

# Institutional Architecture for South-South Cooperation

Capacity Building Programme on Learning South-South Cooperation

16-27 November 2015, RIS, New Delhi



**RIS**

Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



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**Amar Sinha**  
**Secretary (Economic Relations)**



**विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**NEW DELHI**



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### **MESSAGE**

The South-South Cooperation has taken different forms for extending assistance to partner countries. They include technical assistance, capacity building programmes, knowledge sharing, production cooperation, financial assistance, technology transfer, leveraging strengths, etc. The SSC is often perceived by the partner countries to be more receptive and adapted to their needs and priorities.

As part of its ITEC/SCAAP the Ministry of External Affairs has entrusted RIS to conduct the capacity building course on South-South Cooperation to familiarise the participants to a broader concept of SSC, particularly on the development cooperation in the context of major changes being witnessed in the global aid architecture. As part of the programme, among other things, participants are encouraged to write on rationale, concepts and contours of SSC by building on the individual accomplishments of the respective countries, thus explaining the benefits from their collective engagements. It aimed to throw light on the key principles, policies, modalities and practices that are evident across SSC. Participants from 19 countries took part in this capacity building programme.

In the present volume entitled "Institutional Architecture for South-South Cooperation" these participants share their very interesting perspectives on different facets of promoting South-South Cooperation based on their country and regional experiences. I am sure the volume would definitely serve as a useful reference for all those who are interested in strengthening the process of SSC.



**[Amar Sinha]**



# FOREWORD

## **Ambassador Shyam Saran**

*Chairman, RIS*

South-South Cooperation is a different paradigm from the North-South Cooperation and should be viewed as a voluntary partnership which has evolved into a more organic platform. Keeping in view this broader perspective, RIS organised the Capacity Building Programme on 'Learning South-South Cooperation' under the ITEC/SCAAP programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi during 16-27 November 2016.

The present volume contains valuable contributions by the participants who took part in the capacity building programme. The contributors, among others, emphasised that South-South Cooperation plays a key role in the relationship among the countries of the South. It is a platform for developing countries to help each other in achieving development goals. The concept of leveraging respective strengths and capabilities is important for the Global South and has resulted in a number of concrete and successful stories of collaboration among developing countries. This also calls for creating adequate institutional frameworks that would strengthen and deepen the development cooperation process among Southern Countries.

All those who have an interest in the process of strengthening South-South Cooperation will find this volume stimulating.



Shyam Saran



# PREFACE

## **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**

*Director General, RIS*

Since its inception RIS has been actively involved in the process of promoting and strengthening South-South Cooperation. The institution has contributed immensely to the evolving narrative on the modalities of South-South Cooperation. As part of these efforts, RIS conducted the first Capacity-Building Programme on 'Leaning South-South Cooperation' in New Delhi from 16-27 November 2015, under the ITEC/SCAAP programme of the Ministry of External Affairs. Twenty-eight delegates from 19 countries participated in this programme.

During the course the participants were motivated to share their respective country experiences in promoting South-South Cooperation. RIS is happy to publish them in the form of this present volume. Their contributions throw light on the rich diversity of South-South Cooperation initiatives launched through the collective efforts by developing countries themselves. As has emerged, the Southern countries have evolved their own institutional architecture for promoting and managing the South-South Cooperation in the larger context of their development priorities.

We are sure the volume will serve as an important reference for all those who are interested in understanding the rubric of South-South Cooperation.



**Sachin Chaturvedi**





# Kyrgyzstan in South-South Cooperation



Aseel Azhykulova\*

## Introduction

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

With a population of 6 million, Kyrgyzstan is a lower middle income country with GDP of US\$ 7.404 billion (2014 est.) and GDP per capita (PPP) of US\$ 1.250 (2014 est.). The economy is dominated by agriculture and minerals extraction. Agricultural sector contributes 19.3 per cent to GDP, industry sector contributes 31.1 per cent, and services sector contributes 49.6 per cent (2014 est.). Labour force is 2.615 million (2014 est.), unemployment rate is 7.6 per cent (2014 est.) and poverty level is 37 per cent (2013 est.). Annual budget comprises revenues as US\$ 2.036 billion and expenditures as US\$ 2.214 billion (2014 est.).<sup>1</sup>

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

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\*PhD Candidate, International Ataturk Alatoo University, Kyrgyzstan.

## International Trade

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

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

China has become a valued trading partner for Kyrgyzstan. The primary import items are mineral products (fuel and energy resources), products of chemical industry, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment,

base metals, wood, pulp and paper products, products of light industry, land transport vehicles, plastic and articles thereof, rubber and articles of rubber and various food products. The Kyrgyz Government introduced the rules on the simplified procedure of customs clearance of goods imported by natural persons in 2004. (The value of goods imported under this scheme has increased by 3.8 times over this period.) China imports from Kyrgyzstan and then exports manufactured Chinese goods to Central Asian countries and Russia. It has, therefore, become one of the factors holding back the modernisation of the Kyrgyzstan economy (which is non-competitive) by losing the domestic market to foreign (Chinese) goods which have been produced by imports from Kyrgyzstan.

## Innovation and Technological Progress in Kyrgyzstan

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

## Strategy for Economic Growth in Kyrgyzstan

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

Extraction of minerals (gold) and exporting agricultural goods alone cannot be the engine of economic development. Regarding the strengths of Kyrgyzstan, it is worth noting that its educated people are ready to face these challenges of development. Also it has abundant sources of natural and organic agricultural goods. These resources should be utilised through concentrating on complex manufacturing and adding value to raw materials for an export-driven macro-economic policy. Kyrgyzstan can evolve a national export policy for hand-made garments which are of high quality and are well-known and have a high demand in foreign markets. Tourism sector can also be an added advantage if appropriate policy framework for

it is also in place. It is worth noting that size of population and environmental conditions do not only allow massive production and industrial development, but can also enforce the development of exclusive type of export-oriented manufacturing. Furthermore, development in Kyrgyzstan requires an enhanced utilisation of workforce and resources, equally substantial effort for research and development through learning from experiences of Japan, South Korea, China and India, and also finding its own way of sustainable and inclusive development.

## Kyrgyzstan and Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

Kyrgyzstan became a full-fledged member of Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in early 2015, built on the foundation of a customs union between Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. It is worth noting that once again this joining process was implemented very fast and without adequate analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the country and its comparative advantage in this Union. What was wrong is that no rigorous analysis was done to put in place a regulatory system and institutional settings favourable for growth of the country. The principle of Eurasian economic cooperation is based on influence-based diplomacy, but economic, science and technology mutual diplomacy are more important for sustainable and inclusive growth of Kyrgyzstan. Having no privilege of rejecting to join the EAEU, Kyrgyzstan has to look for opportunities and get maximum benefit.

## South-South Cooperation and Kyrgyzstan Potential Growth

As mentioned, Kyrgyzstan joined Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in early 2015. The current situation of the EAEU is that it is based on more of a traditional North-South Cooperation framework than South-South Cooperation. As we all know that South-South Cooperation is built on the principles of mutual interests through an exchange of knowledge, experience, technology, investment, information, and capacity building among

developing countries. Nevertheless, Kyrgyzstan should not follow the former liberalised type of environment, but the regulated system that carefully conducts international relations to first of all protect its own national interests. Owing to conditions of heavy competition and limited resources, the potential of Kyrgyzstan should be directed towards selecting most effective areas of economy that will have a maximum impact on GDP growth. The country needs to put in a legal and institutional framework to promote the private sector. The educated civil society in the country went against the current situation in the country, for instance in March 2005, April 2010, and June 2010, and meetings were held to persuade the government to build up infrastructure for sustainable economic development.

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

If we look at India-Kyrgyzstan bilateral commercial relations, they were limited to US\$ 38.53 million in 2014-15 (import - US\$ 37.76 million, export - US\$ 0.77 million, making up the Kyrgyzstan's share in India's total

global export just 0.01 per cent.). Diplomatic relations that started in 1992 between India and Kyrgyzstan envisaged setting up of resident missions and entering into several agreements on culture, trade, economic cooperation, civil aviation, investment promotion and protection, avoidance of double taxation and consular convention. Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation; IT Development Centre in Bishkek; a potato processing plant in Talas; ITEC training programmes should promote bilateral and multilateral commercial relations based on trade, investment and financial support with emphasis on human resource training programmes and technical support. The potential of Kyrgyzstan of exporting exclusive value added agricultural and knit goods can be promoted through business associations in India. Complementary role of producing one part of TNC goods can be implemented through IT Development Centre and Fellowship programmes or universities of both India and Kyrgyzstan. Relevant training for people of Kyrgyzstan can be organised through setting up branches of TNCs of India (TATA Group, Hindalco Industries, Core Education & Technologies, Polyplex Corporation, etc.). This can provide employment to many people.

## Conclusion

Participation in the RIS-ITEC Capacity Building Programme enabled me to understand the importance of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation for the benefits of Kyrgyzstan. This is because Kyrgyzstan international cooperation should not be built on donor-recipient relationship anymore but on the basis of development partnership with particular emphasis on providing opportunity to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth of the country. For this there is need for adequate institutional architecture that could be promoted by active involvement in the Southern multilateral institutions of Kyrgyzstan. The overall recognition of SSC can be enhanced by involving think-tanks through the Network of Southern Think-tanks (NeST) that assists in developing networks for inter-regional collaboration. In this regard, it is also vital to involve business associations,

trade unions and chambers of commerce of the Southern countries to establish a dialogue among business partners from Kyrgyzstan. Through active research in collaboration with think-tanks for evolving cohesion on policy making by government, Kyrgyzstan may have enhanced opportunities for accessing various platforms for exchanging and sharing model of SSC.

For this, there is need to launch capacity building programmes for researchers, businessmen, government officials (Ministry of Economic Development), particularly in research and development projects, and study of different ways of sustainable development within the framework of South-South cooperation. Conducting workshops on overall emerging economic issues and successful cases of South-South Cooperation across sectors, countries, and regions, think-tanks, business communities, etc., will be of great importance.

## Endnote

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# Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) and South-South Cooperation



**Anar Hidayatov\***

## Introduction

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

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

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*\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan.*

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

## Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) Programmes

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

### Humanitarian Aid

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

- ***Alliance to fight avoidable blindness campaign in African countries:*** AIDA, within the frame of strategic cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank has developed and successfully undertook campaigns from 2012-2014 on a project called “Alliance to fight avoidable blindness” in nine African countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Benin, Guinea, Cameroon, Niger, Mali and Libya). Under this initiative, AIDA mobilises Azerbaijani ophthalmologists to participate in the campaign annually

within the stipulated period mentioned above. In general, the campaign helped more than 10000 people to restore their vision and created conditions for their involvement in labour activity.

- ***Gaza Strip of the State of Palestine:*** In 2014, AIDA provided humanitarian assistances via the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Gaza which aimed at eliminating the consequences of destructions and humanitarian crisis arising from the armed clashes. As such, financial aid was provided by AIDA via UNRWA to the Gaza Strip as a response to the UN Security Council’s Statement of 21 November 2012 related to ceasefire and worsening of the humanitarian situation, and calling on the provision of humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine.
- ***Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:*** In 2014, Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA provided financial assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in order to eliminate the adverse consequences of floods arising from heavy rains for the agriculture, energy and other sectors of the country’s economy.
- ***Philippines:*** In 2013, Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA provided financial aid to the Philippines through framework of humanitarian programmes implemented by UN World Food Programme in the Philippines for the recovery of the devastating consequences of the Typhoon Haiyan that led to loss of thousands of human lives, hundreds of destroyed houses and a severe shortage of food, water and other necessities.
- ***Syria:*** In 2012, Government of Azerbaijan through AIDA provided financial aid to Syrian refugees settled in Amman city of Jordan as a result of the 2012 events in Syria, in order to improve their living conditions.
- ***Cuba:*** In 2012, AIDA provided financial assistance to Cuba aimed at liquidating the consequences of hurricane “Sandy” that occurred in 2012.

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

### International Development Assistance

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

- **E-governance project in Afghanistan:** In close cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Development Programme, AIDA has provided assistance

within the framework of a project aimed at establishing E-governance system in Afghanistan so as to increase efficiency in functioning of government structures in the country.

- **Scholarship programme for international students:** AIDA offers several international students an opportunity to participate in its scholarship programme that allows them to study at Azerbaijani universities.
- **Visiting research fellowship programme:** Within the framework of a joint programme between AIDA and local think-tanks, the Agency has provided various research opportunities to international researchers interested in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea region. As such, from 2012 to 2015 researchers from 15 different countries have conducted various researches in Azerbaijan.
- **Capacity building courses and seminars:** AIDA, together with the Azerbaijani universities and research institutes, has organised various capacity building courses and seminars in various areas in order to strengthen human capital of developing countries. In cooperation with the Colombian Agency for International Cooperation (APC Colombia), AIDA conducts seminars on processing of energy resources at the Scientific Research Institute of Geo-technological Problems of Oil, Gas and Chemistry of the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy for oil specialists from 26 countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa. These seminars have motivated discussions on the scientific exchange and future cooperation opportunities between the oil industry professionals in Azerbaijan and those countries.
- **Support for the development of the Palestinian city of Al-Quds:** As a result of Donor Conference on the Strategic Plan for the Development of the City of Al-Quds, and establishment of the Islamic Safety Net to support the State of Palestine, held in Baku in June 2013, and based on the calls at the conference for the improvement of economy, health and education systems and the overall infrastructure in Palestine, AIDA is currently committed towards selecting developmental projects to be implemented in the near future.







# Specific South-South Cooperation Experiences: The Case of West African Gas Pipeline



Charles Osei-Mensah\*

## Introduction

The West African sub-region of which Ghana forms a part is strategically located at the Western part of Africa which is best known as Sub-Saharan Africa. Out of the 54 nations in Africa, there are 16 countries which make West African sub-continent. The region has enormous mineral resource potentials for trade, investment, and industrial development resulting in economic growth. However, lack of available, reliable and cost-effective energy supply is a major challenge for the region. For this, the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) project has been launched to bring about sub-region's solution for bringing energy for economic growth and environmental benefits to Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria.

## The West African Gas Pipeline Project

The West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) project is an unprecedented energy development project in the sub-region that holds much promise for the effective and economic utilisation of the region's resources for development. The project is an International Gas Transmission System that transports clean, reliable and cheaper natural gas from Nigeria to customers in the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Togo and the Republic of Ghana. The project has the following antecedents in its emergence:

- In 1982, the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS), proposed construction of a Natural Gas Pipeline across West Africa as a key Regional economic goal which was the first background in the emergence of the project.
- In 1992, the World Bank study confirmed viability of a Natural Gas Pipeline based on ample reserves of Nigerian Natural Gas and Regional Energy needs which was the second background in the emergence of the project.

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\*Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Republic of Ghana.

- In 1995, Leaders of Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin signed an Agreement for the development of the West African Gas Pipeline which created a formal platform for the emergence of the project.
- In the year 2000, the four nations signed an Inter-governmental Agreement for a harmonised fiscal and regulatory framework for cross-border construction and operation of the gas pipeline.
- In 2003, the four nations and the West African Pipeline Company (WAPCo) signed the International Project Agreement (IPA) for the development of the pipeline. The construction of the West African Gas Pipeline began in 2005 and was completed in 2008 and the supply of gas has started through the pipeline.

## Objectives of the Project

The pipeline project among other seeks to:

- Improve the competitiveness of the energy sectors in Ghana, Benin, Togo and Nigeria;
- Promote the use of cheaper and environmentally cleaner gas from Nigeria in lieu of solid and liquid fuels for power generation and other industrial, commercial, and domestic uses;
- Reform institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks that facilitate private sector participation in the energy sector in the country; and
- Foster regional economic and political integration that would support economic growth, and development of the West Africa electricity market.

## Project Description

The West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) transports purified natural gas free of heavy hydrocarbons, liquids and water, ideally suited as fuel for power plants and industrial applications. Eighty-five per cent of the gas is for power generation and the remaining for industrial applications.

## Pipeline Capacity

The total pipeline length is approximately 690 km that travels through onshore and offshore routes from the Niger Delta in Nigeria to Benin Republic and Togo and terminates in

Takoradi in Ghana (The Volta River Authority's Takoradi Thermal Power Plant in Ghana), which transport and deliver gas to these four partnering countries. Thus, the project has an option to extend the pipeline to other West African countries if feasible in the future.

The initial capacity of the project is 175 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d), and it is ultimately expected to expand to 475 million cubic feet per day, as demand grows. The main offshore pipeline runs East to West at an average water depth of 35 metres though some sections such as the South-East of Ghana, South of Lome, and the Benin – Nigerian frontier ranges between 50 to 70 meters. Its range from the coast is as varied as the depth. At South of Cape St. Paul in Ghana, it is as close as 3.5 nautical miles (6.5 kilometres) while at its widest section south of Winneba also in Ghana, it is 17.5 nautical miles (32.5 kilometres). The ranges of the Tees from the coast are approximately as follows: Cotonou – 7 nautical miles (13 Km), Lome – 10.3 nautical miles (19 Km) and Tema – 7.8 nautical miles (14 Km). The main pipeline is 20 inches in diameter, Cotonou and Lome laterals are 8 inches, each, while the Tema lateral is 18 inches. The termination point at Takoradi (Aboadzi) forms part of the main pipeline.

## Project Benefits

- The project is the sub-region's solution in bringing energy for economic growth and environmental benefits to Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria.
- It will provide a long-term supply of abundant, clean, relatively cheaper fuel from Nigeria to Ghana, Togo and Benin.
- The pipeline construction and operations will transfer technical knowledge and skills to relevant public agencies, local consultants, contractors and their employees across the four countries.
- WAPCo employs over 100 skilled people from the sub-region, on competitive selection basis. This number had been far greater during construction.
- The pipeline project has provided a new level of regional co-operation and economic integration to enhance regional stability under the auspices of ECOWAS.
- The pipeline as a regional energy infrastructure will serve as a catalyst for

direct foreign investment in the partnering countries.

- Nigerian producers will benefit from additional revenues accruing from the sale of associated gas to WAPCo.
- Each of the four countries will have some direct tax benefits.
- The gas recipient countries will make some fuel gains.

### Challenges/Setbacks

- Delayed work at a Compressor Station at Lagos Beach in Nigeria and Regulating and Metering stations in Tema, Cotonou and Lome posed some initial challenges to the project.
- Project cost escalated due to delays and currency fluctuation.
- Environmental group, Friends of the Earth, has criticised the project, after local communities in Nigeria complained it would damage land, destroy livelihoods and pollute fishing areas.
- On 27 August 2012, the West African Gas Pipeline was damaged when pirates who had tried to board an oil tanker in an attempt to get away from the pursuing Togolese Navy.

### Ownership of the West African Gas Pipeline

Bermuda Corporation, owns and operates the West African Gas Pipeline Company (WAPCo)

Limited. It is a joint venture Limited Liability Company owned by both public and private sector companies in Nigeria, Ghana, Benin and Togo.

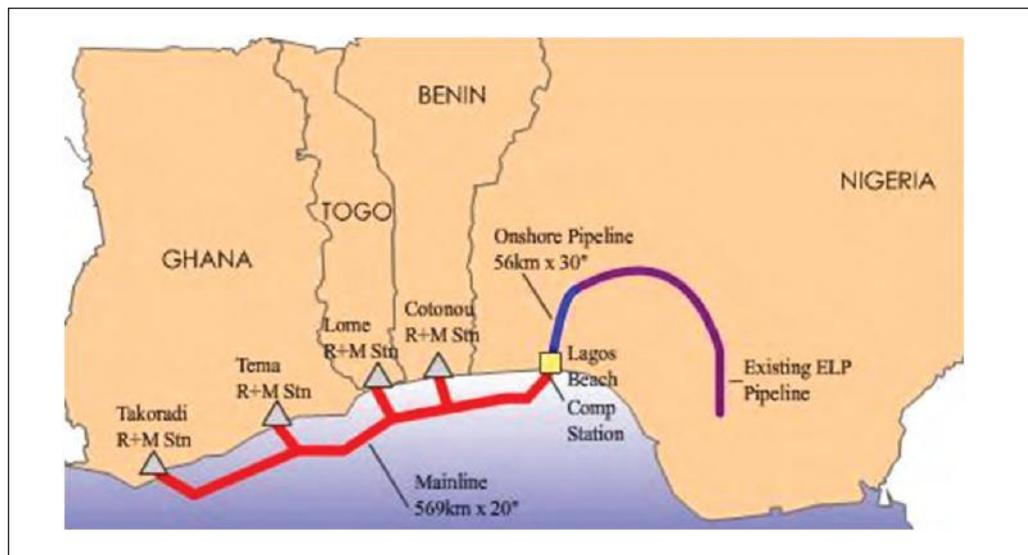
### Project Sponsorship

The World Bank has sponsored the project through its International Development Agency (IDA), and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) has provided the financial and political risk guarantee for the project.

### Conclusion

Commissioning of the pipeline began in late November 2008 and gas supply into the offshore pipeline began on 6 December 2008 from Nigeria to the beneficiary countries which end at Volta River Authority's Takoradi Thermal Power Plant in Ghana. Takoradi Thermal Power Plant was successfully completed on 14 December 2008. Construction of the Takoradi Regulating and Metering Station was also completed after initial delay. South-South Cooperation had been an integral part of Ghana's development agenda. As even before the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP), within the framework of South-South Cooperation, Ghana supplied Electricity to Togo and Côte d'Ivoire, however, as the population of Ghana increased the demands for power have outstripped the supply. Ghana, therefore, joined hands with other sister countries in the West Coast to construct the West African Pipeline to argument her energy need in a win-win manner.

### West African Gas Pipeline Project







# The Indian Ocean Cooperation: A Potential for South-South Cooperation



**Imam Abdillah\***

## Background

The Comoro archipelago is one of the poorest countries in the world with an unemployment rate of 14.3 per cent. Agriculture, including fishing, hunting, and forestry, is the leading sector of the economy. Almost 38 per cent of the working population is employed in Agriculture. Comoros has limited transportation system and few natural resources, but a rapidly increasing youth population. The low educational level of the labour force contributes to a subsistence level of economic activity, high rate of unemployment, and heavy dependence on foreign grants and technical assistance.

Comoros cannot solve all those challenges alone. Comoros is now involved in the regional cooperation within the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). The idea is to reduce dependency on foreign grants from the Northern developed countries, and increase development cooperation to build up capacities and promote good practices and experiences via partnership with Global South member states. Comorian regional cooperation within the IORA and IOC is focussed on business and trade facilitation, blue economy issues, food security, health and disaster risk management.

## Modalities of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

There are two major modalities within the IORA for strengthening development cooperation within member states which are discussed below:

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*\*Indian Ocean Cooperation Desk Officer in the Ministry of External Relations and Cooperation of the Union of Comoros.*

## Business and Trade Facilitation

IORA represents a development cooperation platform that is leveraged by member states in order to build global businesses, promote international trade and investment, and achieve sustainable and market-led economic growth that would contribute to job creation in the region. Trade and investment is an area that directly impacts upon job creation, poverty alleviation and economic development, and contributes to the objective of promoting sustainable and balanced economic growth in the region. IORA is working towards strengthening cooperation with the business community in order to accelerate intra-regional trade and increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows. Key areas of attention include trade facilitation, exploring options for trade policy coordination, harmonisation and simplification of procedures and dissemination of information through appropriate arrangements, including trade fairs, business-to-business meetings and capacity building programmes.

To further widen trade and investment facilitation, IORA should continue to pursue the establishment of a Preferential Trade Agreement for the region that would give access to global markets by eliminating barriers to trade and investment. Member states should work together to promote trade diversification and remove non-tariff barriers that could obstruct trade. They should equally consider harmonising trade practices in line with international norms and adopt measures consistent with their WTO obligations in order to stimulate growth and development in the region.

Therefore, to further strengthen trade and investment facilitation, the senior officials meeting was held in August 2014 in Mauritius which highlighted the importance of trade and business facilitation between member states. This was followed by an IORA workshop on business and trade facilitation held in Australia in February 2015.

## Prospects of Blue Economy

The second modality within the IORA is enhancing Blue Economy Cooperation for Sustainable Development. The oceans account for around 75 per cent of the world's surface

area and constitute more than 95 per cent of the biosphere providing a substantial portion of the global population with food and livelihoods, and are main means of transport for 80 per cent of global trade. In light of the growing global interest in the Blue Economy, the Australian Foreign Minister the Honourable Julie Bishop, introduced the Blue Economy theme at the 14th IORA Ministerial Meeting in Perth in October 2014. The "Blue Economy" is a new comprehensive concept, incorporating the "Ocean Economy", environment and sustainability to provide basic human needs such as potable water, food, jobs and habitable shelter.

The Government of Mauritius in collaboration with the IORA organised the first IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference (BEC) between 2-3 September 2015 which was held in Republic of Mauritius with aim to act as an ideal platform to bring together "member states" and "dialogue partners" of the IORA to promote Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean region. This first IORA Blue Economy Conference focussed on four priority areas, namely:

- Fisheries and Aquaculture,
- Renewable Ocean Energy,
- Seaports and Shipping, and
- Seabed and Minerals exploration.

During the conference, the Foreign Minister of the Union of Comoros said: "the Indian ocean is sometimes an ocean of natural disasters in particular in the small islands like my country. But this ocean is also our main resource. This small part of the world abounds in opportunities and together we should negotiate, cooperate in order to bring out economic development. Improving job creation and income of people is a big challenge and the Indian Ocean is the horizon to which we should look for a better standard of living."

## Modalities of Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

The Government of Comoros hosted the IOC member states for the 4th IOC Presidential Summit held in Moroni during 21-23 August 2014. On the second day, 23 August 2014, the

Heads of State and Government adopted the “Indianocéanie Declaration”. This statement paints a picture of the development challenges of the region and sets the guidelines for a collective response on plans, among others, connectivity and maritime and food security. These two modalities are discussed below:

### Connectivity

The heads of State and Government of IOC confirmed the importance of improving connectivity in the region via (1) maritime connectivity for trade, (2) air connectivity for tourism and business, and (3) digital connectivity for investments and technology transfer.

The idea is to finance regional projects in order to facilitate and develop intra-regional trade. Consequently, the 28th Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) has agreed with the principle of establishing a regional cabotage system. The Council also asked the General Secretariat to set up a Monitoring Committee for implementation. The Council of Ministers also recognised the need to promote regional integration via digital platform, and

as such they adopted a trade strategy in which digital platforms play a major role. Thus, digital connectivity remains a priority of the Strategic Development Plan (PDS) of the IOC.

Regional air connectivity is also essential for economic integration of the Indian Ocean Region. The specific objective of this project is to bring specific proposals for removing barriers to improve regional aviation infrastructure to facilitate regional integration as well as for better placing of island economies in the globalised trade flows.

### Maritime and Food Security

The second major modality of IOC is maritime and food security. The heads of State and Government at the 4th IOC Presidential Summit held in Moroni highlighted the importance of consolidating efforts to fight against maritime piracy as well as the illegal and criminal traffics. They also raised the issue of food security, in which member states agreed for the regional project on supporting food security initiatives in the region that will also make effective the role of Madagascar as a feeding land of the Indian Ocean.

## Location of Comoros with respect to the Indian Ocean Cooperation/Indian Ocean Rim Association







# Institutional Architecture of South South Cooperation: The Argentinean Experience



Leticia Mariela Estevez\*

## Introduction

In order to adequately address the challenges of SSC, it is necessary to create an institutional framework such as specialised agencies or designated departments, for its planning and implementation. Accordingly, governments in Global South will have to develop SSC policies that should define the structure of their institutional frameworks.

The institutional architecture of Argentina for addressing South-South cooperation is centralised under a specific head called Argentine Fund for South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation (FO.AR). This is the instrument of foreign policy by which Argentina Republic promotes joint technical cooperation initiatives with other countries through mechanisms of partnership, cooperation and mutual support.

The Argentine Fund for South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation has been working for over 20 years, and has already dealt with more than 6000 cases of technical cooperation in those subjects and areas where Argentina has plenty of experiences, such as agriculture, food security, health, education, human rights, and, recently, tourism. It is important to highlight that Argentina works from an ethical perspective, based on solidarity and respect for building an inclusive society.

## Specific Objectives of South-South Cooperation Financed by FO.AR

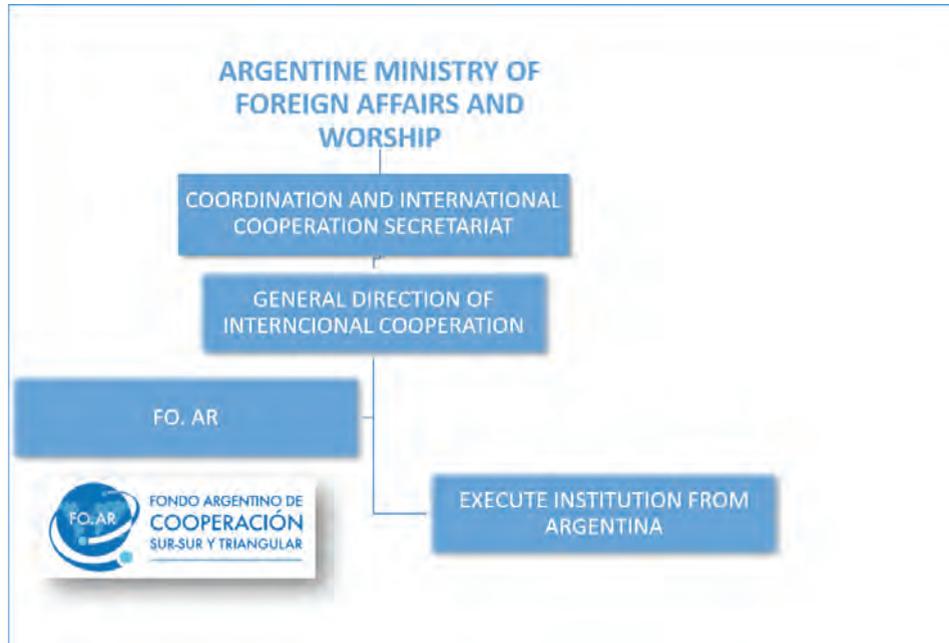
- Establishing and strengthening partnerships for development with other countries according to strategies and national priorities.
- Generating, supporting and strengthening mechanisms that promote exchange of knowledge, technologies and best practices between countries.

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\*Argentine Ministry of Tourism, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Position of FO.AR

The figure below reveals the position where FO.AR is placed within the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.



### How cooperation through FO.AR is implemented?

According to the characteristics of established cooperative partnerships with countries through FO.AR, each SSC project under FO.AR assistance is framed in one of these three fields:



- Developing methodologies and tools to streamline the process of technical assistance.

The modalities to be followed by the participating organisations are discussed below:

- ***Sending of Argentine experts abroad:*** It consists of the placement of experts from Argentine institutions to assist and cooperate with technicians from foreign institutions in their

development techniques and design and implementation of various public policies.

- ***Hosting of foreign professionals:*** Professionals from other countries are invited in Argentine institutions so that they acquire firsthand knowledge of Argentina's specific processes, practices or specific experiences that may be useful for their institutions.

- **Organising seminars:** Through this component, FO.AR cooperates to organise international seminars on various matters of common interest.

On the basis of the above modalities, FO.AR budget is contributed by the Argentina Chancellery. The Organisation of American States (OAS) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) provide operational support that include ticketing, payment of travel expenses, supplies, and health insurance. FO.AR also ensures recognition of the important contribution made by the Argentine organisations and ensures maintaining of the desired working conditions for their specialists while working on FO.AR missions.

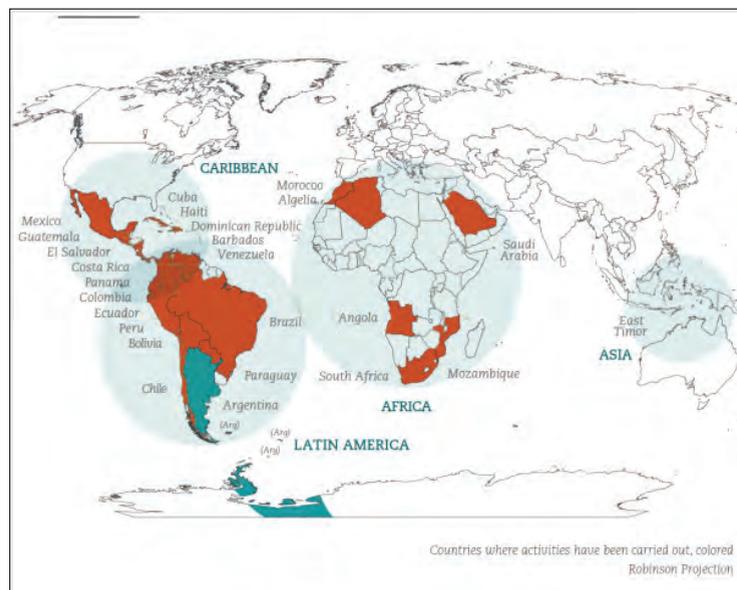
### FO.AR's Requirements for Technical Cooperation

- i) Public and non-governmental institutions of foreign countries who wish to seek technical cooperation through FO.AR must:
  - Complete Form A1 Project Proposal contained in the "Forms" ([www.mrecic.gov.ar](http://www.mrecic.gov.ar)).
  - Submit it to the authority in the country that is competent in international cooperation (Ministry, Agency for

Cooperation, etc.) for information and evaluation. It shall forward it to the Argentina Embassy in the country.

- Argentina Embassy will conduct a second evaluation and forward it to the Directorate General of International Cooperation of the Foreign Ministry of Argentina. There are other viability tests and other procedures necessary for its implementation in which FO.AR is the final authority for the approval of projects.
  - After approval of the project, FO.AR Argentine institutions would coordinate with specialists cooperating to implement it.
  - FO.AR coordinates with their counterparts in those countries for preparing the final work programme, ticketing and medical coverage, and payment of per diem.
- ii) Representatives of Argentina abroad also have a key role in implementing the FO.AR cooperation, fulfilling different roles in the process, such as:
    - Broadcasting: Local authorities can find all the information they require to participate in the programme of FO.AR.

### Details on Argentine Fund for South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation (FO.AR) and graphics related to it



Source: [cooperacionarg.gob.ar/userfiles/revistafoar2010en.pdf](http://cooperacionarg.gob.ar/userfiles/revistafoar2010en.pdf)

- Rating and evaluation: Fluid contact allows them to make the first assessment of applications, prioritising them according to country strategies.
- Instrumentation: FO.AR is the link between the Argentina Foreign Ministry and local institutions for the management of cooperation.

## Highlights of Argentina South-South Cooperation

Argentina is a member of the Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation, and was ranked as the 2nd partner of the Latin American region for its South-South Cooperation that helped develop other states and stands out as one of the top 5 in South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

From the provider standpoint, Argentina executed 140 projects in 2013, a large volume, second only to Brazil (166), and significantly higher than Mexico, the third most important country with 74 projects.

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# Nepal's Peace Process: Conflict and Cooperation



**Bipin Duwadi\***

## Where have we come so far?

Embracing multi-caste, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and diverse geographical specificities, and ending all forms of discrimination and oppression created by the feudal, autocratic, centralised and unitary system of governance, the sovereign Constituent Assembly of Nepal promulgated the Constitution of Nepal on 20 September 2015. The constitution was endorsed by over 84 per cent of the lawmakers, in which out of 598 CA members, 507 voted in favour of the constitution. The Constitution has ensured the proportional inclusion and participation of the people of every sector in the governance system of Nepal. The country has now entered into the federal system of government and has been declared as a secular state in terms of religion. Public positions are not influenced by gender. Six years after the formal end of the civil war, Nepal's "peace process" has been concluded with the integration of a little over 1,450 former Maoist fighters into the Nepal Army (NA). The cantonments where the former combatants of the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) resided are closed down, Maoist weapons are under state control, and the PLA has ceased to exist ending the state of one country, "two Armies".

## Major Causes of Conflict

Nepal experienced bloody armed conflict for a decade (from 13 February 1996 to 21 November 2006). On 4 February 1996, the newly named Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) began to draw up plans to launch an armed struggle that they called the "People's War", against the State by submitting a 40-points demand to Government, which according to them, addressed a wide range of social, economic and political agendas, and warned that a militant struggle would follow if the demands were not met. Just one week later, on 13 February 1996, the CPN

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\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal.

(Maoist) launched an armed insurgency against the Government with a small rebellion in some western hill districts of Nepal which quickly expanded to all over the country and posed a severe threat to human security in the country. Initially the conflict that was regarded as a minor problem of law and order in a distant part of rural Nepal developed into an entrenched and often brutal armed conflict that affected the entire country. The rebel group often stressed the fact that the causes of conflict were:

- Centuries' old feudal, centralised, unitary and exclusionary monarchism;
- Wide spread discrimination based on sex, caste, ethnicity and geography;
- Several previous constitutions failed to address the aspirations of people;
- Concentration and abuse of power;
- Poverty and unemployment;
- Failure of state governing system, and ideological indoctrination;
- Constitution through Constituent Assembly; and
- State Restructuring.

### What led to the transformation?

From 21 November 2006, Nepal has entered into a new era where the Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (M) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The historic peace agreement not only ended more than a decade long armed insurgency but also opened windows of opportunity to transform the feudal, centralised and exclusionary state into a modern and inclusive nation.

The 12-points agreement signed by the Seven-Party Alliance (SPA) and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-Maoist) on 22 November 2005 with India as mediating party and the subsequent mass movement of April 2006 transformed Nepal into a secular, federal democratic republic. The 23-points accord of 23 December 2007 agreed to set up six commissions: Commission for the investigation of the disappeared persons; Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

State Restructuring Commission; Study and Recommendation Commission for Scientific Land Reform; High Level Committee for Monitoring the Effective Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and other Agreements and a High-Level Peace Commission shall be formed as per the Comprehensive Peace Accord. Maoists were brought into the cabinet and parliament, giving them the status of second largest party of the country. Interim constitution came into force in 2006 and interim legislative parliament and interim government were formed. Subsequently, the election of 601 members of the Constituent Assembly (CA) held on 10 April 2008 made the UCPN-Maoist as the single dominant party that changed the political equation in the country. UCPN (Maoist) leader Puspa Kamal Dahal became the Prime Minister in August 2008.

To build trust in the peace process, the rebel group handed over the keys of their stores where they kept their weapons and asked their cadres to return the property seized during the insurgency. The modalities of integration, the numbers to be integrated, rank harmonisation, and rehabilitation and voluntary retirement packages were settled by the seven-point agreement of four major parties on 1 November 2011. The parties agreed to integrate 6,500 fighters into the newly-created Special Directorate under the Nepal Army (NA). The Directorate, comprising 65 per cent personnel from the security agencies of the state and 35 percent from People's Liberation Army (PLA), which will be responsible for infrastructure development, industrial and forest security and disaster relief. The agreement offered a package of US\$ 6,300 to US\$ 10,000 for PLA opting for voluntary retirement and cash package of US\$ 7,600 to US\$ 11,400 depending on their rank for those who prefer rehabilitation. Combatants were integrated on an individual basis and those who met the norms of the security force, were allowed for integration. But there was some flexibility on age, marital status and educational qualification. The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) played a monitoring role during the cantonment period; however, its activities were brought into debate by some parties later on. And though the first CA came to a failure, the re-election of CA for

second time brought the process of Constitution making process into a logical conclusion. The power sharing arrangements and coalition culture in government among parties during the transitional period was highly applauded. Furthermore, the role of India, China, USA, UK and UN agencies were duly noted.

## What is unique in Nepalese Peace Process?

- **Power sharing in every sectors of governance system:** Power sharing arrangement in Nepal is applied in two distinct stages representing the pre- and post-election periods. Specifically, the groups agreed to integrate the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Nepal Army (NA), make all decisions in a specially-created interim government by universal consensus, and take joint responsibility for security sector, economic, and human rights reforms. It stipulates that the president, vice-president, CA chairman, deputy chairman and prime minister are chosen on the basis of political understanding. And if such understanding is not forthcoming, they can be elected by simple majority.
- **Local peace committees:** In 2006 the government decided to establish Local Peace Councils (LPCs) in 75 districts to overcome the conflict transformation and peace-building vacuum at "Track II level" to execute CPA and institutionalise peace-building activities at the local level. The aim is to include all sides including victims in reconciliation processes; provide relief to displaced people; ensure return of properties captured by CPN (Maoist); look into resettlement and rehabilitation issues and the promotion of the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure; provide an institutional focal point for peaceful recovery from the previous war; and build up public opinion to constitute a more peaceful democratic environment.
- **Civil society in negotiation with conflict actors:** The use of mediation by civil society groups is a modern approach as it brings democratic values such as inclusion, transformation, justice and participatory governance. Civil society groups in Nepal have drawn their own "roadmaps" for conflict resolution, which have induced similar initiatives at the diplomatic and political levels. It was through unofficial communication by human rights organisations and civil society groups that the government and CPN (Maoist) became engaged in the previous two rounds of peace talks in August 2001 and January 2003 at the Track 1 level where members of civil society also acted as facilitators.
- **Community mediation:** Community mediation has been in use in many parts of the country through mobilisation of local institutions, clubs, media persons, human rights group, mothers groups, self-help groups, NGOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in rectifying power disparities and injustices through poverty alleviation, employment generation, education, communication and empowerment projects to alter the local power equation and contribute to constructive change. Informal groups at the local level called *Tol Sudhar Samitis* (community reform committee) have helped the community mediation to earn popularity in the community.
- **Religious approaches:** The use of religious customs and ideals is an old practice in conflict moderation. Festivals such as *Dashain, Tihar, Chhat, Jud Shital, Phagu Purnima, Ghewa, New Year Day, etc.*, and discourses on classical treaties *Bhagbad* and *Puran* and performing *Yagyana* (religious rites) provide a public space and an occasion to reconcile relations by visiting each other's houses, exchanging gifts and good wishes, receiving blessings from the elderly persons and assuming local responsibility. This helps to improve communication, renew relationship and build confidence.
- **Traditional approaches:** Indigeous institutions and systems such as *Gram Parishad* (Village Council), *Pancha kachahari* (village court consisting of five elderly people), *Purohit* (priest), local school teachers, *Mukhiya* (village headman), *Maijan* or *Manyajan* (community leaders in Tarai), *Dharmadhikar* (officer responsible

for enforcing regulation), *Guthis* (social organisation that is used to maintain the socio-economic order of Newar society), local leaders and elderly people have used customary laws to ensure that village conflict does not spiral into uncontrolled violence and disrupt civic life.

## Conclusion

Hence, after decades of conflict, a chance for real peace, real social inclusion and real democracy has begun to be seen in Nepal. Once again, despite several disputes in different areas, Nepal has been successful in formally ending the civil war.





# Kyrgyzstan in South-South Cooperation: Agricultural Industry



**Gulnaz Atabaeva\***

## Introduction

Before coming to RIS for Capacity Building Programme on Learning South-South Cooperation (LSSC) via a course on Development Partnership under ITEC/SCAAP, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, I searched on Google for the definition of South-South Cooperation and found that it was a new and different paradigm from the North-South Cooperation where traditionally most development aid was sourced from developed nations, particularly the traditional donors of the North, and was directed to the developing world.

I had this limited information of South-South Cooperation in my mind before this course. But, this course in India made me understand broad concept of South-South Cooperation framework. I was very excited and highly motivated for the alternative development models, policies and partnerships for my country with other countries in the Global South. Since, this course is organised and sponsored by the Government of India it is an indication that the Government of India has made a lot of efforts to increase and strengthen political, economic and technical partnerships among developing countries.

## Rationale, Concepts and Contours of SSC

In the first week of the course, we were taught the rationale, concepts and contours of SSC by building on the individual accomplishments of the respective countries, thus explaining the benefits from and barriers to their collective engagements. The programme also acquainted us with principles, policies, modalities (that includes national sovereignty, national ownership, independence, equality, non-conditionality, noninterference and mutual benefit) and practices that are evident across SSC and how the policy orientations or the strengths of SSC can be practically applied. The participants

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*\*International Ataturk Alatoo University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Republic.*

felt unanimously that the SSC promotes mutual cooperation aimed at fostering self-sustaining development and deepening relations among developing countries.

The presentation by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS particularly focussed on science and technology diplomacy which is an important policy agenda. He mentioned that technology is becoming more important for developing countries as the economies of developing countries are mostly agriculture-based. Technology transfer through SSC can increase value-added content of the production and increase employment in rural areas.

Prof. Pranav Desai of Jawaharlal Nehru University emphasised the increasing trend in science and technology cooperation which is driven by globalisation, emerging technologies and movement within international environment. Asia is a leader in high-tech exports (45.8 per cent) because of assembly-based production. India is attracting FDI mostly in the IT industry (software and IT services).

Prof. Ram Upendra Das of RIS focussed on priorities of bilateral agreements in context of regional economic integration. Ambassador Suresh Goel, Indian Council for Cultural Relations spoke about cultural linkages in SSC. In his opinion, in SSC it is important to find synergies between developing countries in search for better cooperation. Identities can be different but a common set of values can lead to unity. He emphasised on finding common elements in culture and traditions as cultural collaborations are the building blocks in strengthening the cooperation between Southern countries. He underlined that diversity enriches the society rather than creating frictions in it.

Dr. Sreeram Chaulia from Jindal School of International Affairs mentioned that South-South Cooperation is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. Linked by commonalities of history, shared experience as colonised countries, geography, and challenges, the countries of the South have important lessons to share, including various success stories from which other developing countries can learn. He also mentioned about irresistible

shift of Global Order from Global North to Global South. According to him, there are three processes to shift Global Order:

**Institutional reform, establishment of new institutions which involve the following:**

- Change by reforming agreements
- WB, IMF (transition from G7 to G20)
- Starting new institutions
- BRICS (New Development Bank)

**Intensifying alliances and partnerships (South-South trade) via the following:**

- WTO (created in 1995)
- Fastest growing category in global trade
- Capital movements and technology transfers

**Political unity within the Global South. He stated two factors which slow this third process:**

- Narrow nationalism, national interests (competition for power within regions). For example, G4 (Germany, Brazil, India, Japan)
- Western militarisation, differences in relationships (neighbours do not want to cooperate). For example, India with China, Brazil with Argentina

He underlined that equality and non-hegemonic interactions need to be established in South-South Cooperation, for example, Business to Business Approach, Society to Society Approach (Capacity Building Programme), People to People Approach. The last one that is very important for SSC is “Teachers-Volunteers” who can work in Southern developing countries to teach English, computer sciences, etc. He concluded that we live in a multiplier world, where power is fairly distributed among the world.

## Conclusion

All the presentations made during the programme were highly inspiring. As a lecturer at university, now I can acquaint my students with what I have learned regarding various aspects of better cooperation in the Global South.



# Leveraging on the Strengths: The Lessons of the East African Community in South-South Cooperation



**Wafula James Bichachi\***

## Introduction

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

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

- They relied heavily on ODA from their former colonial masters and the Nordic countries (UK, USA, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Netherlands).
- They received technical assistance mostly from the development agencies of the western countries (NORAD, CIDA, SIDA, USAID, DFID, and JICA).
- They had been victims of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of the IMF and World Bank prescribed in 1980s to cure the economic conditions therein.
- Many were highly indebted and had even benefited from Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC).
- They had extremely weak and fragile economies, susceptible to any economic shocks especially fall in export commodity prices and drop in growth rates in the donor countries.
- They were characterised by low intra-regional trade volumes, since domestic manufacturing was very low in almost all the countries with the exception of Kenya, which had a slightly better manufacturing sector.
- They relied on imports largely from abroad even for basic

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\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda.

commodities which were available in the neighbouring countries.

- They were mutually hostile to each other politically, with some being responsible for political subversion of other countries, mostly on the instigation of foreign interests.

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

- Large population with a combined regional population of over 130 million people, which is a potentially viable market for intra-regional trade as well as an important destination for foreign investments;
- Immense natural resources base, with some of the largest mineral and agricultural resources as well as tourism; and
- Relatively stable macro-economic environment which could be an important foundation for economic growth and development.

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

## Objectives of East African Community (EAC)

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

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

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

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

## Achievements recorded so far by East African Community

**Confidence-building:** East Africa Community (EAC) was established in 1999 and therefore has been in existence for 16 years. From its inception to date its main achievement has been the implementation of confidence-building that has spurred and energised “Partner States” efforts in regional integration. “Partner States” have expanded the spirit which enhanced the basis of the cooperation among member states from the initial threshold of mere cooperation to a higher level of integration, with the ultimate objective of being a “Political Federation”.

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

**These projects are:**

- The Standard Gauge Railway (linking the 4 countries)
- Oil refinery project
- Other cooperation programmes in the fields of tourism, ICT, defence and security, immigration, power generation and transmission.

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

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

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

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

- Operationalisation of the East African passport, in which the EAC passport grants a holder a six month multiple-entry visa in the region;
- Implementation of seven-day grace period for personal motor vehicles crossing national borders among the EAC Partner States;
- Establishment of special immigration counters for East Africans at ports of entry, issuance of temporary travel documents to facilitate travel within the region by EAC citizens;

- Abolition of student visas for East Africans;
- Standardisation of university fees for citizens of East Africans and implementation of student and lecturer exchange programmes at university level;
- Implementation of cross-border disease control programmes; and
- Harmonisation of procedures for granting work permits.

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

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

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

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

## Benefits of EAC to Member States

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

- Increase trade levels between member states through a series of policies and regulations. (Total intra-trade grew from US\$ 1.6 billion in 2005 to US\$ 3.8 billion in 2010 which is more than 100 per cent increase. It has been projected to grow to US\$ 6.5 billion in 2015);
- Revenue growths for partner states was significantly high at an average growth rate of 11 per cent per annum;
- Investment levels in the partner states have grown remarkably high, especially in capital intensive sectors (like oil and petroleum, mining and telecommunications);
- Promotion of production and consumption of locally manufactured goods;
- Greater opportunities to exploit economies of scale;
- Joint projects are being implemented by partner states (e.g. Roads, railways);
- High economic growth levels have been realised in the partner states, averaging between 5 per cent to 7 per cent;
- Economic stability in the region experienced from reduced and stable prices, despite global recession and economic instability; and
- Less dependency on donors for budget support, with each country now able to finance up to 80 per cent of budget from domestic revenues.

## Challenges Experienced by EAC

- Despite the achievements and benefits recorded, EAC has faced a number of challenges which are as follow:
- Diversity among the member states in a wide range of areas including perception, economic potential, resources and population;
- Overlapping and multiple membership of some partner states with other regional economic communities (such as

COMESA, SADC), thus lead to conflicting arrangements;

- Implementation of some of the protocols have been extremely difficult owing to bureaucratic problems and domestic disputes; as well as conflict of interests;
- Fear of loss of sovereignty among partner states in the process of regional integration;
- Challenges of availability of resources and resource mobilisation (limited financial resources and budgetary constraints); and
- Challenges in the harmonisation of some domestic laws and policies.

## How the challenges are being mitigated and resolved

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

## Lessons for South-South Cooperation

- Developing countries need to identify what first appear to be their weakness and use them to enhance more cooperation amongst themselves.
- The institutional framework for South-South Cooperation is a very important. Many countries engage in cooperation

without a detailed institutional framework. This in the long run is not sustainable. For successful cooperation to be realised, it is important to create institutions, not just signing agreements (eg. EAC, BRICS, IBSA).

- Increased collaboration between partner states in the South by sharing development experiences and pooling efforts and resources together to provide a big drive for economic development, as seen in the East African Community.
- South-South cooperation can be an effective tool for promoting development in the developing world as an alternative to aid and donations from the developed world, especially if the developing/emerging economies in the South give leadership. For EAC, India and China have provided support in this partnership.
- South-South cooperation still faces numerous challenges, notably problems of diversity, limited resources and unequal

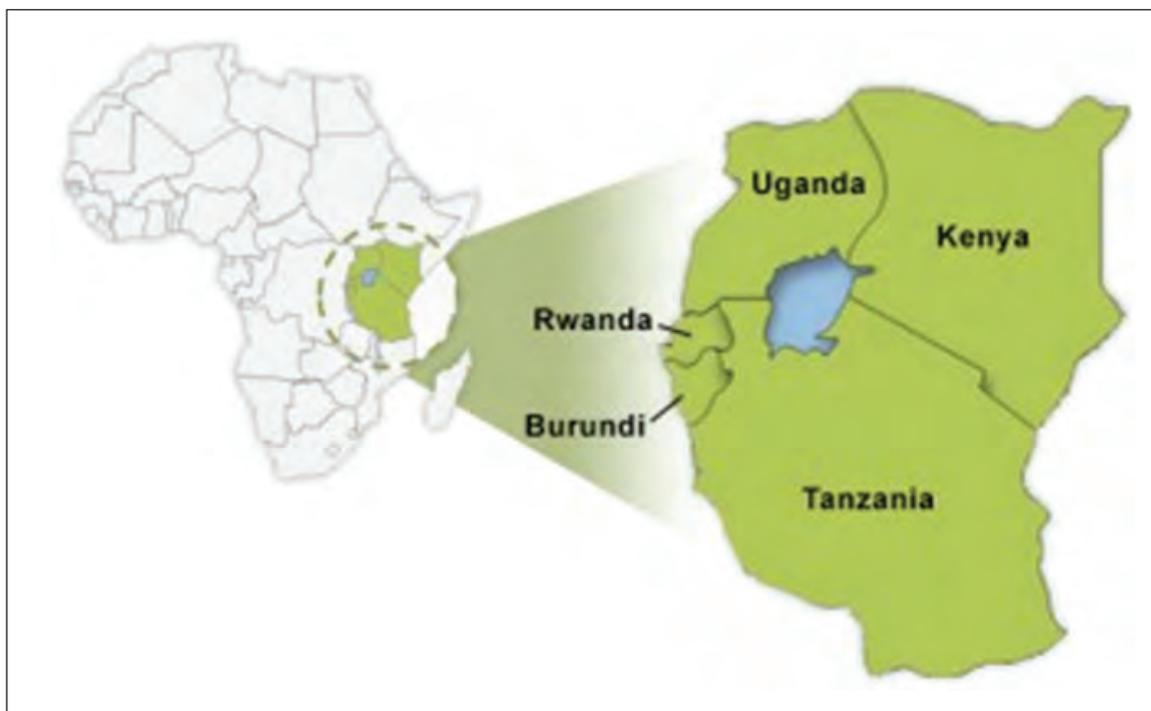
international political and economic order, which must be addressed so as to reduce the world imbalance.

- Though South-South cooperation may not entirely substitute cooperation with the north, but it is going to be the most sustainable and appropriate form of cooperation for the developing nations.

## Conclusion

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

## East African Community (EAC) and Maps depicting EAC in the African continent







# Colombia: Towards a More Institutionalised Architecture for South-South Cooperation



**Karen Jiménez Morales\***

## Introduction

South-South cooperation is widely recognised to have a key role in the relationship among the countries of the South. The world has changed significantly since the Millennium Development Declaration and the drafting of the MDGs and is poised for new trajectory after adoption of SDGs. Developing countries are changing the dynamic of multilateralism by expanding their participation and influence in the negotiations and decisions on core issues in the international agenda, such as climate change, international trade and development finance (Secretaría General Iberoamericana, 2015). In order to face these new challenges, some countries have created an institutional architecture to promote international cooperation and contribute significantly to their countries' development.

Colombia has faced important challenges associated with its position at the international and regional system. But, it has been observed that Colombia is increasing institutionalisation of its public policy on international cooperation, a process that has made an important progress in the last ten years. The need for sectoral and geographical diversification of the international economic integration has been perceived both in positive and negative terms. The South-South and Triangular cooperation has been given importance in the promotion of the relationship with Africa, Asia and the Pacific, one of the key objectives of the National Government in Colombia (Grasa, 2014).

## Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC)

Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC) was created in 2011 as the Government Agency in

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\*Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation, Colombia.

charge for technically managing, guiding and coordinating all public, private, technical and non-refundable financial international cooperation received and granted by Colombia. Among its lines of actions, APC-Colombia has a mandate to design, implement and evaluate the bilateral programmes and regional strategies of South-South and triangular cooperation.

## Colombian Roadmap for International Cooperation 2015-2018

Recently, Colombia has developed the “*Roadmap for International Cooperation 2015-2018*” which is based on four key elements:

- Colombia’s National Development Plan,
- Colombia’s foreign policy priorities,
- Presidential mandate to work on a possible post-conflict scenario,
- Guidelines from APC-Colombia’s Board of Directors.

These key elements have been made in synergy with different stakeholders from the public, private and third sector.

## Key Strategic Objectives for Colombian International Cooperation

Colombian International Cooperation focusses on establishing a lasting peace through international cooperation received by Colombia in three areas: peace-building, sustainable rural development, conservation and environmental sustainability. These are the first key objectives. Apart from these three thematic areas, the government has also included innovation, science and technology as cross-cutting themes. The three thematic areas are discussed below:

- Peace-building is related to topics such as assistance to victims of conflicts, demobilisation and reintegration;
- Sustainable Rural Development includes closing gaps between the city and the countryside, creating life alternatives and productive opportunities, and providing

access to markets for workers in Colombia’s rural areas; and

- Conservation and environmental sustainability is mainly focussed on reforestation, conservation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Colombian International Cooperation aims to share valuable knowledge that provides tangible benefits for the development of Colombia and its partners via South-South Cooperation. For this purpose, APC-Colombia works on the identification, design coordination of the South-South Cooperation initiatives within the framework of the bilateral programmes, regional strategies, strategic alliances and dialogue and consultation mechanisms.

## Colombian Mechanisms for International Cooperation

- Colombian International Cooperation works through a traditional channel of the cooperation via dialogue among neighbouring countries, based on existing cooperative agreements on technology, science and technology, culture and education among partner countries. So far 25 agreements have been signed with different countries around the world, mainly in Latin America.
- Colombian International Cooperation is designed on regional strategies that focus on cooperation with specific partner country and in areas depending on the country’s demand. Right now, Colombia is consolidating the regional strategies with Mesoamerica and the Caribbean as well as developing other strategies with South-East Asia, Africa and Eurasia.
- Colombian International Cooperation is designed to provide cooperation through strategic alliances, which refer to a win-win arrangement with a partner from the public or private sector, civil society, international community or academia in order to increase the benefits of South-South Cooperation. Some examples of these alliances are the ones made with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and United

Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

- Colombian International Cooperation is carried forward through dialogue and consultation mechanisms with partners that gather member countries with the aim of reaching agreements on issues of mutual interest and ultimately promoting the development of the nations. Colombia has played a leading role in boosting cooperation with groupings such as the Pacific Alliance, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, and the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation.

### International Cooperation and Assistance Fund (FOCAI)

In order to fulfil the goals of its South-South Cooperation, Colombia has allocated specific funding through the International Cooperation and Assistance Fund (FOCAI). The total budget of this fund in 2014 was about US\$ 3.5 million. South-South Cooperation for Latin American countries accounts for almost 40 per cent of the budget, while the other 35 per cent was allocated to cooperation with Asia, Eurasia, Middle East and Africa. Finally, 8 per cent of the total budget was addressed for humanitarian aid to countries such as Turkey, Philippines, Jordan, Somalia, Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala, Palestine, Mali, among others.

Colombia has provided assistance for socio-economic areas related to early childhood care, overcoming poverty and malnutrition; disaster risk management that includes disaster risk management plans, inter-institutional coordination and attention to communities;

peace-building and social harmony; and entrepreneurship development, etc.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, it needs to be underlined that Colombia recognises the role of South-South Cooperation in helping to meet the national development goals as well as to promote the exchange of knowledge, best practices and lessons learned among developing countries. Therefore, it has established a well-structured institutional framework to promote South-South Cooperation. The main role from the technical side is played by the APC-Colombia that leads the coordination of international cooperation in the country. However, this coordination has been made in synergy with different stakeholders from the public, private and other sectors. In addition, Colombia is aware of the importance of international cooperation and specifically, the South-South Cooperation, for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting Colombia's candidacy to OECD.

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# South-South Cooperation in the Context of ECOWAS-EU Economic Partnership Agreement



**Kwabena Akuffo-Akoto\***

## Overview

The focus of the paper is to leverage the strength of the Global South as it relates to the Global North. In the world today, the Global North holds the majority of the cards when it comes to economic power, while the Global South, on the other hand, has the majority of the world's population which presents enticing markets for the North. The North's ambition is to open the markets of the South thereby providing their corporations with new markets to exploit for profits. The perfect interest of the North is the liberalisation of the South's market for their goods, without opening their own domestic markets to competition from industries of the South. Most members of the South are developing countries that want to rapidly industrialise their economy in order to provide employment and economic empowerment for their rapidly growing populations. This industrialisation will require transfer of technology and expertise from the industrialised North which in turn requires infrastructure development in the South in order to take advantage of the knowledge transferred.

This study is centered on the discussions in ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and among its member states during the preparation for negotiations with the European Union (EU). ECOWAS is a regional organisation of 15 West African countries established on 28 May 1975, with the main goal of promoting economic integration among its member states. They are Benin, Burkina Faso (then known as Upper Volta), Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. There is no doubt that without a united front of ECOWAS in European Union Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) no individual ECOWAS member state, with the exception of Nigeria, would have had the leverage

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*\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana.*

to strike the deal that would finally be agreed upon. Although there were still disagreements between the member states after the agreement had been initiated, it is generally considered to be the best deal that could have been struck.

The main objective of the ECOWAS-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was the establishment of a free trade area between Europe and West Africa (ECOWAS+Mauritania) in accordance with Article XXIV of GATT, through the gradual removal of trade restrictions between the two trading partners. The EPA was intended to foster smooth and gradual integration of the Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP) into the world economy, with due regard for their political choices and development priorities, thereby promoting their sustainable development and contribution to poverty eradication. EPA negotiations were officially launched at all ACP level on 27 September 2002. In the West African region, the negotiations between EU and ECOWAS began on 4 August 2004 following the launch of the Accra Road Map. The ECOWAS-EPA is a WTO compatible Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) designed to succeed the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) of 2000, the non-reciprocal regime that had guided trade relations between the two regions.

## Challenges

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between ECOWAS and EU has faced many challenges right from its inception. For instance, negotiations were suspended in 2012 following divergent views over market access offer and the EPA Development Programme (EPADP), a dedicated funding programme to enable West Africa to cope with the cost of adjustment to the impending trade regime. Initially, ECOWAS had offered to open 60 per cent of its market over 25 years. It later revised this position to 70 per cent over the same period citing the protections of the region's fragile industrial base from cheaper goods from the EU. On the other hand, the EU maintained its original position of 80 per cent market opening over 15 years. West Africa, comprising the 15 ECOWAS member states and Mauritania, also requested for Euros 15 billion in new funds for the EPADP, while

the EU insisted that the programme should be funded from existing bilateral and multilateral contributions.

The resumption of the negotiations on 20 January 2014 followed a directive of the ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit held in Dakar, Senegal in October 2013, calling for flexibility in the process. The summit also directed West Africa's chief negotiators to "expeditiously resume the negotiations with their European Partners with a view to conclude the regional agreement as soon as possible." The regional leaders further directed the West African negotiators to ensure that adequate financing was provided for EPADP and fiscal adjustment costs to ensure a balance with the market access offer with free movement of persons and services, also treated as priorities. On the market access offer, West African leaders noted that this should take into account the required coherence with the regional Common External Tariff (CET) which became operational in January 2015.

## Endorsement of the EPA Negotiations

At their 44th ordinary summit in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, in March 2014, West African leaders endorsed in principle the conclusion of the EPA negotiations with the European Union (EU) for a free trade area of the two economic blocs but urged the region's chief negotiators [President of the ECOWAS Commission and his counterpart of the eight-member West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)] to take appropriate measures to resolve outstanding technical issues within two months before the signing of the agreement in October 2014. The leaders eventually agreed to a compromise in phases for 75 per cent market access over 20 years, and 6.5 billion Euros EU contribution to the EPADP between 2015-2019.

The West African Heads of State also directed the regions chief negotiators, to establish a committee of representatives from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal to revisit the outstanding issues and make proposals for the consideration of their leaders. At the 44th Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS

convened in Accra on 10 July 2014, the West African leaders welcomed the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee that was set up to consider the technical concerns raised by some Member States. The recommendations of the Committee led to appropriate solutions on those issues. The Heads of States approved the EPA negotiations, on the basis of the consensual results reached by the Chief negotiators on all the issues (particularly on the market access offer, the EPADP and the texts of the agreement), taking due account of the technical concerns raised. The West African chief negotiators were instructed to take all necessary steps to quickly start the process of signing and implementing the Agreement. In this regard, the Chief negotiators were encouraged to sustain their efforts, particularly by informing and raising awareness of the national and regional stakeholders.

## Conclusion

This study provides examples of the potential and the challenges of South-South cooperation within the West African context. As explained above, the unity of the West African countries eventually garnered concessions from the EU that led to the drafting and initiating the agreement of ECOWAS-EU Economic

Partnership Agreement. The fact that up to date the agreement has not been signed and ratified by the parties due to certain challenges that still exist. During the discussions within ECOWAS two camps emerged consisting of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire on one side and Nigeria on the other. Nigeria has been trading with the EU on the General System of Preferences and as a member of OPEC exports oil, which means that they have substantial foreign currency reserves. The Nigeria business community would have felt no difference in trade if the EPA was allowed to tumble. Furthermore, the entrenched local business interest saw no advantage to opening up their markets if the EU could still use phytosanitary standards to effectively block entry of Nigerian goods into their markets. Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, on the other hand, have been trading with the EU at the most favoured nation level, so a lapse in the EPA would be detrimental to their local businesses. These divergent positions have led to a situation wherein thirteen of the fifteen ECOWAS member states have opened the current EPA agreement with Nigeria but Gambia is currently refusing to sign it. There is currently no indication that Nigeria will sign the agreement and EU has indicated that they will not sign the agreement without the inclusion of Nigeria.





# A Bridge in the South Atlantic: The PAA Africa and the Human Right to Adequate Food



**Joao A. dos Santos Lima\***

## Introduction

The paper focusses on the concept of “leverage of strength” through the sharing of experiences in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) by the Brazilian government with five African countries – Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal. This case is related to the implementation of the Human Right to Adequate Food as a way to achieve food security in African countries. To present this discussion, the paper is divided into three sections. Firstly, it presents the institutional framework of the programme, such as the actors, the budget and the launching. The second part describes the policy-making process related to the programme, i.e. how the Brazilian government is transferring its social policies to African countries. In the last section, the paper illustrates the importance of the programme for the food and nutrition security of the five countries through the results of the first phase.

## The Purchase From Africans for Africa (PAA Africa) and the Human Right to Adequate Food Initiative

Hunger affects thousands and thousands of people in the world and it is one of the biggest challenges to governments. So, since 2003, the Brazilian government had been engaged with social policies as a way to mitigate the poverty, inequality and vulnerability of its population. As a result, 22 million Brazilians have escaped from the extreme poverty. For this reason, many countries have been seeking the Brazilian expertise as a solution for their national problems. Therefore, Brazil hosted, in 2010, the “Brazil-Africa Dialogue on Food Security, Fighting Hunger and Rural Development” in order to strengthen its partnership with African nations for agriculture and the fight

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\*Fellow at the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil.

against hunger. This Joint Initiative seeks to promote food and nutrition security and income generation for farmers and vulnerable communities in African countries.

As the main focus of South-South Cooperation is based on the principle of non-conditionality and of being demand-driven, the Brazilian-PAA Africa Initiative to promote the Human Right to Adequate Food is a form of South-South Cooperation that has been designed to offer the country's expertise to the demanding partners and the same can be adopted according to programmes or institutional arrangements in the local context. For this reason, each one of these five countries has focussed its own strategies within the PAA Africa. Despite that, there is a core foundation on which the PAA Africa is built on, which is the link between the supply of products from the smallholder farmers and the food security of children in schools.

### Funding for the Programme

The programme is inspired by the Food Purchase Programme, a Brazilian programme responsible for linking the production of smallholder farmers to the vulnerable communities with nutrition deficit; the PAA ÁFRICA initiative includes five small-scale projects in the five African countries. The initiative has received financial supports from the Brazilian Government and United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The PAA Africa also receives the technical support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). In the first phase of the programme, from February 2012 to December 2013, the Brazilian government contributed US\$ 3.6 million to the FAO and WFP, while the DFID contributed US\$ 917 thousand.

### Steps Adopted in the Programme

- In the first step there are three different practices to provide effectiveness to the programme. In the first place, the Brazilian government and the international organisation need to improve the productivity of the smallholder farmers. So, these actors shared know-how in agriculture that would help farmers to be able to produce enough quantity with good quality. The adoption of good agricultural practices facilitated the dissemination of the acquired knowledge by farmer-to-farmer exchanges. Besides the increased productivity, the programme also respected the agricultural tradition of each country in order to avoid any interference in the nutrition context.
- The second step is related to the organisation of the inputs, which is one of the most important stages of the programme. According to FAO, the Brazilian-PAA is the most effective model of food procurement. However, regarding the lack of conditionality and the idea of policy transfer, the food procured through Brazilian-PAA is not exported directly to the partners. Instead, the food procurement is adapted to local context, being in some occasions more similar to the WFP's model – Purchase for Progress (P4P) and equally in some cases adopted the Brazilian model. In fact, the food procurement is a tool to promote local production and value chains, linking what is produced by the smallholders to local students.
- The last phase is represented by the creation of institutional arrangements, policies, legal framework and laws for school feeding programmes. Similar to the

**Table 1: PAA Africa Operational Results**

Country	Number of Farmers Supported	Number of Schools	Number of Students
Ethiopia	2,160	7	8,949
Malawi	1,248	10	10,385
Mozambique	497	175	74,520
Niger	611	60	11,603
Senegal	1,000	168	22,999
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,516</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>128,456</b>

previous phases, each country has led its own policies. For example, the PAA is in line with the recently adopted National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) in Mozambique, to be tested in 12 schools in the country. In Niger, the government put the 3N Initiative at the centre of its national priority, combining actions to overcome poverty and food insecurity.

## Results

Table 1 reveals the operational results of Brazilian-PPA Africa initiative promoting the Human Right to Adequate Food in the five partnering countries of Africa.

From Table 1, we can see that the programme has supported a total of 5,516 farmers, 420 schools, 128,456 students in the five partner countries.

## Conclusion

This project indicates Brazilian government effort and contribution via South-South Cooperation model which is based on the principles of non-conditionality and demand-driven. The Brazilian government shared expertise with the African partners in food and nutrition security without impositions. For these reasons, the PAA Africa has been used as an example to strengthen South-South Cooperation with regard to food and nutrition security in African countries. This success recorded is with the support and participation of some international organisations and the traditional donor, such as the United Kingdom.

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# Tourism Sectoral Experiences of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar



**Myat Thaw Tar Aye\***

## Background

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia bordered by Bangladesh, India, China, Lao and Thailand. It has an area of 676,578 square kilometer. Its capital city is Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon is the largest commercial city. The population is around 51 million according to country's 2014 census, which comprises more than 135 ethnic groups. It has fertile lands with significant untapped agricultural potential, and equally rich endowment of natural resources and a long coastline. As such, Myanmar has the potential to re-establish itself as a growing and dynamic economy in the region.

Myanmar has a long and rich history. The country was founded by King Anawrahta in 11<sup>th</sup> Century as Bagan Dynasty. Fourteen years after independence in 1948 from the British, it had been ruled by military governments for about 50 years up to 2011. General election in Myanmar was held on 8 November 2015, the National League for Democracy (NLD) Party led by Aung San Suu Kyi won the absolute majority seats in the chambers of the national parliament, which is enough to form Cabinet and ensure that its candidate would become president for the term of 2016-2021 in due course.

According to 2015 IMF Article IV Consultation Mission's Statement, GDP growth rate of Myanmar stood at 8.5 per cent for 2014-2015. At the end of March 2015, its foreign reserves covered around three months of imports. According to the Foreign Investment Law, a total of 959 foreign enterprises in 12 sectors from 41 countries were permitted with the total pledge amount of US\$ 56,886.442 million up to the end of July 2015. Among the investments in 12 sectors of the economy from 41 countries, Oil & Gas is the leading sector followed by power and manufacturing.

*\*Head of Branch-II/ Third Secretary, International Organisation and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.*



## South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Within the platform of South-South Cooperation (SSC) activities, China and India are providing support to Myanmar in the areas of infrastructure development, equipment and experts, capacity building programmes and market access. India provides Myanmar with the capacity building programmes under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. Under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, it has set up training centers for entrepreneurship development in CLMV countries besides offering and placing for training in India as a part of a multifaceted ASEAN-India cooperation. India announced a duty free entry for products of LDCs.

India and Myanmar have signed the MoU on the Information Technology. Moreover, many projects are going on between Myanmar and India but some of the projects are delayed. Therefore, there is a need to find solutions.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of SSC, it would be desirable if each country designates a government agency to coordinate with their southern partners for development cooperation activities and to monitor and evaluate development cooperation projects and equally provide feedback to southern partners for improvement in the future.

## Tourism Sector in Myanmar

### Tourism Sector and Its related Frameworks and Institutions

Tourism development is considered one of Myanmar's priority sectors for balanced development. It has been prioritised in the Government's Framework for Economic and Social Reforms (FESR) as potentially one of the Myanmar's most important sectors, with tremendous potential to contribute to greater business opportunities and balancing social and economic development if properly managed and developed. The government created Myanmar Tourism Master Plan (2013-2020) in June 2013, which was designed with technical assistance from Asian Development Bank and financial support from Norway. This framework is to promote economic growth while safeguarding Myanmar's culture and the environment. In May 2013, the Policy on Community Involvement in Tourism was launched by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation.

This framework was facilitated by Myanmar Tourism Federation which is not a government body but independent body that facilitates communication between the government and the private sector about tourism sector-related challenges. But it currently operates under the guidance of the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and its current Chair is appointed by



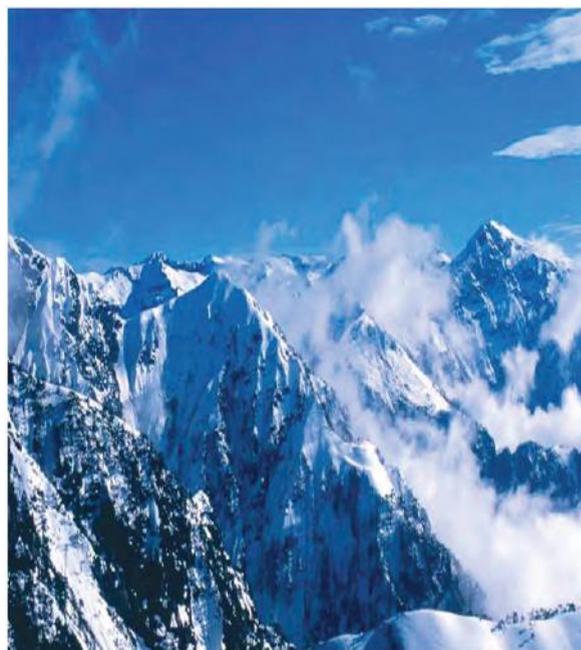
the Minister. The Myanmar Business Forum was established by the International Finance Corporation and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to promote cooperation within the interests of the national and international business community.

### Main Tourist Destinations in Myanmar

The main tourist destinations in Myanmar are as follows:

- **Shwedagon Pagoda** is a shrine which enshrines Buddhas' hair and other relics. It is the most sacred and impressive Buddhist site for the people of Myanmar. It stands close to 326 feet. Shwedagon Pagoda is covered with hundreds of gold plates and the top stupa is encrusted with diamonds. It is located in Yangon.
- **Bagan** is an ancient city located in the Mandalay Region with over 2200 Buddhist temples and pagodas.
- **Snow-capped mountains** in Putao are surrounded by Natural Scenic Beauty and are best known as the most exciting and the most beautiful part of Myanmar.
- **Inlay Lake** is a beautiful highland lake in Shan State. It is 900 meter above sea level. It is 22 kilometer long, and 10 kilometer wide. The Intha people are known for their leg rowing boats.

- **Ngapali, Ngwe Saung, Chaung Thar and Maung Ma Kan Beaches** located in Rakine State, Ayeyawaddy Region and Tanintharyi Region are famous for natural and unspotted beauty.
- **The Myeik Archipelago** which is located in Tanintharyi Region comprises over 800 islands. Due to virtual isolation, the islands and surrounding seas are alive with an amazing diversity of flora and fauna. Due to increasing tourism the transportation to



the archipelago has been improved to make it more accessible for tourists.

- **Road to Mandalay Cruise** is very much popular among tourists because of the scenic views of the rich cultural heritage and real life of the region along the Ayeyawaddy River.

### Tourism Growth

Due to various reforms, number of tourists has been increasing year by year, reaching 0.79 million in 2010, 1.06 million in 2012, 2.04 million in 2013, 3 million in 2014, and nearly 5 million in

2015. Income from tourism sector increased to US\$ 905 million in 2014 from US\$ 171 million in 2004 which indicates over five fold increase. The government estimates that income from tourism sector will increase to US\$ 7.5 million by 2020. It will also provide 1.4 million jobs.

### Challenges for Tourism Sector

Challenges faced by Myanmar in the tourism sector include development of logistics and infrastructure such as roads, transport, electricity supply and information and communication technology (ICT).





# Strengthening the Livelihood Initiative for Home-based Workers in SAARC Region (SABAH), Maldives



Fathimath Razana\*

## Introduction

Maldives is a Middle-Income-Country (MIC), graduating out of Low-Developing-Country (LDC) status in 2011. Needless to say, the risks and challenges of a post-LDC status were unfamiliar to Maldives. Maldives government had limited knowledge for managing the transition from LDC to a developing country and miscalculated its ability to react and deal with the many challenges that it still faces. Maldives is classified among the Small Island Developing States and for that it pays a high price not only in the form of environmental and climate change issues but is constantly facing the challenges associated with a small but highly dispersed population, and a narrow economic base, and inability to achieve economies of scale. The cost of delivery for basic services and the necessary infrastructure including schools, hospitals, harbour and some level of administrative and security services to almost 200 islands is undoubtedly very high. SABAH project is a shining example of South-South Cooperation that helps to minimise some aspects of the constraints by promoting the people-to-people contacts on bilateral as well as on regional level. It is believed that South-South Cooperation through South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) would help Maldives with capacity and human resource building and have positive impact on the economy, health and many other areas as spelt out by SABAH project.

## SABAH Maldives Co-operative Society

SABAH Maldives is a co-operative society registered in the Maldives with a shareholding of 40 per cent by Maldivian home-based workers and 60 per cent by the Government of Maldives. The Cooperative Society has a share capital of MVR 10,000,000.00 made up of 1,000,000 shares worth MVR 10.00

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\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives.

each. The Society was established to empower home-based workers in Maldives and to ensure that the project runs successfully with sustainable membership based organisation.

### Objectives of SABAH Project under Maldives Co-operative Society

The objectives of the project can be outlined as follows:

- To strengthen livelihood of home-based workers (especially women and youth) by facilitating opportunity to earn a sustainable income from their products;
- To collaborate with local cooperatives and SMEs to support the home-based workers to produce and showcase quality products that has a demand in the market;
- To increase the standard of living of the home-based workers by facilitating earning
- To provide market linkages and facilitate training and assistance;
- To identify, promote, facilitate and provide guidance for the enhancement of skills of the home-based workers, with a special focus on reviving and preserving cultural heritage of traditional art, skills and design;
- To establish a Trade Facilitation Center as a hub to market and sell products of home-based workers;
- To introduce quality and authentic Maldivian products produced by home-based workers under the SABAH Maldives brand;
- To function as a marketer of home-based workers' products produced under SABAH Maldives brand label; and
- To establish relationship among the SAARC member states and other SABAHs on the basis of learning and sharing from each other.

### Activities of SABAH Maldives

SABAH project focusses on implementing three broad activities in the Maldives:

- The first is capacity building, which aims to address the shortage of capacity and skills development needs of the home-based workers. The SABAH Maldives will provide and facilitate necessary training and information to enhance production,

marketing and productive capacity of home-based workers. The home-based workers will also be given the opportunity to undertake trainings from overseas and local in the fields relating to crafts, food production and entrepreneurial skills development. However, the home-based workers who undergo capacity building programmes under SABAH funded trainings have to disseminate the learning achieved to other home-based workers.

- The second activity will be on setting up a central Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC) that is planned to be set up in Male, which is the central activity hub of SABAH Maldives. This centre will undertake production planning, finished product packaging, quality standards, marketing and selling of SABAH labeled products produced by its members and other home-based workers. In addition to this centre, Community Facilitation Centers (CFC) will also be set up in designated locations in Maldives. Similarly, members residing in islands carry out the production of SABAH and its various programmes at atolls and island level.
- The third activity is on Product Development and Promotion. The aim of this society is to work closely with home-based workers to improve product design of existing traditional craft and local food products. The co-operative will work to introduce new products that display the taste, lifestyle and culture of the Maldives. As part of promotion, marketing strategies will be developed to seek access to new markets and to create demand for home-based workers' products. The marketing campaigns will also ensure that the products from the home-based workers have a long lasting market access.

### SABAH Maldives Project and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

As it can be seen from the Foreign Policy of the Maldives, the existing Government has a strong agenda in building the economic resilience of the country through different

levels of engagement in bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. Over 30 years since formal adoption of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) by the Heads of States or Governments of South Asian Countries, Maldives played a significant role in fostering regional cooperation between SAARC and has immensely benefited from this avenue. In fact, Maldives receives assistance through regional cooperation in a number of areas from SAARC. Some of these include capacity and human resource building, economy, health and many other areas.

The SAARC Development Fund (SDF) in association with Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India and Home Net South Asia initiated the project called SABAH in August 2008, to strengthen the livelihood for home based workers in SAARC Region via SABAH Phase I & II. SABAH Project is a regional initiative of the SAARC aimed at strengthening the livelihoods of home-based workers in the member countries. The project is implemented in all SAARC member countries except India.

In Maldives, the project implementation started in May 2012. The project would support conducting capacity building training programmes for home-based workers aimed at

upgrading skills and improving entrepreneurial know-how. Furthermore, the project would establish a trade facilitation center for improving market access for home-based workers that produce and sustain the cause of livelihood improvement and economic empowerment of women.

## Conclusion

At times, the project has faced adverse challenges in Maldives on sustaining the development gains as Maldives was made to graduate from LDC status. However, SABAH project is a shining example of South-South Cooperation and helps to minimise some aspects of the constraints by promoting the people-to-people contacts on bilateral as well as on regional level. It is believed that South-South Cooperation through SAARC can play an effective role in helping the newly graduated middle-income countries like Maldives to consolidate development gains.

Genuine and long lasting South-South partnerships via SAARC will play a crucial role in advancing core interests and in realising the sustainable development goals in member states, and in reaching the full potential of engagement at all levels of government, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders.





# Cuba and South-South Cooperation



Mariela A. Miranda Delgado\*

## Introduction

Since the advent of the Revolution on 1 January 1959, the Republic of Cuba has highlighted the vital importance of the practice of the principles of solidarity and international cooperation in its foreign policy. The cooperation provided by Cuba is not determined by political factors and has been offered to people who have been affected by natural disasters, including countries with which Cuba does not maintain diplomatic relations.

It has a unilateral aid policy, characterised by unconditionality, and motivated by the obligation to contribute to the development of other people and to support them in building their societies, cultures and economies. In the early 1960s, Cuba took its first step for South-South Cooperation and as part of this several groups of scholars from Africa, Asia and Latin America came to Cuba to study different subjects at the middle and senior levels. These included representatives mainly from the Republic of Guinea, Congo, Vietnam, Chile and later Angola. As well as the first brigades of Cuban collaborators were sent to Algeria, Guinea and Tanzania. Since then Cuba has maintained active cooperation with about 167 countries, sending professionals and health technicians to serve in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East.

## Cuba's Programmes in South-South Cooperation

Cuba has developed various programmes with its Southern partners, which are discussed below:

### Cooperation in Health Programmes

*The Comprehensive Health Programme (PIS):* Cuba has started health programmes in various countries of Central America and the Caribbean (such as, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala

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\*Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment, Cuba.

and El Salvador, along with Belize, Haiti and Dominican Republic), and it has also joined countries in Africa – especially Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and North Africa.

**Training programme of human resources in the health sector with the creation of medical schools abroad:** Cuba has participated in the founding of three medical schools in Africa (Eritrea, Tanzania and Guinea Equatorial), where Cuban professors teach regularly.

**Training programme for physicians:** This is a programme developed by the Cuban government that allows imparting of the professional training with high-quality scientific skills and deep humanistic conviction. It provides a direct linkage between comprehensive general doctors and two or three students for using new medical technologies.

**Cuban programme for the care of children affected by the consequences of the catastrophe of central electro - nuclear Chernobyl:** The 29 March 1990 accident in Chernobyl was the main impetus for starting this programme. Its main objective is to provide highly specialised medical care for the survivors of that disaster.

**Emerging brigades:** Motivated by natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, etc., emerging brigades have been providing fast track assistance and relief in many regions of the world.

**“Henry Reeve Brigade” (The International Contingent of Doctors Specialised in Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics):** This is known as an “unprecedented organisation in the world”. Its main objective is to cooperate immediately through specially trained staff with any country that has suffered a catastrophe, primarily those who face great challenges after hurricanes, floods or other natural disasters of great concern. Since its establishment, the Henry Reeve Brigade has served missions in several countries including Guatemala, Pakistan, Bolivia, Indonesia, Peru, Mexico, Chile, among others.

**Operation miracle:** In 2004, this programme was established between Venezuela and Cuba for assisting patients with eye diseases (mostly cataract).

## Cooperation in Educational Programmes

**Teacher training programme:** The teacher training projects have been developed in order to provide technical assistance and advice to schools in order to improve educational systems.

## Cooperation in the Sports Sector

**Sports project:** In the field of sport, Cuba has collaborated with several countries in order to promote development of physical education in developing countries with the primary purpose of improving the quality of life of the population. For example, the sports project *barrio adentro deportivo* in the Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela is one of such collaboration.

**International school of physical education and sports:** This project was developed for the creation of Latin-American and Caribbean faculty of physical education and sport to form their own specialists to promote healthy activity in their home countries. Young people of Africa and Asia are welcome as well.

## South-South Cooperation Developed by Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA)

This is a project on genetic psychosocial, pedagogical and clinical study of people with disabilities. The medical mission called “Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez” conducted genetic, psychosocial, pedagogical and clinical studies on people with disabilities in Venezuela. Indigenous communities were included in those studies. The following are different projects in various missions:

- In Bolivia, the mission called Moto Mendez
- In Nicaragua, the project called All With a Voice
- In Ecuador, the mission called Manuela Espejo
- Cultural mission Corazón Adentro
- Grannacional ALBA Cultural Project
- ALBA’s Education and Eradication of Illiteracy Project
- Controller medications Centre of ALBA.

### **South-South Cooperation Supported by the United Nations**

Cuba has an active participation in the Special Programme for Food Security (PESA) of the FAO where they have cooperated with more than hundred partners. Currently, Cuba has signed tripartite agreements with countries of Africa (Cabo Verde) and Caribbean (Guyana, Granada, Haiti, San Vicente y Granadina, Dominica, San Kitts y Nevis, Antigua y Barbuda and Dominican Republican).

### **Other Programmes**

The North-South Cooperation is a principal modality of cooperation to receive resources and

funding, while the South-South Cooperation is mostly about exchanges between countries. However, we emphasise to continuously develop this type of cooperation as it has grown in the recent years. For example, Cuba has developed programmes with ABC (the Brazilian Cooperation Agency) in the fields of agriculture and finance; with FO.AR (Argentina) about scientific exchange; and with Chile and Mexico, programmes related to education and energy. As a member, Cuba actively participates in activities of Ibero-American Programme to strengthen South-South Cooperation.





# Tunisia's Experience in South-South Cooperation



Saoussen Dhokkar\*

## Introduction

Tunisia is one of the first countries of the South to have developed a South-South cooperation policy since its independence, in particular by sending teachers to neighbouring countries. Tunisia has carried out more than 64 projects within the framework of triangular cooperation with financial support from multilateral institutions, such as AFDB, BADEA, EU, OPEC Fund, UNDP, the World Bank and various bilateral governments. Tunisia has provided technical assistance and capacity building support mainly to Arab and African countries in a range of areas including basic and reproductive health services, agriculture, fisheries, vocational training, tourism, public administration and teaching. For example, France has funded the training of Nigerian doctors by Tunisian physicians and Japan has supported Tunisian experts in fishery techniques, navigation and shipbuilding mechanisms to conduct training programmes in Mauritania.

## Development of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Tunisia

The experience that Tunisia has gained in various sectors of development, and its own commitment towards Southern countries allowed it to be appointed as a “pivot country” for the promotion of South-South Cooperation.

- Tunisia is invited to take part regularly in the TCDC High Level Committee meetings under the aegis of the Special Unit for TCDC within UNDP;
- It has obtained the support of the Special Unit from TCDC for the organisation of a capacity and needs matching exercise in the field of sustainable human development of 13 African countries.
- It was appointed as a “pivot country” for technical cooperation among developing countries.

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\*Ministry of foreign Affairs, Tunisia.

## Tunisia and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in South-South Cooperation Programme

Tunisia has prepared to send 20 farming experts and technicians to Togo to work with local experts, as part of an agreement signed between the two countries and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The agreement is part of FAO's South-South Cooperation Programme, a global initiative that aims to strengthen cooperation among developing countries at different stages of development, to improve agricultural productivity and ensure access to food for all. This South-South Cooperation Programme is part of FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) designed to improve lives in some of the world's poorest countries by rapidly increasing food production, improving people's access to food and reducing their vulnerability to climatic events such as drought and floods.

Through this programme, Tunisian experts are expected to work in Togo for a period of three years, contributing their knowledge in areas such as water management, crop intensification and farming systems diversification, with

emphasis on animal husbandry and small-scale fisheries. The costs of the project, estimated at US\$ 3 million, would be shared by the two countries and the FAO. Togo has already received US\$ 225,000 for its food security activities through a regional food security project financed by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

Under this programme, Togo has participated in the Special Programme for Food Security since 1996, it is now that the country has entered into a South-South Cooperation Agreement. It is also the first such agreement for the Government of Tunisia. Presently, the SPFS is being implemented in more than 100 countries, and the South-South Cooperation Programme is being implemented in 35 countries, with over 650 experts and technicians currently working in farming communities.

## Conclusion

Based on these evidences, Southern contributors are currently playing a vital role in the international development cooperation framework and triangular cooperation under the umbrella of South-South Cooperation.



# Brief Overview of SAARC Capacity Building Programme: Learning South-South Cooperation



Vijay Raj Tandukar\*

## Introduction

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in 1985 with Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as the founding members. Afghanistan joined the group in 2005. South Asian nations have shared history, geography, culture, and demographics with strong people to people interactions since ancient times. Besides above mentioned factors, the region also shared similar socio-economic problems with extreme poverty being the major obstruction to development and achieving the region's rightful place in the global arena.

SAARC was established with the aim of improving welfare and quality of life through accelerated economic growth that would facilitate the socio-cultural transformation. The objective of this cooperation has been to allow its people to have a dignified life and realise their full potential. This allows the region to be self-reliant and develop mutual trust and understand the need to assert themselves collectively in the international fora on matters of common interest. In addition, promoting South-South Cooperation has always been the objective of SAARC.

## Regional Integration and Areas of Cooperation

SAARC has identified various sectors for regional cooperation, such as, agriculture and rural development, biotechnology, culture, economics and trade, education, energy, environment, finance, funding mechanism, information communication and media, people-to-people contacts, poverty alleviation, science and technology, security aspects, social development, and tourism. Various working groups and technical committees along with SAARC regional centers have been established to institutionalise and promote cooperation in these areas.

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\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal.

The region has also come up with regional conventions to tackle common problems of human trafficking, narcotics and terrorism through Convention on Combating and Prevention of Trafficking of Women and Children for Prostitution, Convention on Promotion of Welfare of Children, Convention on Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters, Convention on Narcotics Drugs, Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, and Additional Protocol on Terrorism.

Furthermore, the region has come up with agreements to provide a framework for regional economic cooperation. These include the agreements on energy cooperation, dispute settlement, taxation, customs, and standards. Most importantly there is an agreement to establish a regional free trade area through South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).

### 18th SAARC Summit

The Eighteenth SAARC Summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 26-27 November 2014. The Summit realised the need to reinvigorate regional cooperation in order to transform the region through deeper integration for peace and prosperity. The Summit declaration emphasised on the results based implementation of programmes to intensify cooperation in trade, investment, finance, energy, security, infrastructure, connectivity and culture.

The Summit ended with renewed commitments on regional cooperation to achieve eventually not only economic union but also recognised the structural constraints and challenges faced by member states to be competitive in external trade. The leaders also recognised the need for cooperation and collaboration on issues pertinent to agriculture and food security, environment, blue economy, health, education, youth, women and children, social protection, migration, science and technology, telecommunication, tourism, culture, media, terrorism and trans-national crimes, and governance. In addition, the Summit also acknowledged the need to capitalise on their leveraging strength to put forth a common agenda in multilateral institutions to elevate the stature and position of SAARC as a regional institution.

### Possibilities

South Asia is endowed with abundant natural, human and capital resources. The region has the world's largest population and fastest growing cities. South Asia still has the untapped and unsaturated market to attract global trade and investment. This potential is enhanced with the availability of educated and forward looking youth who will be the engine of future growth and potential. As a huge proportion of population is poised to climb up into the middle class, the potential of regional consumption of goods and services cannot be matched by any other parts of the world except for China.

Besides having a huge market, South Asia is also identified as forward looking and liberal compared to rest of the world. All member states are democratic and are committed to rule of law. Admittedly, the region has to go a long way to become a fully functional and stable democracy. Nevertheless, citizens of the region are committed not to relinquish their right to private property. The basic state framework of the region is prepared to attract investments.

When SAARC started its journey, the state of human development was miserable. However, in the intervening years, which characterised with increase in public expenditure on health and education, the region as a whole has been able to reduce maternal and infant mortality rate and experienced increase in access to education. Also, the resilience and innovativeness of the people of the region cannot be undermined as people of the region are known around the world to find local solutions for the universal problems. Strong communal ties and interdependence of societies in the region have also made people of SAARC ever more cooperative and collaborative.

### Challenges

Despite the region's immense potential, it has not been able to achieve a greater degree of development, interconnectedness and integration. The region enjoyed shared history, culture, and geography that provided a socio-economic intimacy within the region but at the same time these shared factors have sown seeds of rivalry and mutual distrust among the

member states. The rivalry between the two of the biggest states in the region, India and Pakistan has always been the major stumbling block in the process of regional integration and cooperation.

Similarly, none of the member states share border with each other except India. Therefore, the share of intra-regional trade other than with India is much smaller. The size and scale of India has always presented a psychological fear to the member states. Most of the times managing relations with India takes precedence over regional collaboration and cooperation. At the same time, lack of infrastructure, corruption, unstable political situation, and divergent interests in multilateral engagements have been major stumbling blocks for regional integration.

## Conclusion

As it once dubbed as “Poor man’s club”, SAARC is now viewed as one of the poles of global growth and prosperity. It currently has Australia, the People’s Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, the Union of Myanmar, the United States of America, and the European Union as observer states.

It has to be acknowledged that up to now SAARC has not been successful in harnessing its potential. However, no one can deny its symbolic value and importance. It is the forum that brings two of the nuclear rivals on the same roundtable. It is the association that represents the aspirations of almost one-fourth of the world population.

## SAARC Countries







# A Showcase of South-South Cooperation: Lines of Credit from Government of India for Sugar Industry Development in Ethiopia



**Yimenu Kassahun\***

## Introduction

Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa. It is a landlocked country. It shares border with Somalia to the East, Djibouti to the North East, Kenya to the South, South Sudan to the South West, Sudan to the West and Eritrea to the North.

Covering a total area of 1,104,300 sq km (land: 1 million sq km and water: 104,300 sq km) the country is endowed with abundant natural resources, fertile land, agriculture friendly soil and good climatic conditions. Ethiopia has a population of around 100 million reflecting a wide spectrum of different ethnic groups with their unique culture, language and religious beliefs.

It has a multi party political system, bicameral legislature and federal administrative arrangement. The president is the head of state, and the prime minister is the head of the government. Currently, Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) is the governing veteran party and has won successive elections. Its economic philosophy revolves around developmental state model as is in South East Asian countries.

## International Relation

At the center of Ethiopia's post-1991 foreign policy one can find the principles under which foreign relation and diplomacy are geared and practiced. Ethiopia's relations with its neighbours in Africa and with the rest of the world are directed towards serving the need to ensure democracy, good governance, peace and security and bring about fast, equitable and sustainable economic development.

In this line, Ethiopia's decades of persistent engagement in foreign relation and diplomacy has played a significant role in

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*\*Ministry of Water Irrigation and Energy, Ethiopia.*

changing the country that was once known to the global community as a symbol of civil war, hunger and poverty to a country endeavouring and achieving a commendable economic growth, and playing a leading role in regional peace, stability, and economic integration.

Ethiopia through its active engagement with the global community in the UN, AU, the NAM and many other global and continental organisations and forums has consistently shown its commitment for the cause of the developing countries, and concern on global issues like climate change and terrorism.

## Sectoral Experience in South-South Cooperation

Since 85 per cent of Ethiopia's population depends on agriculture, the Government of Ethiopia has planned the country's economic roadmap based on agriculture and has developed Agriculture Development Led Industrialisation (ADLI) policy keeping in view prevailing conditions, priorities and immediate needs. As such, in the 1990's the focus of the government was on increasing crop yields for small family farms, working on agricultural technology access to farmer, public education and research, and extension services.

However, with little success in ADLI, the government shifted its focus on large-scale commercial agricultural investments to make use of agriculture towards industrialisation. To put the policy in place, the government came up with national development plans which were designed and implemented as follows:

- Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (SDPRP) (2002/03-2004/05).
- Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to end Poverty (PASDEP) (2005/06-2009/10).
- The growth and transformation plan (GTP I) (2010/2011-2014/2015).

In all these plans priority and emphasis are on agriculture both as a sector and as a driver having backward and forward linkages to the economy.

### *Sugar industry development as a sub-sector:*

Development of sugar industry as a sub-sector was given priority intervention for commercial farming. Along with other sub-sectors of agriculture like coffee plantation, cotton, horticulture and flowers, sugarcane development was seen as a new avenue for the development of agriculture having a multiple effect on the economy both in terms of foreign currency earning, and job creation. But the developmental plan in this sector faces various challenges such as chronic shortage of finance/foreign currency to finance the selected prioritised projects and unleash the power of commercial agriculture.

*India's assistance and support:* It is in this national and sectoral context that the important role of India's assistance and support to the agriculture sector in the area of sugarcane industry development can be better viewed. India and Ethiopia have enjoyed many years of bilateral relations that have evolved through the years. The Government of India has responded to the needs of Ethiopia through the development compact which is India's unique development partnership commitment. It is a package of partnership with four essential elements: technology transfer, trade and investment, soft loans and lines of credit. Some practical experiences are as follow:

- In 2006, the government-run Indian EXIM Bank issued its first line of credit to Ethiopia, a twenty-year loan of US\$ 65 million for rural electrification projects.
- In 2007, a US\$ 640 million line of credit was established to support the revitalisation of Ethiopia's state-run sugar industry, one green field Tendaho Sugar Factory and to rehabilitate with cogeneration (Fincha Sugar Factory, and Wonji-Shoa Sugar Factory).
- The rehabilitation of Fincha and Wonji-Shoa sugar factories was completed and they started production. Sugar from these factories is expected to be exported in the year 2016. Tendaho is almost complete, but still didn't go on line.

As it is seen from the development compact perspective, the Government of Ethiopia has benefited in all the four essential elements of the

compact with Indian government. The lines of credit did remove the financial constraint faced by the government to materialise the projects which were given strategic priority. With the lines of credit and India's long years of expertise and technology in the sugar industry, Ethiopia has benefited a lot on each level of the project viz. construction, operation and management.

**Trade and investment:** In terms of trade and investment, Ethiopia has a goal of becoming net exporter of sugar and get a market for sugar in India, as India currently is a sugar importer, despite domestic production. For example, the rehabilitation work of Fincha sugar factory has generated the following benefits:

- Increased its sugar production to 12,000 tonnes crushed per day from 4,400 tonnes crushed per day;
- Sugar cane plantation has increased to 16,000 hectares from 2700 hectares;
- Enhanced its ethanol plant production from 45,000 liters of alcohol production per day to 110,000 liters;
- Enhanced its ethanol production to 20 million per annum from the previous eight million per annum. It has a total capacity to generate 97 MW of electricity; and
- Technology transfer - new milling tandem and steam generation units have been installed, which enhance sugar production to 2,70,000 tonnes annually.

## Impact on the Economy

The projects contribute to the national mission of "a middle income country by 2023-25", through direct impact in terms of foreign currency earning and saving, and also positive

externalities in agriculture sub-sector and across other sectors, which in turn have created favourable conditions for local trade and investment. For example:

- Both sugar and electricity sectors have created employment opportunity for around 50,000 people that has expedited the transition to industry.
- The projects are helping to transform the country from key importer to exporter of sugar (foreign currency earning and saving).
- Around 2,000 MW of electricity is generated as co-generation of power from sugar and 3 lakh tonnes of ethanol is generated. These bring foreign currency earning and saving and promotes rural households electrification, health stations and schools. (These are broader socio-economic effects of the projects).
- A rail link between the Ethiopian city of Asaita and the port city of Tadjourah in neighbouring Djibouti is established with a line of US\$ 600 million and US\$ 400 million, totalling US\$ 1 billion for the project. The rail link will drastically bring down the transportation cost of goods and services thereby facilitating and promoting trade and investment.

## Conclusion

To summarise and conclude, India's line of credit for the sugar industry in Ethiopia can showcase the nature and impact of India's line of credit facility and equally serve as a practical example of South-South Cooperation, specifically under the framework of India's unique development partnership package - the development compact.





# The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials: A Case Study of South-South Cooperation and Non-Proliferation



**Carlos E. Timo Brito\***

## Introduction

To what extent has South-South Cooperation been more rhetoric than reality? Although this question has been frequently and critically asked in both academic and professional circles in recent times, there are indeed a number of concrete and largely successful cases of collaboration among developing countries of the South in political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. One such case, which relates to the most fundamental issue of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, is the advent of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC).

## Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC)

The purpose of establishing Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) in 1991 was to be responsible for verifying the pacific use of nuclear materials that could be used, either directly or indirectly, for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. As it celebrates its 25th anniversary, ABACC remains the only binational nuclear safeguards organisation operating in the world and the first binational organisation created by the two South American giants (CFR, 2015). The main activities performed by the agency are three fold: (1) the application of safeguards via inspections of nuclear facilities and materials; (2) the training of technical staff; and (3) technical cooperation with national, regional and international organisations concerned with nuclear energy and non-proliferation (NTI, 2015).

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The application of safeguards through mutual inspections in Argentina and Brazil, enables the management of the so called Common System for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (SCCC). It is a set of safeguards procedures applicable to all materials and facilities used in all the nuclear activities performed within the jurisdictions of both countries (JFR, 2013).

The SCCC intended to ensure (both the governments of the two countries and the international community) that those nuclear materials within Brazil and Argentina's territories are not diverted to the manufacturing of weapons or other devices of mass destruction (ABACC, 2015). It is worth noting that the main impetus for creation of the SCCC was the need for the provision of uniformity to the safeguards procedures applied in Argentina and Brazil.

The training of technical staff is another crucial activity performed by ABACC. According to commentators (Brigadao, 2004; Flandes, 2004; Cubillos Meza, 2005; Wrobel, 2006), the investment in human capital and resources is one of the central reasons for the agency's success and institutional independence. ABACC's technical staff has benefited from meaningful academic support provided by the Argentinean and Brazilian governments over the years, regardless of the colossal financial constraints and political instabilities. Amongst the areas covered in the trainings and courses, 'Inspection Procedures', 'Auditing of Accounting Records' and 'Containment and Surveillance standouts' (MRE, 2015). Additionally, joint bi-national training sessions have generated positive externalities such as the development of new and more cost efficient materials for inspections, as well as an environment and opportunities conducive for networking and information sharing between the technicians of both countries (ABACC, 2015).

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays significant role in these training activities, by either providing instructors for the courses or by promoting the participation of their own staff in the courses offered (IAEA, 2014a).

Furthermore, technical cooperation, which is ABACC's third main line of action, refers to two main processes. First, it involves formation

of operational partnerships with other national, regional and multilateral organisations related to acting in the non-proliferation field, such as AEIA, EURATOM, and the armed forces of Brazil and Argentina (ABACC, 2015). Second, it includes the joint development of technical systems and equipment used throughout the accounting and control of nuclear materials and facilities (IAEA, 2014a). Technical cooperation, therefore, may result in the development of containment and surveillance systems, the use of 3D technologies for the verification of design information and the inter-comparison of results from analyses of nuclear samples (ABACC, 2015).

## Conclusion

Several useful lessons may be drawn from the history and experience of the agency. First and foremost, it confirms a number of theoretical assumptions and practical prescriptions usually found in the correlated literature and "best-practice" guides on international cooperation and policy coordination.

The specialised literature asserts that cooperation usually emerges in a situation that contains a mixture of conflicting and complementary interests" (Axelrod and Keohane, 1985: 226) and is the by product of "mutual policy coordination to realise joint gains" (Milner, 1992: 470). Secondly, ABACC is an example of complementary cooperation (South-South followed by North-South Cooperation and/or triangular cooperation), associated with several elements of the so called "Development Compact" (Chaturvedi, 2016). On the one hand, it forms operational partnerships with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and also with other organisations from developed countries; and on the other hand, it encompasses elements of capacity building, investment and technology. The partnerships are usually based on collaboration, information sharing and joint activities (IAEA, 2014b).

Thirdly, cooperative arrangements are usually facilitated by active and convergent leadership from the partner countries (Keohan, 1984; Haas, 1986). Due to the centrality of the Brazilian-Argentine bilateral relations for both governments, the negotiations that led to the

creation of the ABACC" were directly and permanently in the hands of the presidents of both nations, thus demonstrating the clear political will of attaining transparency in the nuclear activities performed by both countries" (IAEA, 2014a).

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