



## **Aid to Africa and the UK's '2005 agenda': perspectives of European donors and implications for Japan**

### Project outline and London workshop draft details

#### **Background**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the leading Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) technical cooperation agency of the Japanese government. It is currently increasing its commitment to Africa, particularly in the areas of peace building and human security, under its new President, former Head of the UNHCR, Sadako Ogata.

Current and developing UK aid policy towards Africa will have a very high profile this year as it is stimulating debate and potential policy influence within the G8 countries who are gathering in Gleneagles for the G8 Summit in July. The focus of the UK's G8 Presidency is on debt relief and development. On 2 December 2004 the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, wrote to G7 Finance Ministers to inform them that the UK's priorities for 2005 will be: 'to institute the International Finance Facility designed to double aid to halve poverty; 100 per cent multilateral debt relief; delivering the Doha development round; and as the second largest global donor in the fight against HIV/AIDS, maximizing efforts to develop an infrastructure for coordinating research in AIDS, increase funding for AIDS research, and develop innovative advance purchasing agreements for both AIDS and malaria drugs'.

The UK's agenda for 2005 is therefore likely to have a significant impact on other G8 countries such as France, Germany and the EU as well as Japan. As a result, JICA is keen to understand the debates that are contributing to the Commission for Africa (CFA) report, due for publication in mid-March 2005, and other work going on within the UK development aid community as a whole which will feed in to the UK's dual Presidency of the G8 and EU, in 2005. Of particular significance is the proposal for an International Finance Facility aimed at doubling aid volume to Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has been working on building closer links between Japanese and British researchers and practitioners in international development since September 2003. It is currently producing regular reports for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the wider Japanese development community synthesising the latest thinking and practice in the UK on topical aid policy issues such as PRSPs, aid modalities and aid harmonisation. These reports are stimulating debate both within Japan and between the UK and Japan. As a result of the value of this work and the significance of 2005, JICA would like to build on the network and contacts that have already been made and have requested more in-depth research on the UK's current approach to Africa and reactions to this from France, Germany and the EU.

## **Aim of research**

To monitor the current debate and formulation of ideas of new aid policies and changes of focus within the UK official aid communities, aid academics and research think-tanks as well as responses from other European summiteers: France Germany and the EU; to use this to work out potential implications for JICA and Japan.

## **Key questions for research:**

- What are the big issues for the UK in relation to African development? What are the debates surrounding them?
- Are the same big issues being focused on by France, Germany and the EU? If so, how do they view them? If not, what are the big issues for them in relation to African development?
- Are these issues (those highlighted by the UK, France, Germany and the EU) equally relevant for Japan and JICA? If so, what are the implications for Japan on these issues?

(Additional questions)

- How can Japan best approach the key issues in relation to Africa?
- What is Japan's comparative advantage in Africa?
- Where should it do the same as the UK, France, Germany and the EU and where should it differ in its approach? How and why?

## **Final Report Contents** (from original ToR)

- (1) Historical overview of UK aid and development thinking towards Africa
- (2) Current African aid policy debate within UK official aid community, academics and think-tanks
- (3) Response of France, Germany and EU towards (2)
- (4) Progress of the IFF and the response from France, Germany and EU
- (5) Implications for JICA and Japan's aid policies towards Africa

### **Draft structure of summary report**

(Working title)

Aid to Africa and the UK's '2005 agenda': perspectives of European donors and implications for Japan

1. Introduction  
(including details on African context and global context – other major events in 2005 – part of wider momentum)
2. What is the UK agenda for Africa (for the G8)?
  - Context information: UK
  - Elements of the UK agenda for 2005
3. What is the stance of other European G8 donors to this agenda?
  - Context information: France, Germany, EU
  - Positions in relation to key elements of the UK agenda
4. What is likely to happen?  
i.e. support / lack of support for the elements of the UK agenda?
5. What does this mean for Japan?
  - Context information: Japan
  - Key decisions to be made by Japan
  - Perspectives from Japan (from 31 March workshop)

*Note: Section 5 to be completed following the 31 March workshop.*

## **Workshop details**

Date: Thursday 31 March 2005  
Time: 9.30 – 17.30  
Venue: Overseas Development Institute (London)

## **Objectives**

Four ODI researchers and one sub-contracted French researcher are currently working on separate sections of the research. The results of their work will be brought together in a Summary Report before the workshop.

The workshop will be used to present the findings of the research and to use these as a basis for discussion of Japanese approaches to the issues raised. Two key Japanese researchers on Africa and Japanese aid policy will be attending the workshop – Professor Motoki Takahashi and Professor Izumi Ohno. Their insights on the current situation and constraints for Japanese aid will enable discussions to be of maximum value for Japanese policymakers.

The aim of the workshop is to synthesise current debate on donor approaches to Africa and to identify which issues are key for Japan to consider in the run-up to the G8 Summit. Issues to be identified are those where there should be some margin for movement on the Japanese side. Key implications for Japan are to be drawn out of the workshop – these will then be included in the final report.

## **Presentations**

Will include presentations by:

- Tony Killick, Senior Research Associate, International Economic Development Group, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Sven Grimm, Research Fellow, International Economic Development Group, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- David Sunderland, Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Vincent Geronomi, President, Network on Globalisation and Development (GEMDEV), Paris, France
- Motoki Takahashi, Professor and Vice Dean, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS), Kobe University, Japan
- Professor Izumi Ohno, Centre for the Study of International Development Strategies (CSIDS), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan