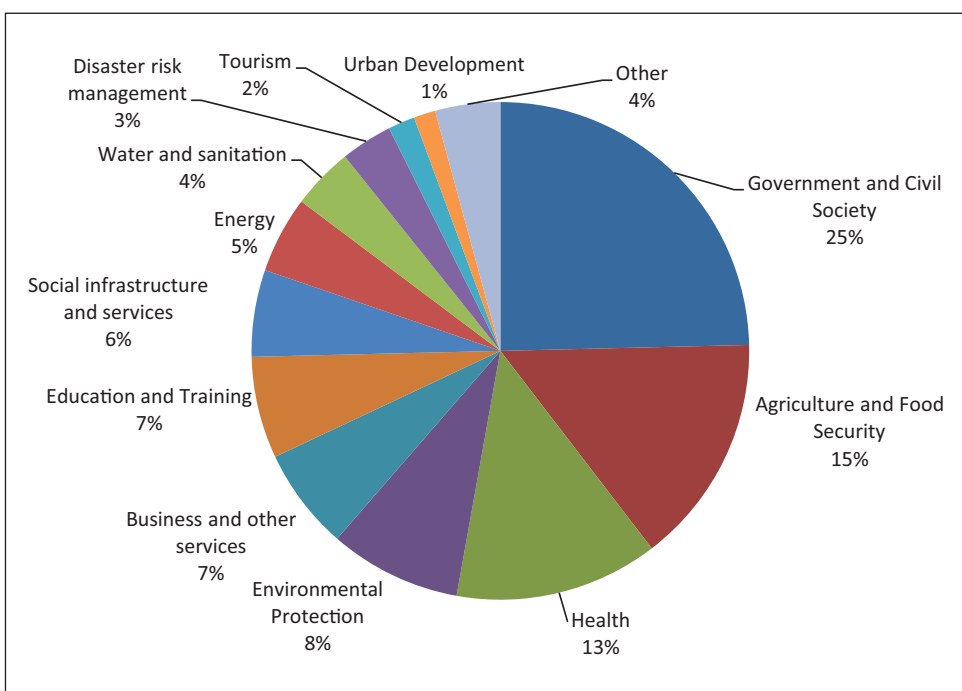
Source: Author's calculation data from OECD stat. Note other includes (Italy, UK, Slovak Republic, Luxembourg, Greece, Austria, Spain and Poland).

Sectoral Distribution of Triangular Cooperation

In the context of the sector's share in triangular cooperation activities, the figure shows two that between 2003 and 2022 (OECD database on triangular cooperation) there were at the global level (including DAC member and multilateral institutions) were around

900 triangular cooperation activities out of these activities government and civil society accounted 25 per cent, followed by agriculture and food security (25 per cent), Health (13 per cent), environment protection (8 per cent), business-related activities (7 per cent), and education and training (7 per cent).

Figure 2: Sector wise distribution of Triangular Cooperation (2003–2022), (percentage share)



Source: Author's calculation based on the data from OECD stat.³

In the context of the Southern perspective of triangular cooperation, major southern providers, namely India, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa, followed the SSC principals (namely demand-driven, mutual benefits, noninterference in the domestic affairs of

partner countries, non-conditionality and sustainability) in their triangular activities as a pivotal partner. For instance, ABC (2019) mentioned that Brazil's contribution to trilateral technical cooperation initiatives is steered by the principles of South-South cooperation;

namely, it is driven by demands from developing countries, noninterference in the domestic affairs of countries benefiting from trilateral technical cooperation, non-conditionality and non-association with trade operations (ABC, 2019) and the main principles of China's tripartite cooperation are mutual respect, mutual learning, and enhanced mutual understanding and trust. The goal of tripartite cooperation is to benefit the recipient countries. Thus, it is necessary to fully respect their sovereignty and controlling voice based on the principle that the recipient countries should propose, agree upon, and lead projects. Cooperation should focus on the localisation of development (State Council, 2021), and India follows the development compact approach in their triangular cooperation activities as a pivotal partner. A successful example of triangular cooperation is the IBSA fund launched in 2003 by the IBSA member countries (India, Brazil and South Africa). It has emerged as a unique expression of Southern solidarity and helped partner countries to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. Towards this end, the IBSA Fund has played a vital role in strengthening South-centric developmental cooperation and also brought new gravitas to the IBSA partnership. Since the inception of the Fund, 42 development projects have been supported in 36 countries through allocations totalling USD 46.5 million. Projects ranged from enhancing food security to developing livelihoods through entrepreneurship to expanding access to sanitation and renewable energy (UNOSSC, 2022).

The analysis shows that global funding for triangular cooperation is low and should be increased to achieve the desired development goals. For example, in 2022, triangular cooperation accounted for 0.24 per cent of DAC members' ODA disbursed, and the important sectors of triangular cooperation are global governance, agriculture, health, and the environment. The outcome document of the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting, Varanasi, (India), 2023, also emphasized the need to enhance North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation. It is no longer just a partnership between OECD DAC members and developing countries and is not a replacement for North-South or South-South cooperation. It is an additional effort in terms of reinforcing international cooperation for development. This year, the Brazilian G20 Presidency has also set trilateral cooperation as one of its priorities since it can boost cooperation for development.

Endnotes

- ¹ UN recognise that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of, resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals (UN, 2019) <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/N1911172.pdf>
- ² In 2022, the flow of Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) in DAC countries was approximately 0.38 percent. This figure is significantly lower than the commitment of 0.7 percent. If DAC countries were to meet their obligation

of providing 0.7 percent of their GNI as ODA, it would result in an additional USD 183 billion in resources for developing countries.

³ <https://web-archive.oecd.org/temp/2019-10-07/420179-triangular-co-operation-repository.htm>

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2. Manuscripts should be prepared using double spacing. The text of manuscripts should not ordinarily exceed 1500 words. Manuscripts sent for peer review section may be limited to 5000 words. Such submissions should contain a 200-word abstract, and key words up to six.

3. Use 's' in '-ise' '-isation' words; e.g., 'civilise', 'organisation'. Use British spellings rather than American spellings. Thus, 'labour' not 'labor'. (2 per cent, 3 km, 36 years old, etc.). In general descriptions, numbers below 10 should be spelt out in words. Use thousands, millions, billions, not lakh and crore. Use fuller forms for numbers and dates— for example 1980-88, pp. 200-202 and pp. 178-84, for example, 'the eighties', 'the twentieth century', etc.

Reference Style: References should be appended at the end of the paper. References must be in double space, and same author(s) should be cited, and then arranged chronologically by year of publication.

All references should be embedded in the text in the APA style. For details, please refer to Course and Subject Guides: <https://pitt.libguides.com/c.php?g=12108&p=64730>

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Established at RIS, the Global Development Centre (GDC) aims to institutionalise knowledge on India's development initiatives and promote their replication as part of knowledge sharing in Asia and Africa with the help of its institutional partners, including civil society organisations. It attempts to explore and articulate global development processes within a micro framework and works as a unique platform to collate and assimilate learning processes of other countries towards promotion of equity, sustainability and inclusively based on multi-disciplinary and multi-functional approach.

About Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST)

Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. Consequent to the consensus reached on many of these issues at the High-Level Conference of Southern Providers in Delhi (March 2013) and establishment of the subsequent Core Group on the SSC within the UNDCF (June 2013), the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) was formally launched at the Conference on the South-South Cooperation, held at New Delhi during 10-11 March 2016. The purpose of the NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on SSC approaches for international development.  @NeST_SSC

About Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC)

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.  @FIDC_NewDelhi

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