

Comparison with China and OECD DAC's Development Assistance Evaluation System and its Implications for Effective Development Cooperation

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Development effectiveness is about increasing the impact of our development cooperation. Aid is a limited resource, which needs to be spent as effectively as possible in order to achieve the best, fastest and most sustainable impact for those most in need. The international discourse on aid effectiveness evaluation was invigorated in 2000 with the formulation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Paris Declaration introduced an emphasis on improving aid effectiveness, focusing on recipient countries' ownership, cooperative relationships, and ensuring harmony, transparency, and efficacy in aid procedures. The Busan Conference further solidified this by establishing a framework for "development effectiveness," acknowledging South-South cooperation's critical role in international aid.

Methods and standards applied to assess the results of development cooperation programmes vary amongst different countries. An internationally agreed norms and standards can contribute to a harmonized approaches and a horizontal comparison for improvement. However, it is also critical to recognize the complexity of each programmes, the priorities set by partner countries, the implementation capacity gaps and more.

In China, the Measures for the Administration of Foreign Aid issued in 2021, a new chapter which used to be part of project implementation management in the 2014 version, was introduced highlighting the increasing importance CIDCA attaches to project monitoring and evaluation.

Based on Sino-German joint team's research findings, this report on Effective Development Cooperation - systemic monitoring and evaluation is not to develop a universal evaluation system but to analyse the existing legislative systems adopted by leading countries, including the US, the EU, Britain, Germany and Japan to make recommendations on reforming strategy through comparison with China's evaluation and monitoring system.

This report contains four main parts. Part I reviews the monitoring and evaluation of the OECD-DAC group. Part II provides a detailed overview of the monitoring and evaluation practices of key countries and international organizations. Part III focuses on the recent trends and developments in China, and Part IV proposes prospects in China's practice and Sino-OECD DAC cooperation in development assistance evaluation.