

Japan's Development Assistance for African Countries

Katsuya MOCHIZUKI

The objective of this presentation is to introduce current debates over Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) and discuss important topics in recent years.

In the early 1990s, there were vigorous formal arguments on the philosophy of ODA among stakeholders. One leading advocate stressed the importance of Japanese assistance for self-help efforts in developing countries. A request to the Japanese aid authority has long been recognized as a prerequisite for the provision of development assistance. Here, we review the historical background of this idea together with Japanese modalities for aid.

In the area of rice development, Japanese assistance has been very active since the 1970s. The program began with requests from recipient countries, and continued as a series of schemes involve research and development, technical cooperation, grants, and loan assistance. Cases from Tanzania are briefly introduced in the presentation.

The paper also refers to international trends in development assistance. The most important current topic may be aid coordination among the donor community. We start the discussion from so-called selective aid with the idea of "Selection and Concentration." Changing trends of aid modality and issues involving poverty reduction will be discussed in terms of aid coordination.

Some policy initiatives will be introduced to demonstrate the characteristics of Japanese Assistance. In addition to international initiatives implemented through multilateral forums, the Japanese government has initiated various policy measures. The paper introduces some of these initiatives.

Finally, we will introduce official statements of the Japanese government on the matter of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).