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**China's development cooperation - is it different (and more efficient) from ODA of Western donors?**

China has the largest number of aid amount and the recipients in “Emerging Donors”. Over the last decade, China’s foreign aid has rapidly developed having an important impact on the global aid architecture. It relies on aid principles that diverge in many ways from those of traditional DAC donor countries, such as non-interference, mutual benefit and non-conditionality. Whilst several Western scholars have examined the Chinese development cooperation system, few voices from China have been heard in European and North American journals and media. This presentation aims to fill a gap by introducing and analysing the Chinese system of development cooperation from a Chinese perspective.

In the 1950s, soon after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, China began to provide economic aid and technical assistance to other countries, and gradually expanded the scope of such aid. Although China remains a developing country with a low per-capita income and a large poverty-stricken population, under the framework of South-South Cooperation highlighting the mutual help between developing countries, China has been doing its best to provide foreign aid to help partner countries to strengthen their self-development capacity, enrich and improve their peoples’ livelihood, and promote their economic growth and social progress.

Financial resources provided by China for foreign aid mainly fall into three types: grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans. China offers foreign aid in eight forms: complete projects, goods and materials, technical cooperation, human resource development cooperation, medical teams sent abroad, emergency humanitarian aid, volunteer programs in foreign countries, and debt relief, in which complete projects are the major form referring to productive or civil projects constructed in developing countries.

The major administrative department of China’s foreign aid is the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), which is different from most DAC countries and emerging donors. At present, China’s foreign aid has formed a management system, Inter-agency Coordination Mechanism which was established in 2011, with MOFCOM being the administrative department to oversee aid, various relevant departments of the State Council managing some aid programs, the local commercial departments and embassies or consulates assisting the execution and supervision. The Executive Bureau of International Economic Cooperation, China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges, and Academy of International Business Officials affiliated to the MOFCOM are entrusted with implementation of complete projects and technical cooperation projects, material aid projects and training programs connected with China’s foreign aid. The Export-Import Bank of China is responsible for the assessment of projects with concessional loans.

At present, the scope of international aid for development is being gradually expanded.

South-South cooperation is developing rapidly, becoming an effective and beneficial supplement to South-North cooperation. Under the framework of South-South cooperation, China will take its responsibility to work with all parties concerned to conduct complementary and fruitful trilateral and regional cooperation on the basis of respecting the needs of partner countries and jointly promote the process of global poverty reduction. To promote the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and make efforts in setting up the post-2015 agenda, China will optimize the country's foreign aid structure, gradually increase the volume of foreign assistance, further improve the management of foreign aid, continue to focus on partner countries' capacity in independent development, improve effectiveness of foreign aid, and strengthen international exchange and cooperation.

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