Development with Alternative Strategic Options

A Japanese View on the Poverty Reduction Drive and Beyond

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Background

- Ongoing global poverty reduction partnership
- Japan is uncomfortable
 - --It feels current strategy is unbalanced
 - --Fear of marginalization
 - --New engagement effort is begun
 - --Catalyst for a group of LDCs/donors?



Recent Poverty Cutting Drive

- World Bank's CDF/PRSP
- UN's Millennium Development Goals
- Poverty-terrorism nexus
- EU and US pledge to increase ODA
- Many international conferences for development in 2002



Japan's Concern (Domestic)

- Due to fiscal crisis, Japan's ODA is to be cut (now top donor)
- Popular demand for transparency and accountability
- Groping for new ODA vision from quantity to quality



Japan's Concern (External)

- With partnership approach, ignoring global trend is more difficult
- Japan's policy silence may lead to marginalization
 - --Too much focus on poverty; too little on growth and industries
 - --From ODA loans to grants?
 - --Less aid for middle-income countries?



Japan's External Initiatives

- Disappointment with IMF's handling of Asian Crisis -- Chiang Mai Initiative, New Miyazawa Plan
- WTO's slowness -- Japan-Singapore FTA (2001); proposals for Japan-ASEAN and other FTAs
- Unease with PRSP/MDGs -- ?????



For Reshaping ODA Policy

- MOFA's ODA reform effort
- METI's study on ODA for "Asian Dynamism"
- IDEA, WSSD (2002); TICAD3 (2003)
- GRIPS Development Forum
- Washington DC Development Forum
- Inputs to Vietnam's PRSP (starting)



Targeted Audience

- Governments and scholars in East Asia
- Same in other developing regions
- Sympathetic donors
- Aid professionals with little exposure to East Asia
- --We don't expect unanimous approval
- --Research must proceed in parallel



Japan's Proposed Agenda

- 1. Critique of current global strategy
- 2. East Asian development as an alternative approach (where conditions are right)
- 3. Japan's two-track development assistance vision



Agenda (contd.)

- 4. Industrial support in the age of globalization
- 5. PRSP is too small for East Asian experience or aspiration
- 6. Transferability to other regions, especially Africa?



1. Critique of Current Strategy

- World Bank's policy shifts are too quick and radical
- Industries (60s), BHN (70s), SA (80s), privatization & institutions (90s), now poverty (cf. Easterly 2001)
- Development strategy should be more stable and cumulative



Japanese Views

- Strategic diversity, not convergence
- Real-sector concern, not just framework
- Deeper studies of each sector/country required, rather than policy matrices or cross-country regressions
- More patience, respect, ownership for developing countries (incl. selection of goals and strategies)



Costing of MDGs: some Q's

\$40-\$70 billion, or doubling global ODA

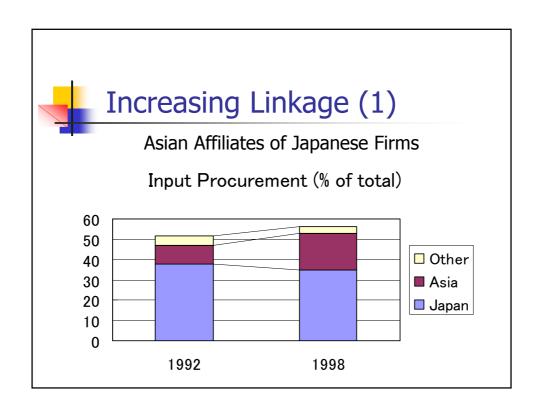
Devarajan, Miller, Swanson (WB Apr 2002)

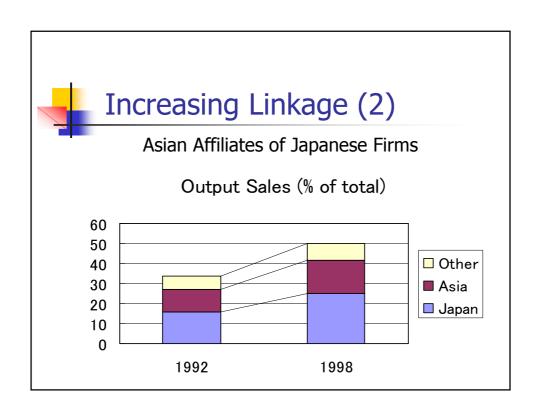
- Why assume only ODA funding?
 - --Even poor can generate resources (FSR/PSD)
- Are two calculations consistent?
 - --Investment-output-poverty linkage vs. adding up pro-poor expenditures
- No problem with aid absorption capacity?

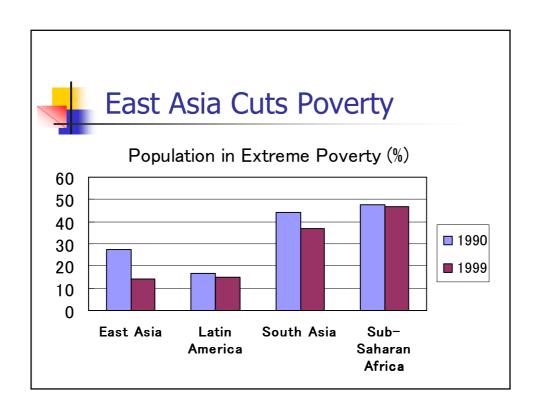


2. East Asian Dynamism

- Development as poverty reduction vs. development as catching up
- Meaningful participation in regional/ global production network through trade and investment
- Higher and more dynamic aspiration (health, primary education not enough)









Region's Enabling Environment

- World Bank's East Asian Miracle (1993) assessed policies of individual countries
- Asian growth as collective phenomenon
- Region provides enabling environment for growth and structural change
- From market-led to institution-led regional integration (cf. EU)
- Crisis impact? Back to normal



3. Japan's Two-Track ODA

- One pillar for global contribution, including poverty and environment
- Another pillar for supporting East Asian dynamism as a production network
- Two pillars have always been present, just affirm them (Japan's dual identity)
- Do both with more confidence and flexibility



4. Today's Industrial Support

- Infant industry support with subsidies and protectionism no longer allowed
- FDI attraction is key: understand agglomeration and fragmentation, and virtuous circle (Southern China)
- Simple opening is not enough



Support (contd.)

- Policies for offering superior locational advantages and low costs of doing business are needed
 - --Improving domestic skills, infrastructure, institutions; efficient public services; good management of IZs and EPZs, etc.
- Case for regional public action is strong
 - --Narrowing gaps, integration, harmonization, crisis prevention, externalities, etc.



Theories of Flying Geese

Factor-proportion view

Industries shift as capital-labor ratios change through accumulation

Technical ladder view

Technology is transferred from low-tech to hightech by learning

3. FDI dynamism view

Industries arise where a critical mass of FDI is accumulated (no capital/technology needed)



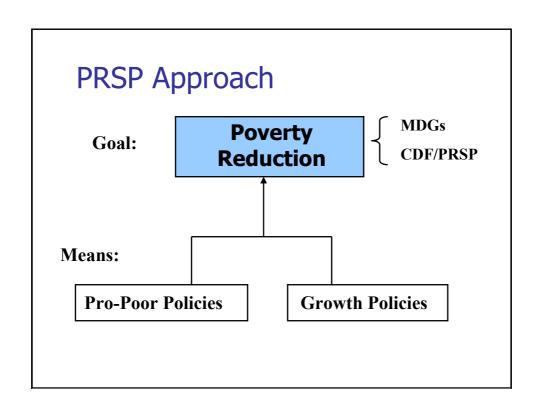
5. PRSP in East Asia?

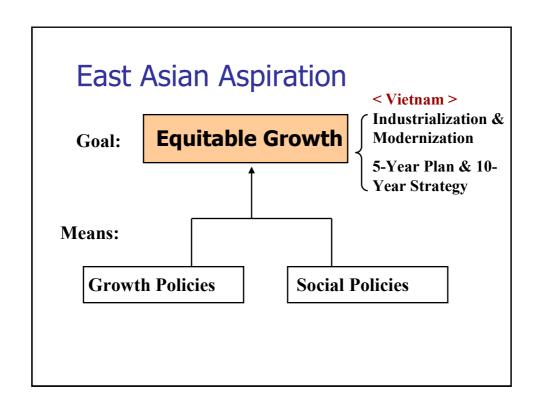
- Vietnam with typical E Asian aspiration
- National goal: Industrialization & Modernization by 2020
- 10-Year Strategy & 5-Year Plan
- CDF pilot country; full PRSP in 2002
- How does it really work? Indonesia,
 Laos, Cambodia, (Africa) are watching



Vietnam's CPRGS

- Considered "great success" because of strong country ownership
- PRSP renamed to "Comprehensive Poverty Reduction & Growth Strategy"
- Policy inputs through CPRGS? Unlikely
- Enthusiastic donors, skeptical donors
- Growth-poverty link left ambiguous







Governments in East Asia

- Very strong interest in narrowing intraregional gaps (original ASEAN vs CLMV)
- Also interested in infrastructure, HRD, trade, FDI attraction
- Rejection of narrow "poverty reduction" approach



Governments in EA (contd.)

- More, not less, economic cooperation including middle-income countries
- ODA is but one tool of cooperation among many



6. Not Just in East Asia

- There are countries with similar growth aspiration outside East Asia
- Transferability?
 - --Initial step is disseminating information
 - --Partial or revised implementation possible
 - --Academic debate can go on in parallel
- Concentrate on a few pilot projects/ countries (not many)



Dissemination Plan

- Japanese research papers to be selected, summarized and translated in readable form, for policy impact
- Non-profit organizations should support government
- Use (or convene) international conferences for announcement of policies