

GRIPS-ODI Joint Feedback Seminar

Good Donorship and the Choice of Aid Modalities —Matching Aid with Country Needs and Ownership—

- **Time: The 15th of March 2005, 14:00-17:00**
- **Venue: JICA Institute for International Cooperation**

1. Background and Objectives

The main purpose of this joint seminar between the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) is to present the findings of recent studies on aid modalities, undertaken respectively by GRIPS and ODI researchers, and to facilitate debate including the implications for global aid policy and practice. In particular, the seminar intends to promote understanding of features of different aid modalities and how to choose appropriate aid modalities, with due consideration of the country- and sector-specific context.

The topic of aid modalities is a growing area of interest in Japan. The 1990s saw the emergence of new aid approaches—especially general budget support, sector budget support and pooling fund arrangements under the Sector-Wide Approach. However, a perception "gap" over aid approaches appears to exist between the UK (and the Like-Minded Donor Group) and Japan. This is partly because project aid is traditionally dominant in Japan and also because the UK and Japan have different development and aid experiences in Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia respectively. Now that experiences with the new aid approaches have been accumulated in Sub-Sahara Africa and there has been increased interest in its applicability among Asian countries, it is highly relevant to examine how and under which conditions specific aid modalities and/or their optimal combination work, in order to understand the relative usefulness of respective aid modalities. At the same time, there is a set of issues, or “good donorship” principles that should be honoured by all donors, regardless of their choice of aid modalities, in order to realize effective aid. For this reason, therefore, it is important to build common understanding regarding donor practice as well.

Against this background, throughout 2004 GRIPS has been engaged in a research project on “Good Donorship and the Choice of Aid Modalities”. The GRIPS team has greatly benefited from ODI’s extensive knowledge and analyses, particularly in Africa, including an initial brainstorming meeting with ODI researchers. The GRIPS team has also benefited from advice provided by Japanese aid professionals and researchers, built on their field experiences. Through the proposed seminar, the GRIPS team would like to provide feedback from this research and stimulate discussion concerning the issues that need further investigation.

Two researchers from the ODI will be invited to the seminar (Ms Karin Christiansen as speaker, and Ms Debbie Warrener as moderator). They will present recent ODI research on this topic, comment on the GRIPS studies, and facilitate seminar discussions; for example, by providing a UK-Japan comparative perspective. It is hoped that this opportunity for two-way dialogue will contribute to broadening the spectrum of the research agenda and policy debates.

2. Seminar Program:

A feedback seminar, jointly organized by GRIPS and ODI, is scheduled for the 15th of March 2005 at 14:00-17:00 at the JICA Institute for International Cooperation. (See Annex 1 for the seminar program.)

The target audience will be researchers and aid professionals interested in issues of development effectiveness and aid modalities, who ideally have different regional, country, and sector expertise (e.g., universities, think-tanks, consultants, government officials, JICA and JBIC). The seminar will be kept relatively small in size (approximately 30-40 participants) to promote active and in-depth discussions among those familiar with the topic.

Although the seminar does not intend to lead to pre-determined conclusions, it would be useful if some of the following issues can be concretely discussed.

- What are the key factors that affect the choice of aid modalities?
- What are the lessons learned from the latest experiences with new aid approaches?
- What are the specific features of respective aid modalities? How can country and sector-specific issues be incorporated so that the merits of respective modalities can be fully exploited? Are there any overall differences in country contexts in Africa and Asia to be borne in mind when considering the choice of aid modalities?
- How the program approach is applied to support growth promotion and the productive sectors?
- Whether and to what extent can the choice of aid modalities make a difference in improving development impacts? What are the limits of debates on modality?
- What are the elements of “good donorship” so that donors can practice aid to effectively assist in achieving sustainable growth and poverty reduction?

[About the Speakers]

Debbie Warrenner:

Research Officer (Research and Policy in Development) / ODI

Specialized in Japan-UK dialogue on aid policy; role of civil society in the policy process; bridging research and policy.

Karin Christiansen:

Research Fellow (Poverty and Public Policy Group) / ODI

Specialised in PRSPs and linkages to public expenditure management; participatory and decentralised approaches to public expenditure and implementation.

Izumi Ohno:

Professor / GRIPS

Specialized in PRSPs and development partnership; ODA policies and reform.

Shoko Yamada:

Associate Professor / GRIPS

Specialized in policy studies in education, comparative and international education; African studies.

Yumiko Niiya:

Researcher / GRIPS

Specialized in ODA policies and reform, particularly in the area of social development, as aid practitioner in the fields and head quarter offices.

(Annex 1)

**GRIPS-ODI Joint Feedback Seminar:
*Good Donorship and the Choice of Aid Modalities***

- **Venue:** JICA Institute for International Cooperation, 2F conference room.
- **Time:** The 15th of March 2005, 14:00-17:00
- **Target Audience:** Researchers and aid professionals (interested in issues of development effectiveness and aid modalities, with different regional, country, and sector expertise).

- **Tentative Program**

- 14:00-14:15 Introduction to the Feedback Seminar
(by Debbie Warrener/ODI and Izumi Ohno/GRIPS)
- 14:15-14:55 General Overview (20 min. each):
- A Conceptual Framework for Considering the Choice of Aid Modalities—Matching Aid with Country Needs and Ownership
(by Izumi Ohno/GRIPS)
 - Presentation by Karin Christiansen/ODI
(*Title to be decided*; possible topics could include experiences with new aid modalities, good practices and emerging issues from the recent studies and practices, etc.).
- 14:55-15:15 Questions & Answers
- 15:15-15:35 Case Studies (10 min. each):
- Development Needs, Ownership and Aid Modalities—Health Sector in Vietnam
(by Yumiko Niiya/GRIPS)
 - Priorities and Equity of Resource Distribution—the Case of Education Sector Program in Tanzania
(by Shoko Yamada/GRIPS)
- 15:35-16:45 Comments by ODI researcher, followed by Free Discussions
(moderator: Debbie Warrener)
- 16:45-17:00 Wrap up
(by Debbie Warrener, with GRIPS & ODI discussants)
- 17:00 Informal Gathering with Participants (Refreshments will be served.)

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