

Research Summary

Comparing Measures of Success: The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of ODA-funded Projects in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Indonesia

The study analyzed a number of selected development programs in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia that were supported by overseas development assistance (ODA) from Japan. It focused on the commonalities and differences of evaluations and the factors influencing these. The investigation involved comparing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach, premise, use of knowledge and expertise, composition, and research methodology, among other aspects. It is based on the assumption that M&Es applied in each country's ODA funded projects manifest characteristics that are in adaptation with the local circumstances. But these, in many ways, can be both different and similar in features when compared to those applied in other countries having own specific contexts and circumstances as well.

The study may help understand how M&E works in different circumstances and may provide insights on how to assess effectiveness of M&E systems in many countries. It is significant to the Philippines and other countries because it will help identify factors relevant to evaluations. It may identify areas where improvement of many countries' evaluation capability can be done.

The study primarily applied desk research method, reviews and analyses of the M&Es of selected ODA projects based on official publications and documents, evaluation reports, website and online publications. Public information materials from JICA and JBIC and other official documents of related agencies in the three countries were used as references.

The findings show patterns and features that are not entirely unique among programs, regardless of countries. The findings also show that the selected programs were not equipped with built-in M&E frameworks to complement their implementation, or at best, some had monitoring efforts spent on but not consistently carried out. This influenced the current study to rely on terminal or ex-post evaluations done after completion of the program and other support documents. . Insights on the evaluators' approach or competence relative to M&E are deduced from the analysis made.

Keywords: development programs, multilateral agencies, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), official development assistance (ODA), results-based M&E, meta-evaluation.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

- ✚ March 11-13, 2010, Tokyo University, Tokyo, Japan. 15th Inter-University Seminar on Asian Megacities (as Presenter and Moderator). *A Look Inside Development: The Monitoring and Evaluation of ODA-funded Urban Development Projects in MM, Philippines* (corollary study).
- ✚ November 10-14, 2010, Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas, USA. American Evaluation Association (AEA) 2010 Evaluation Conference (as Presenter). *A look inside development: What the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework designs of foreign-funded urban development projects in Metro Manila, Philippines reveal.* (corollary study).

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

n/a

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

n/a