

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION REVIEW

Editorial

Special Articles

South-South Cooperation and Central Asia: Efforts towards the Achievement of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

Gulnaz Atabaeva

India-Peru Cooperation: Sharing Knowledge on Liquid Petroleum Gas

Jordi Ramirez Orihuela

Innovating Triangular Cooperation

Karin Vazquez, Mak Khan & Artemy Izmestiev

Ambassador's Perspective

Indian Development Assistance in Maldives

Akhilesh Mishra

(Continued on outside back cover)

Development Cooperation Review

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Editorial

Development Cooperation Review (DCR) brings its second volume forward continuing the aspiration to capture holistic narratives around development cooperation and contributing towards the sharing of knowledge on theorisation, empiricisation and documentation of South-South Cooperation (SSC). This edition presents a set of articles discussing key issues that were underlined at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) to chart the way forward for SSC post-BAPA+40.

Gulnaz Atabaeva in her paper titled, 'South-South Cooperation and Central Asia: Efforts towards the Achievement of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development', presents a case for strengthening SSC in Central Asia. She asserts the need for a collective regional and global commitment to meet the targets of the SDGs. The paper also discusses the unique capacity of SSC to ensure knowledge and technical flows as imperative to meet the real-time demands of developing countries. Jordi Ramirez Orihuela illustrates upon this unique nature of Southern cooperation in a project between Peru and India for the exchange of 'know-how' in the energy sector. In the paper, 'India-Peru Cooperation: Sharing Knowledge on Liquid Petroleum Gas', Orihuela details the institutional and management framework of the bilateral project between Peru and India, which was initiated to meet the targets set under SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and improve the safety of liquid petroleum cylinders. The paper elaborates on the need for a two-way flow of knowledge and capacity to ensure the sustainability of initiatives and projects that 'leave no one behind'.

BAPA+40 emphasised upon the need to capitalise on the unique capabilities and comparative advantages of all countries, developed and developing, to address common goals and challenges. One such model that has emerged overtime is of triangular cooperation. Karin Costa Vazquez, Mak Khan & Artemy Izmistiev in the paper, 'Innovating Triangular Cooperation' shed light on the evolution, technical advantages and multiplicity in the working definitions of triangular cooperation. In doing so the paper highlights the lack of conceptual clarity in respect to triangular cooperation and presents innovative models for taking forward an approach that accommodates the views from the South.

Ambassador Akhilesh Mishra, provides a brief account of 'Indian Development Assistance in Maldives'. The perspective is a glimpse into the multifaceted nature of India's development cooperation highlighting various projects that address the development needs of Maldives, ranging from health and education infrastructure to training centres and capacity building.

In this edition, Amika Bawa & Kartikeya Dwivedi review the first Independent Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation published by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. The review highlights that the report presents a comprehensive collection of SSC and explores measures towards scaling up South-South and triangular cooperation to strengthen cooperation for development. The review reiterates for the need to address key issues Post-BAPA+40 that demand further deliberations among all stakeholders and detailed analysis from a Southern perspective, which is essential to take SSC forward.

The section on SSC in Statistics draws attention to the increase in Intra-Regional Trade among BIMSTEC countries. Sushil Kumar underlines that the trade performance of BIMSTEC, a sector-driven organization, shows a higher compounded annual growth rate between 1997 and 2017, compared to trade amongst EU and NAFTA countries.

As DCR moves into its second year, it invites policymakers, officials, researchers, academics and development practitioners to contribute to the forthcoming issues to share their ideas, experiences and concerns vis-à-vis development cooperation.

South-South Cooperation and Central Asia: Efforts towards the Achievement of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development



*Gulnaz Atabaeva**

“SSC presents an innovative and vibrant network system connecting countries of the Global South on mutually agreed terms, to address their common challenges and explore opportunities by logic of sharing.”

Introduction

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, many industrial enterprises in Central Asia lost their previously held markets rendering them unable to compete under new market conditions. After a painful transition period, growth picked up in the 2000s driven by increasing exports in commodities such as oil and natural gas (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), aluminium (Tajikistan), gold (Kyrgyzstan), cotton (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and other metals (Kazakhstan).

Geographically, all countries in Central Asia are landlocked (Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country in the world and Uzbekistan is double landlocked, i.e. it borders only landlocked countries) with limited transportation connectivity inside and outside the region. The transformation of formerly intra-Soviet administrative borders covering the Central Asian region into newly independent Central Asian states with newly established border and custom controls and visa requirements, created an enormous challenge for intra-regional trade and for the movement of people and goods, especially in the densely populated Fergana Valley shared between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

However, the countries of Central Asia – Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – have made significant advances in transitioning to market economies and laying the foundation for sustainable growth and development. The region has continuously faced challenges ranging from climate change to extreme poverty and from ethnic tensions to human rights issues. To move forward towards reducing poverty and

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inequality, strengthening institutions of governance and combating exclusion are the region's most immediate concerns.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call for action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They are universal in nature, which means that all United Nations member states have committed to work towards attaining the SDGs at home and abroad. According to UNDP (2016), Central Asian countries have the potential to transform themselves into dynamic economies and role models for sustainable human development and present an immense scope for sustainable innovation. The SDGs present a unique opportunity for Central Asia to guide the governments in the formulation of a modern development vision, and concretise priorities for reform that can have a positive impact on the quality of governance and living standards; tackling economic and environmental challenges; and ultimately on the overall development of each country. This paper discusses the new development challenges facing Central Asia and how ongoing and potential partnerships can be formed to address them. It also sheds light on the historical and emerging partnerships between Central Asian countries and SSC partners – Turkey, China and India, and reflects upon the current state of energy connectivity between Central and South Asia.

New Development Challenges in Central Asia

High Incidence of out-migration

Considerable progress has been made in achieving the SDGs in the region; however disparities persist and new

challenges have arisen. One such concern emanates from the large number of migrant labourers that travel from the region to neighbouring countries. Russia is one of the major recipient of migrants, mainly from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. By 2013, more than 2.7 million citizens of Uzbekistan, more than 1.2 million citizens of Tajikistan and almost 600,000 citizens of Kyrgyzstan were working in Russia (UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States, 2015).¹ Labour migration is caused by multiple factors including the rapid demographic surge in the Central Asian states, structural poverty leading to lack of alternatives, easy access to the Russian labour market and demand for cheap labour. According to the World Bank, a considerable population growth is projected for Central Asian countries, exacerbating the pressure on local labour markets. Thus labour migration in Central Asia is likely to continue, making migration and social protection for labour migrants some of the key policy priorities.

High dependence on remittances

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are among the most remittance-dependent countries, with remittances comprising 35 per cent and 31 per cent of their respective GDP in 2017 as per the World Bank (2018). The global financial crisis, coupled with a slowdown in the economy of the Russian Federation, and the sharp fall in the price of oil and other extractive resources, has put a significant burden on the economic prospects of Central Asian countries.

High levels of corruption

An additional concern for the region is the continued high levels of corruption. This undermines economic development and

takes a heavy toll on the lives of citizens and the quality of public services. The issue of high out-of-pocket payments for health care, where citizens are forced to make informal payments to access medical assistance, indicated the degree of corruption.

High vulnerability to climate change

The countries of Central Asia are further vulnerable to climate-related extreme weather conditions and natural disasters. Every year, rivers in the region flood, causing damage to houses, infrastructure, and economies and further affecting the lives of individuals. The region faces serious environmental threats in the form of natural disasters, as a consequence of climate change coupled with human activities. For example, the Aral Sea, located between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, has shrunk drastically since the 1950s owing to an increase in cotton production which demanded intensive water consumption. Furthermore, land degradation and desertification threaten the livelihoods of people and animals in the region. As climate change and disasters are cross-boundary in nature, addressing them requires immediate joint efforts among countries (Schnitzer-Skjønsberg *et al.*, 2017).

Central Asian countries have struggled to maintain the progress in the face of volatile economic growth and lack of economic diversification; however multi-dimensional poverty continues to persist. In the region, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic face highly persistent poverty and pockets of poverty remain in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. People who have been lifted out of poverty are vulnerable to falling back into the poverty trap, particularly in the event of

unexpected shocks such as loss of jobs, health concerns, or in the face of natural disaster.

Achieving SDGs through South-South Cooperation in Central Asia

South-South Cooperation (SSC) presents an innovative and vibrant network system connecting countries of the Global South on mutually agreed terms, to address their common challenges and explore opportunities by logic of sharing and collective actions including partnerships involving governments, civil society, academia and the private sector for mutual benefit in the development ecosystem (Chaturvedi, 2016). This network system that values horizontal partnerships based on non-negotiable principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit, and demand-driven cooperation is a powerful instrument crucial for achievement of the SDGs. SSC enhances knowledge and experience sharing, facilitates mutual learning processes and increases momentum in the action necessary for the collective goals of Agenda 2030.

Experience has shown that SSC in Central Asia has a strong focus on the knowledge and experience sharing. In fact, knowledge sharing is at the center of most SSC activities in the region, often taking the form of technical cooperation. These efforts are characterised by high levels of national ownership, with many initiatives arising from real-time demand expressed by countries and opportunities for matching supply and demand. According to UNDP analysis, the majority of SSC and triangular cooperation initiatives in the region have focused on country-to-

country exchanges on specific sectoral and thematic issues (Schnitzer-Skjønsberg *et al.*, 2017). The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has supported Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in drafting dam safety legislation and the provision of joint training workshops (UNOSSC & Office of UNRC, 2015). Other countries have implemented innovative systems that can support peer-to-peer learning in the region and beyond; for example, the environmental-economic accounting system of Kyrgyzstan and the Central Asia Energy-Water Development Programme (CAEWDP). It focuses on strengthening energy and water security through national projects and regional activities. In June 2016, CAEWDP funded a presentation of the results of the Central Asia Knowledge Network and its Communities of Practice for Water-Energy and Climate Change Management.

Given a strong agricultural base in Central Asia, a common focus has been towards mutual learning with regard to increasing productivity in the agricultural sector and boosting investments in agricultural value chains. The Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Tripartite² Consortium brings together leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society to support investment in agro-food industries and foster increased involvement of rural producers in the regional agro-food value chains in the Consortium countries. Similarly, Tajikistan has taken efforts towards sharing its experience in horticultural practices with Kyrgyzstan to bolster its competitiveness in international markets, and Turkey has shared its own experience with Tajikistan on post-World Trade Organisation (WTO) accession programming.

At the same time, the Russian Federation has been providing systematic support to Armenia and Kyrgyzstan in various areas related to sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary standards as part of the broader roadmap of the accession of these countries to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The Russian Federation has also been providing advisory support to Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the field of feeding and nutrition more generally as part of its growing partnership with the World Food Programme.

An illustrative example of how Southern countries have come together to tackle common challenges via a more institutionalised approach is the Almaty Process – a regional dialogue between Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan – to work on issues related to migration and refugee protection. Within the framework of the Almaty Process, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has organised meetings for technical experts to develop “regional guidelines on how to identify and refer refugees and asylum-seekers at the borders of Central Asia” with the participation of officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan (UNHCR 2016). An expert from the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus supported the drafting process.

Further, the ‘Regional Hub of Civil Service’ in Astana, a joint initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is a knowledge-sharing platform connecting over 30 countries around the world. Established in 2013, the platform promotes capacity development and

disseminates innovative approaches for civil services in the Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (ECIS) region. The Hub offers peer-to-peer learning, research and state-of-the-art virtual services (e.g. e-learning, roster of experts) on topics ranging from anti-corruption and civil service reform to diplomacy and public service delivery.

Country-to-country exchanges, driven by SSC, have made a noticeable contribution to the sustainable human development in the region. It has led to increased institutional and technical capacities at various levels of government, civil society and in the private sector. Experiences of Central Asian countries in the following areas, is being shared for strengthening southern partnerships and meeting the SDGs (Schnitzer-Skjønsberg *et al.*, 2017):

- **Public Administration and e-Governance:** e-Recruitment experiences from Kazakhstan; role of citizens in decision-making and monitoring of municipal services through online platforms in Tajikistan;
- **Economic Development:** regional efforts towards mitigating climate change risks for agriculture; Kazakhstan experiences in sustainable city transport; Kyrgyzstan in green indicators;
- **Social Domain:** Tajikistan and regional expertise in migration protection, mine action and risk education;
- **At the regional inter-governmental level,** Central Asian countries engage in SSC and triangular cooperation to forming partnerships as identified under SDG17 and collectively address regional challenges towards sustainable development.

Going Beyond the Region: Emerging Partnerships with Turkey, China and India

Turkey

Although Turkey does not share any border with Central Asian countries, it seeks close economic, political and cultural links with them based on shared historical and language roots. Turkey started to provide systematic development cooperation to the region in the mid-1980s. Since then, it has been rapidly expanding its development cooperation activities through the creation of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA; formerly the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency) established in 1992. Programmes and projects implemented by TIKA can be grouped into two categories – technical assistance and cooperation – under which it provides social, financial and technical assistance, including training programmes, expertise and equipment supply. The cooperation projects undertaken by TIKA are primarily bilateral in nature, aimed towards enhancing cultural cooperation between developing countries.

The more recently founded organisation called the Turkic Council, established in 2009, aims to promote comprehensive cooperation among Turkic-speaking states with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey as its founding members (Schnitzer-Skjønsberg *et al.*, 2017). The Council attaches great importance to SSC and is active to deepen cooperation in customs, transport, alternative energy, tourism, education, culture, science, foreign policy, media, ICT, youth, sports, and diaspora. The Turkic Council focuses on capacity-building, technical assistance as well as the

sharing of experience and the exchange of good practices, in its projects. The Turkic Council is also supporting the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, established in 2011, to provide a platform to discuss regional issues, particularly encouraging security, political and economic cooperation by placing Afghanistan at its center. The Council takes forward a result-oriented process for cooperation to ensure a safe and prosperous region.

China

While Russia continues to dominate the region, the role and presence of China in Central Asia has rapidly expanded over the last decade. This expansion is mainly through investments in energy and infrastructure. Today, as China revives the ancient trade routes through its ambitious projects, it is increasing connectivity between Central Asia, South Asia and Europe. In the Central Asian region, three major belts/roads have been proposed: North, Central and South. The North Belt will go through Kazakhstan and Russia to Europe; the Central Belt through Central Asia, Western Asia, the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean; and the South Road will stretch from China to Southeast Asia, South Asia and covering the Indian Ocean.

Moreover, all Central Asian countries, except for Turkmenistan, are members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which is funding China's projects along with the Asian Development Bank and other financial sources.

China is also shaping the region through its foreign policy initiatives and has become a prominent development actor (Szcudlik-Tatar, 2013), given its increasing investments in oil and gas pipelines, roads and railways, and accompanying

infrastructure (Zimmerman, 2015). These projects include:

Oil: China constructed the Kazakhstan-China oil pipeline, which came on stream in 2006, increasing China's oil imports from Kazakhstan almost tenfold between 2005 and 2008.

Gas: China has completed the construction of a major gas pipeline from Turkmenistan. A second pipeline, Line D through Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, is scheduled for construction, increasing China's gas imports from Turkmenistan even further. The pipeline broke the previous dominance of Russia's Gazprom but at the cost of making Turkmenistan nearly totally dependent on China. Turkmenistan's exports to China constituted 1 per cent of its total exports in 2009, increasing to almost 80 per cent by 2015, most of which is natural gas; and Turkmenistan's second largest trading partner, Turkey, constitutes only 5 per cent of its total exports.

Railways and other infrastructure: Kazakhstan is looking to cooperate with China on building a railway from Khorgos on the China-Kazakhstan border to the Aktau port on the Caspian Sea, including supplementary industrial and infrastructure projects in Khorgos as the hub. Another project, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan rail route, is also under discussion (Batsaikhan & Dabrowski, 2017).

Critically, the current China-Central Asia relationship can be equated with that of the former Soviet economic system, where the southern republics mainly supplied energy resources and raw materials to the more industrialised regions of the then Soviet Union. Today, China, like the former Soviet Union, is

primarily interested in importing raw materials, energy, and mining resources from the region and exporting its finished products to Central Asia. Moreover, China's lending policy, claim critics, does not match with the principles of SSC.

India

In the early 1990s, India was one of the first to establish diplomatic relations with most of the countries that had emerged from the Russian Federation to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Since then, Central Asian states have benefitted from the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, fully funded by the Government of India. Under ITEC and its sister programme Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP), 161 countries in Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to learn from the Indian developmental experience, enhance knowledge cooperation towards managing disasters, along with thematic courses focused towards developmental training. Such a programme puts forth India's competence as a provider of technical know-how, traditional knowledge and expertise as well as to provide training and learning opportunities, consultancy services and feasibility studies. By 2014, ITEC was offering approximately 10,000 training slots to 167 partner countries including all Central Asian countries with the exception of Uzbekistan; the slots were spread over nearly 270 courses in 47 different institutions regarded as centers of excellence in their areas of work (Chaturvedi, 2016). Moreover, demand based trainings are also provided by India such as counter-terrorism training

provided to Turkmenistan and training in space technology to Tajikistan in 2017 (MEA, 2018).

In the age of globalisation, economic ties hold the key to any bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation. Both India and Central Asia share common perceptions about the need to have friendship and mutually advantageous economic relations in the backdrop of globalisation. Through its 'Connect Central Asia' policy, New Delhi aims to actively take part in Central Asia's regional cooperation and security arrangements (Kothari, 2014). As part of its 'Connect Central Asia' policy, India plans to set up an Indian-Central Asia University in Kyrgyzstan and is looking towards deploying its soft power to consolidate goodwill in all Central Asian countries through IT, culture, networking with young politicians and academia (Roy, 2012).

The driving force behind India's objective of enhanced engagement with Central Asia is economics. India has the ability to help build Central Asia in areas such as information technology, science and technology, knowledge industries and assisting the region to capitalise on its own soft power. Conversely, India's increasing need for energy can only be addressed by the energy rich Central Asian countries. New Delhi has often stated that its priority is to ensure that Afghanistan emerges as an economic and commercial bridge between South and Central Asia, and thus it is critical to ensure peace and prosperity to prevent it from becoming a hub of terrorism and extremism (Chaturvedi, 2016).

With respect to enhancing connectivity, agreements signed on three transport

infrastructure projects are a step towards bring forward the vision:

Chabahar Port development agreement: to connect India and Afghanistan via the Islamic Republic of Iran and serve as a starting point for the overarching International North-South Trade Corridor (INTSC) that further aims to connect India, Iran, Russia, and various Central Asian states;

Lapis Lazuli Route: to connect Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey; and the Five Nations Railway Corridor, linking China and the Islamic Republic of Iran via Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic (Rocha, 2017)

Commissioning of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC): to enable Indian goods to gain better access to the untapped markets in the Eurasian region including Russia's Far East, enabling deeper market interaction in Central and South Asia.

At the collective regional level, in June 2018, India attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit for the first time as full member state. Annual SCO summits will provide a forum to India and Central Asia to interact and discuss issues of bilateral and regional interest. India-Central Asian cooperation is bound by the non-negotiable principles of SSC, with an aim to reach mutually beneficial outcomes towards national and regional development while achieving the goals of Agenda 2030.

Energy Connectivity between Central and South Asia

Central Asia is among the energy richest regions of the world. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have large hydropower

potential, while Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are blessed with abundant fossil fuels. In contrast to Central Asia, South Asia faces energy shortage due to its growing population and demand for economic expansion. The political changes in Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban led to greater consumption as the foundations of an economy emerged, while the biggest South Asian economies, India and Pakistan, require affordable and reliable energy to maintain their recent economic growth trajectories. South Asian countries specifically are interested in natural gas and electricity, goods that can be provided by neighboring Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In line with these expectations and the overall need to ensure affordable and clean sources of energy under SDG7, officials from both exporting and importing countries with the exception of Uzbekistan have met frequently and reached some agreements in the past years.

CASA-1000

In 2015, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan signed the historic Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA)-1000. With an estimated cost of US\$953 million, the CASA-1000 project aims to transmit 1,300 megawatts of electricity from the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, via Afghanistan, into Pakistan, of which Afghanistan will utilise 300 megawatts for domestic use. The remaining 1,000 megawatts of electricity will eventually reach Pakistan to remedy the severe shortage of power the country faces during summers. The Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan have substantial amounts of surplus power in the summer that remains idle if not used. The CASA-1000 will bring

the surplus power to Pakistan, reducing energy wastage, generating transit fees for Afghanistan and enhancing its growth prospects, in addition to addressing domestic electricity shortage in South Asia. The project provides access to clean energy and creates jobs, and will also bring approximately US\$45 million in annual transit fees to Afghanistan, essential to bring political and economic security to the country. (Bakhtar News 2014; World Bank, 2014).

TAPI

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline, agreed in 2015, will connect the partner countries with a natural gas pipeline. The TAPI Project aims to export up to 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas per year through a proposed approximately 1,800 kilometer (km) pipeline from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. India seems to be finally looking at the proposed \$15-billion TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) Pipeline, also called Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline with more interest now than ever before. Additionally, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in the project from the Saudi Development Fund (Basu & Mishra, 2018). TAPI has the potential to become a source of affordable and reliable energy, ensuring energy security regionally.

TUTAP

The Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP) project aims to transmit 2,600 megawatts of power from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Although TUTAP is in its initial stages of negotiation, it is expected to unlock

Afghanistan's potential as the transit hub in the region, bringing in jobs and contributing to growth.

Full completion and operationalisation of large-scale infrastructure projects such as CASA-1000, TAPI and TUTAP would ensure energy security through sharing of surplus electricity, natural gas is essential for Central and South Asian region to fully benefit from sustainable energy trade and ensure energy security. Such initiatives are a step towards developing inter-regional cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia.

The Way Forward

The Central Asian countries face particular challenges given their landlocked geographical position, limiting trade and access to global markets. Improving infrastructure connectivity is a specific development priority for Central Asian countries to improve their linkage to regional and global markets. Agriculture being an economic pillar in the region, it provides employment to large parts of the population and is critical to tackle the issue of labour migration. Export of agricultural produce is further dependent on well-functioning road and rail infrastructure. Thus investment in transport and agriculture combined can therefore lead to increased productivity, create jobs and ensure food security.

The role of SSC in achieving SDGs in Central Asian countries is ongoing and evident in partnerships and projects. Experiences show that through the exchange of relevant knowledge and best practices among the partner countries, the SSC has contributed to strengthening of institutions and human capacities and promoted the formulation and

implementation of development policies in the region aligned with SDGs.

Still there are no policy frameworks, coordination, structures and mechanisms for SSC in the countries of Central Asia to provide support to stakeholders that aim to deepen cooperation with other southern economies. This challenge affects efficiency and the overall sustainability of activities being undertaken. Data and evidence-based mutual learning can help shape policies and maximise development impacts. In this sense, the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) creating a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks to collaboratively generate, systematise, consolidate and share knowledge on SSC, can play a crucial role in ensuring that policies and frameworks are appropriate and responsive to local needs. Local efforts to strengthen such platforms that allow countries to tap into the pool of resources globally and connect with development partners is instrumental towards achieving the inextricably linked SDGs.

Recent political and economic transformations in the region, particularly in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, are laying the foundation for increased security, cooperation, trade, sustainable growth and development in the region and the world.

Endnotes

- ¹ Also See: Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation. Retrieved from: http://www.fms.gov.ru/fms/activity/stats/Statistics/Svedeniya_v_otnoshenii_inostrannih_grazhdan
- ² Supported by the UNDP Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) and TIKA.

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India-Peru Cooperation: Sharing Knowledge on Liquid Petroleum Gas



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The principle of this project is to establish a basis that allows activities of cooperation, considering the principles of mutual interest, exchange of information, knowledge and technical support.

Globalisation as a socio-economic phenomenon refers to the strengthening of networks that foster interdependence among actors at the international, national and grassroots level. In the 21st century, this phenomenon is primarily associated with boosting interconnectivity through information and communication technology (ICT) that allows for sharing of knowledge and experiences all over the world. According to the International Monetary Fund (2000), trades and transactions, capital movements, investments, migration and spreading of knowledge, have made countries grow economically in last decades, improving the quality of life of millions of people. Despite this progress, globalisation has also resulted in an increase in inequalities, leaving behind people, as nations embark on their growth trajectory. Inequalities and discrimination continue to persist across a number of dimensions such as social class, gender, education, access to health, and distribution of power, which invariably has significant implications for economic growth and macroeconomic stability of a country (Rawls, 1999; Chakrabarti, 2018). It is in this vain that Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pledged to “leaving no one behind”. Knowledge sharing and exchange, while a positive outcome of the processes of globalisation and ICT revolution, needs to be made a key component in the processes of development aimed at achieving the 17 SDGs.

South-South Cooperation (SSC), which is partnerships among developing countries and their institutions and individuals, appears in this context as an way to reduce global inequalities through its role in capacity building, in-house training programmes, technology transfer, financial

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assistance through grants and lines of credits and humanitarian assistance. These modalities are in line with the principles of mutual benefit and belief in solidarity that is fundamental to SSC. Moreover, SSC aims to ensure capability building of the partner country, so that developing countries can take ownership of their own development trajectory, which can then be complemented by external assistance (Lopez, 2014). Thus, development depends on the access to resources and one's capability to add value through the use of such resources, and herein lies the importance of South-South Cooperation. The focus is on facilitating this 'access' through sharing of knowledge, best practices and technical know how to empower citizens while assisting countries to achieve their goals of economic growth and ensuring social justice.

At this point it is important to consider the concept of Development Compact (Chaturvedi, 2016) as a mechanism of engagement between Southern countries, which articulates the Indian approach to SSC through 'policy-coherent' modalities that are based on the demands of the partner country. The development compact illustrates the interconnected nature of modalities, wherein increasing capacity and access to resources is interlinked with knowledge exchange, financial (grants) support and even technology transfer. The modalities of the Compact is guided by the principles of mutual benefit, non-interference, collective growth opportunities, absence of conditionalities (while presence of conditionalities are a main characteristic in North-South Cooperation), and putting special emphasis assessment of impact of cooperation (Chaturvedi, 2016).

A key modality under the development compact is the sharing of technology and knowledge, which is not new to South-South Cooperation, but has regained its fading fervor at bilateral and multilateral levels of engagements. Cooperation between the Republics of Peru and India has taken steps towards knowledge sharing in the energy sector, complementing their existing exchanges in goods and services. This paper reflects upon Peru and India's knowledge cooperation in liquid petroleum gas (LPG) as a best practice aimed to achieve the targets of SDGs. Firstly, the paper highlights the background for cooperation, following that the institutional framework is detailed. Secondly, a discussion on the various levels of knowledge sharing at the project management level has been provided.

Background

The Republic of Peru, a country of 32.1 million people where approximately 6.9 million live in poverty (given its poverty rate of 21.7 per cent), faces a key challenge where 26 per cent of households do not have access to clean energy to meet their basic needs. This further results in pushing people deeper into poverty, as these households have to rely on firewood and animal dung as an energy source, which becomes a threat to the health of the families impacting their quality of life. Moreover, the use of liquid petroleum gas is associated with middle to higher income households in Peru, given higher costs of LPG.

India, a country which once faced a similar challenge, over the last few years has taken major steps in this regard. Today, India is the second largest consumer of

liquid petroleum gas worldwide (PTI 2019), with a production of bottled liquid petroleum gas 20 times larger than that of Peru. India has also made strides in improving processes, equipment technology and inculcating a culture focused on user safety that consumes liquid petroleum gas in cylinders. India also implemented special programmes that benefit families in extreme poverty, and give them access to cleaner sources of energy.

Given this, the Supervisory Agency for Investment in Energy and Mining of the Republic of Peru was convinced that the exchange of information and experiences, regarding the safety and distribution of liquid petroleum gas, will be key to generate new strategies that allow expanding the energy frontier in the most vulnerable segments of Peru. Through the use of cleaner sources of energy such as LPG, natural gas and electricity, there will be a qualitative improvement in the life of individuals especially for the poorer segment of the society (Vasquez et al. 2017).

Institutional framework

The governments of the Republic of India and the Republic of Peru in 2018 initiated a project named, *Strengthening knowledge in the safety and distribution of liquid petroleum gas between Peru and India*. The Ministry of Oil and Natural Gas of India and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, and the Supervisory Agency for Investment in Energy and Mining of Peru with support by the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation are the cooperating agencies. The aim of the project is to ensure an exchange of experience to contribute towards improving the safety in use of

liquid petroleum gas cylinder. In that sense, the project will strengthen cooperation, based on the exchange of information, knowledge and technical support. The specific target of this project is to increase the liquid petroleum gas penetration in the rural areas of Peru, where it is not technically and economically possible to bring natural gas, by putting in place necessary infrastructure for cylinder park, replacement of old cylinders to meet the demand for liquid petroleum gas and also to assure the provision of safety facilities. In line with the principles of South-South Cooperation, this project seeks to build a solidarity based partnership with mutual gain and horizontal growth, for both the countries. With this framework, the cooperation is institutionally organised for promoting exchange of knowledge with emphasis on cooperation for mutual benefit rather than being driven by the profit motive of the market (Bracho, 2018).

It is important to mention that this initiative took forward the spirit of Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), 1978, and the Bandung Conference, 1955, that emphasised on enhancing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC).

Project management

The design of the project while focusing on the flow of knowledge and experiences from India to Peru, allows for mutual engagement ensuring learning among both the partners for a complete exchange of knowledge.

Indian experts in the field of hydrocarbon energy travelled to Peru to share knowledge with Peruvian professionals. The experts undertook

activities to supervise management, processes and the energy plant. Coordinators from both the countries shared their respective approaches related to the inter-institutional agreement draft. This includes aspects like sales growth of liquid petroleum gas, distributors, packaging capacity to improve the value chain in terms of production, transportation, distribution for the final consumer to have an improved access of this product, focusing on people who live in abject poverty. This step concluded with the signing of the 'Inter-institutional Agreement on Technical Cooperation in Safety and Distribution of Liquefied Petroleum Gas' between Supervisory Agency for Investment in Energy and Mining of Peru and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. This strengthened the scope for linkages between institutions as well as a two-way knowledge flow, primarily to assist the Indian side to share relevant and timely knowledge as per the demands of Peru. Such an exchange would lead to improved knowledge and capacities for both the provider and facilitator, to actualise a complete South-South knowledge partnership (Bawa, 2018).

The activities of this project also included a Peruvian delegation undertaking a field visit to Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, where the application of safety controls has been observed for valve leaks and cylinder. The real-life show-and-tell style of knowledge sharing allowed for the possible appreciation for the safety conditions of the installation as well as build capacity through the sharing of on-ground experiences and literature through in-plant used safety instructions booklet and policies. Further, the Peruvian

delegation visited the Bhiwadi liquid petroleum gas cylinder factory in the Indian state of Rajasthan, for sharing of know-how on cylinder manufacturing process, safety controls, test requirement by the standards, painting processes and labeling of cylinders with manufacturing and re-inspection information. Such information is critical as knowledge is required to flow down to the very grassroots level of management to reflect impact and effectiveness. Finally, the Peruvian delegation also visited a beneficiary Indian family of India's clean energy initiative, to appreciate the facilities of reception and household level of storage of liquid petroleum gas. In all these steps, knowledge was transferred from the Indian provider to the beneficiary Peruvian professionals.

The exchange of experiences and information allows Peru to enrich knowledge regarding the safety and distribution of liquid petroleum gas, which would contribute to strengthening its policy making process and put in place guidelines and strategies for supervision and control of the safety in the distribution and commercialisation of LPG. That will also contribute towards improving the safety and marketing of LPG cylinders that are consumed by more than six million families in Peru.

Study trips and field visits allowed Peruvian officials to appreciate how India has implemented its initiatives for improving access to clean energy making it possible to take the knowledge and technical know-how back to Peru. Thus professionals carrying out short term internships contribute towards increasing the effectiveness of the cooperation between the partner countries because

technical cooperation, coordination and collaboration enabled through transfer of knowledge and skill empowers countries towards their autonomous development.

Conclusion

This project is a great example of Southern partnership driven by the demands of Peru and achievement of the SDGs. Priorities for engagement are determined by partners and characterised by professional training, investment and technology knowledge transfer. This exchange of experience between countries has been effective, as it enlarges the panorama of professionals to propose solutions that can be incorporated into the Peruvian reality. Application of that knowledge and further assistance from the provider partner and other levels of engagement will allow Peru to build its own knowledge and technological base to enable it to undertake its development activities. For India also, the sharing of knowledge, its application by Peru and the outcome will too become a learning experience to create a model for future engagements.

This approach also becomes beneficial for other developing countries, as a spill-over effect of South-South Cooperation, and is advantageous for the creating of models and best practices that can be tailor-made based on the needs of the partners.

Following the principles of SSC, in light of solidarity and achieving demand driven solutions according to national priorities, this project has opened up many avenue for India and Peru to exchange knowledge, experiences and technologies in the clean energy sector. It allows broadening of the vision of professionals, which would contribute immensely to

the development of new proposals for further cooperation. In the backdrop of the initiative of “leaving no one behind” these efforts between India and Peru would also contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in an interconnected world with opportunities for one and all.

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND AND SOUTH SUDAN COOPERATE IN HEALTH SECTOR

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and South Sudan's Ministry of Health signed a five million U.S. dollar cooperation agreement to strengthen South Sudan's health sector. A three-year work plan (2019-2021) has been charted to uplift the ailing sector focusing on training of health workers including midwives and nurses, procurement and distribution of reproductive health commodities, strengthen mechanisms to fight gender-based violence in the country and promote sexual and reproduction health rights.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) posits health indicators of South Sudan as one of the lowest globally. The country's maternal mortality ratio is at 789 per 100,000 live births and neonatal mortality stands at 39 per cent, according to data released by the WHO in 2018. The Human Development Indices and Indicators as of 2018 posits the country at the low human development category ranking 187 out of 189 countries.

This partnership will be a step towards making South Sudan's health sector more resilient and can create a framework for learning among countries such as Lesotho and Benin.

Source: Anon. (2019, April 11). South Sudan, UN sign 5 mln USD health cooperation pact. Family Planning 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.familyplanning2020.org/news/south-sudan-un-sign-5-mln-usd-health-cooperation-pact>

Innovating Triangular Cooperation



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The UN and the OECD-DAC definitions of TrC dismiss innovative models emerging from the South itself.

Over the years, Triangular Cooperation (TrC) has been attracting considerable attention of practitioners and policy makers of development cooperation agencies both in the North and in the South. Various arguments explain this growing attention.

First, the economic and financial crisis of 2008 negatively affecting many countries of the North impacted development assistance budgets forcing agencies to seek new forms of engagement. Similarly, Southern countries' funding capacity may sometimes be insufficient to diffuse their knowledge to other developing countries. TrC would, therefore, be a win-win option for Northern and Southern countries alike, if complementary to traditional development assistance.

Second, the rise of the South and the more prominently the role that the Southern countries have started to play in development cooperation added an important political dimension to the debate. TrC represented a tool of dialogue with countries engaging in South-South cooperation at the technical level and policy spaces, based on their advantage as intermediaries in countries where the North has difficulties to engage with.

Third, the technical advantages of TrC are well known: combination of established development cooperation practices from the North with the Southern knowledge and technology lead to lower costs and delivery of greater development impact. According to UNDP (2004), "in order to maximise their financial, logistical and technical resources, [developing] countries can ask for the support of a Northern donor as a third partner."

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These arguments have been emphasised over the past decade in global fora like the United Nations Global South-South Development Expo, the Development Cooperation Forum, the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and the High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), the Policy Dialogue on Triangular Cooperation, and the High-Level Meeting on Country-led Knowledge Hubs.

They were also reflected in a way TrC has been treated in recent agreements related to financing for development. The Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, paragraph 49 reiterated "...support for South-South, as well as triangular cooperation, which provides much needed resources to the implementation of development programmes."

Some international agreements went further to highlight the technical advantages of TrC. The Busan High Level Forum (2011) Outcome Document states that "South-South and triangular cooperation have the potential to transform developing countries' policies and approaches to service delivery by bringing effective, locally owned solutions that are appropriate to the country contexts."

The need for mutual learning is also acknowledged in the Accra Agenda for Action (paragraph 19): "We recognise the importance and particularities of South-South cooperation and acknowledge that we can learn from the experience of developing countries. We encourage further development of triangular cooperation."

The GPEDC High Level Meeting in Nairobi provided some practical recommendations in its outcome document saying that "...donors could contribute with their know-how in development assistance, for example in the design and evaluation phases of triangular cooperation projects". It also noted that "practical challenges include partners' coordination, beneficiary countries' involvement, and limited scale and scope of triangular cooperation projects".

Finally, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development calls for "enhanced exchanges between constituencies engaged in North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation to promote knowledge sharing."

Despite broad political support and wide understanding of its advantages, TrC is believed to be largely under-utilised. Unclear definitions and limited knowledge of innovative models have been among the factors that stymied the growth of TrC.

Working Definitions of Triangular Cooperation

TrC, also referred to as "triangular development cooperation", "trilateral cooperation", "trilateral assistance", "tripartite cooperation" and "tripartite agreement" still lacks a consensed definition. International organisations like the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have adopted operational definitions for TrC emphasising - sometimes conflicting - purpose and models.

According to the UN, TrC refers to "Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries,

supported by a developed country(ies) or multilateral organisation(s), to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.”

The UNDP further defines triangular cooperation “as a way of fostering development by leveraging the best features of cooperation between developing countries with the assistance from developed countries” (UNDP, 2004).

The UN ECOSOC (2008) in turn interprets TrC “as OECD/DAC donors or multilateral institutions providing development assistance to Southern governments to execute projects/programmes with the aim of assisting other developing countries.”

Presented at the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Policy Dialogue on Development Cooperation (Mexico City, 28-29 Sept 2009), the OECD-DAC definition for TrC is “partnerships between DAC donors and pivotal countries to implement development cooperation programmes/projects in beneficiary countries” (BMZ, 2013).

This definition reflects the practice of large OECD-DAC donors like Germany. According to GIZ, TrC involves three partners where beneficiary countries receive support from emerging economies, or ‘new donors’ (pivotal countries), while traditional donors contribute their long-standing expertise.

The UN and the OECD-DAC definitions converge on the need of a developed country or multilateral organisation as one of the nodes of the relationship. They also converge on the purpose of the cooperation (support to programmes and projects) and the role of developed countries and multilateral

organisation as financiers of such programmes and projects.

But there is also divergence in the definitions of TrC adopted by the UN and the OECD-DAC. Whereas the UN looks at TrC as a Southern-driven partnership supported by a developed country or multilateral organisation, the OECD-DAC seem to reproduce the donor-recipient relationship and it is often criticised for placing traditional and pivotal countries (or “new donors”) on one side and beneficiary countries on the other.

Innovative Models of Triangular Cooperation

The UN and the OECD-DAC definitions of TrC dismiss innovative models emerging from the South itself. First, the word “triangular” in TrC preempts that one of the partners, like in a triangle, is in a top position in relation to the other two. In this sense, the word “trilateral” would be preferred as it emphasises the principle of horizontality in development cooperation.

Against this backdrop, TrC could take the form of a partnership among three or more Southern countries for their mutual benefit (Abdenur, 2007; Correa, 2010; and Vazquez, 2013). This is the case of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) to benefit other developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. Or, Southern countries can also be contributors of cooperation to Northern countries (Ayllón, 2012), in line with the notion of universality of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development.

OECD-DAC countries and multilateral organisations have also been engaged in innovative forms of TrC. Japan’s commitment towards capacity

development in Southern countries has taken concrete form in the establishment of Centres of Excellence like the “Better Hospital Service Programme”, which benefits African countries via Sri Lanka and Tanzania with JICA playing the role of an honest broker and providing a platform for knowledge exchange.

The World Food Programme formulated a corporate policy for South-South and triangular cooperation whereby it promotes TrC by supporting countries to utilise technical assistance available in WFP’s network of Centres of Excellence; promoting regional peer learning networks; incentivising the use of SSC and TrC modalities.

There are various examples of triangular cooperation in the context of regional blocks and organisations such as ASEAN (UNOSSC, 2018). In Africa, TrC models were instrumental in launching regional innovations hubs in various fields – providing local solutions to the countries of the region (BMZ, 2011). Indeed, many innovative models of TrC can be grounded on regional cooperation, for example first, between the regional development bodies within a region, such as ASEAN and SAARC in Asia, spearheaded by a donor (from North or South) playing the facilitator’s role, as well as models of TrC between regional bodies. Southern-led international financial institutions, mainly the recently created New Development Bank (NDB), can influence the debate on triangular cooperation offering new and innovative models.

With over USD5 billion approved for financing of sustainable infrastructure projects in member countries, and one regional office in Africa and soon another in Latin America, the NDB could become a

vehicle for the implementation of projects that promote regional integration in Latin America and Africa in the future (Vazquez, forthcoming). It could also become an “incubator” of strategies and applied knowledge on sustainable infrastructure and development by supporting a South-South Platform to generate and share technologies and common solutions for the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Conclusion

Triangular cooperation can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by helping countries deliver better development outcomes and strengthening dialogue between the North and the South. The Second UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires gave a considerable boost to scaling up triangular cooperation.

The ongoing debate on the definition of triangular cooperation is important for translating political commitment into operational reality. There is a need to make sure that the Southern views are fully taken on board in the discussion on the definition. This discussion also needs to consider the variety of formats of triangular cooperation and encourage innovation.

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Indian Development Assistance in Maldives



*Akhilesh Mishra**

India has been offering developmental assistance to Maldives based on its needs and requests. The major projects which have been executed by India are as follows:

Construction and Renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital

The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) is one of the most visible symbols of the Indian assistance to Maldives. During former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Malé in February 1986, it was agreed to establish a medical complex in Malé with Indian assistance. Accordingly, the 200 bed hospital (estimated cost INR 42.5 crore) was established and dedicated to the memory of late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in April 1995 by former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao.

The hospital has all major medical departments, including ICU, Cardiac Coronary Unit, and Labour Room. As per the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on manpower requirement of IGMH signed by the two governments, the Government of India (GoI) provided 72 doctors/paramedics and nurses under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme for five years. Later, under the MoU signed in October 2001, GoI agreed to provide 92 doctors/paramedics and nurses under ITEC for five years. The entire responsibility of managing/running the hospital is presently with the Government of Maldives.

Medical consignment worth INR 1.06 crore was formally handed over to IGMH in January 2011. The MoU for undertaking major renovation of IGMH at a cost of INR 37.24 crore by GoI was signed during the visit of India's Prime Minister in November 2011. The cost was later revised to INR 52 crore.

* Former Ambassador of India to Maldives (2016-19). Currently, he is the Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

IGMH is the main hospital in Maldives and renovating a functional hospital was an extremely challenging task. The renovation work was started in May 2014 and completed on 15 June 2017.

Maldives Institute of Technical Education; now called the Maldives Polytechnic

During Prime Minister of India's visit to Malé in June 1990, it was agreed to set up Maldives Institute of Technical Education (MITE), as grant-in-aid project; the MoU for which was signed in March 1992. MITE was handed over to the Government of Maldives (GoM) in September 1996 and formally inaugurated by President Gayoom in May 1997. MITE has a capacity to train at least 400 students a year in various technical/vocational disciplines. MITE was later renamed as Maldives Polytechnic in order to better reflect the academic programmes conducted.

India-Maldives Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies

The foundation stone for the Faculty was jointly laid by Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and President Gayoom of Maldives, during the former's visit to Maldives in September 2002. The faculty was officially handed over to the Maldives Government in February 2014. The Mission organised a "Taste of India" culinary festival at the new faculty premises in partnership with the Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Studies in Aug-Sep 2015 as part of India-Maldives Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Technology Adaptation Programme

The US \$ 5.3 million project fully funded by India was launched in June 2011 to

provide ICT training to 4400 Maldivian teachers and youth and vocational training to another 800 youngsters. NIIT, in association with Electrical Engineering Equipment Company (EEEC) of Chennai, was appointed as the implementing agency for the project. The National Institute of Education was the nodal agency from the Maldives side.

The project was extensive in its coverage with teachers and youth from 42 islands (in 19 atolls) covered under the project. Around 3000 teachers and 2500 youth were trained under the programme. The project concluded in 2014 with a grand closing ceremony in December 2014.

Restoration of Historical Mosques

Four historical mosques in Maldives have been successfully restored with the Indian assistance. Due to the lack of technical expertise, most of these mosques were in a bad state of preservation and their conservation based on international standards was never carried out.

The projects for restoration and conservation of the coral stone mosques of Maldives were carried out by experts from National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow (NRLCCP). The first project was the conservation of Hukuru Miskiiy in Malé, the most prominent historical mosque of Maldives, in 1986-1987.

Subsequently, other very important mosques - the Hukuru Miskiiy of Fenfushi Island, Dharumavantha Rasgefaanu Miskiiy and Eid Miskiiy of Malé were conserved during 2000-2001, 2004 and 2006 respectively.

Projects currently underway are as follows:

- **Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES)**

On September 26, 2012, the MoU for setting up a National Police Academy in Maldives was signed between India and Maldives. The Academy, now called “Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies”, would include several facilities meant for providing indoor and outdoor police training. After multiple changes in the project location, a plot of land was allotted in Addu City for the construction of ISLES in 2014. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) has been selected as the Project Management Consultant for the construction of ISLES. Construction work is ongoing.

- **Construction of 485 Housing Units**

The Government of Maldives and Export-Import Bank of India signed an agreement for construction of 500 housing units in Maldives on Aug 12, 2011 covered under the LoC of US \$ 40 million extended by EXIM Bank of India to GoM. Subsequently, the scope of the project was reduced to 485 housing units by GoM due to the requirement of parking space on the ground floor. The project, which was awarded to OIA, was later terminated by the Government of Maldives in April 2016 due to lack of progress on the project. Both sides have now agreed to sign an Amendatory Agreement to the Line of Credit Framework Agreement and re-tender the project for the balance amount under the LoC.

- **Composite Training Centre**

The Government of India has agreed to extend financial assistance of US \$ 9.08 million for construction of the Composite Training Centre (CTC). The Phase-I of the project was completed in twelve months by August 2015. CTC is envisaged to be the centralized training facility for the marine, coast guard and services corps of Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF) and has accommodation and basic training facilities. GoM had requested for three additional facilities in Phase-I, which has already been approved.

- **Hulhumale Phase-II Road project**

EXIM Bank of India has approved US \$ 34.44 million under its Buyer’s Credit Programme to Housing Development Corporation for executing the road development project in the newly reclaimed Hulhumale Phase-II. The US \$ 40.39 million project, which includes development of roads, pavements, green area and parking spaces, has been awarded to Indian consortium of Mohan Mutha Exports Private Limited and Ashoka Buildcon Limited. As on December 2017, road project is 72 per cent completed.

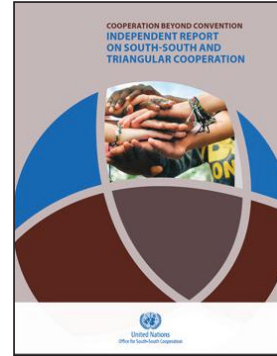
Project in pipeline is as follows:

- **Ministry of Defence Building**

India offered financial assistance of US \$ 4 million for the construction of a 10-storey Ministry of Defence/Coast Guard Building in Malé for which the foundation stone was laid in February 2014. The project would commence once the Government of Maldives demolishes the current building, for which GoI assistance has been sought.

Cooperation beyond Convention – Independent Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation: A Case for Knowledge Sharing

Published by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (2019)



*Amika Bawa**



*Kartikeya Dwivedi***

Cooperation beyond Convention is a unique effort towards stock-taking of South-South Cooperation (SSC), since the Bandung Conference, 1955, and Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), 1978, and identifying a new phase in southern engagements and its ‘sibling approach’ (p. 157) of Triangular Cooperation (TrC). The report examines SSC and TrC in light of emerging challenges of the changing nature of work, growing demographics, and climate change. It identifies the exiting gaps in the literature and research to address the lack of research and its dissemination on SSC and TrC.

The report, a compilation of seven chapters, is complemented by case studies and best practices, draws contributions from practitioners and academicians from across the South supplemented by an annexure that contains background papers. It makes a consistent effort to showcase the evolution and continued role of SSC, essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and reflects upon the knowledge emerging from the South to tackle endemic development challenges.

The chapters unfold in a triadic manner with the first set of chapters (I to IV) attempting a review of SSC, assessing its role in the past 40 years and identifying the diversity and uniqueness of this mode of cooperation

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that engages multiple actors and utilises multiple modalities. These chapters also delve into the discussions around the institutionalisation, operationalisation and diversity of SSC. The second set of chapters (V and VI) identify a 'new' era of cooperation depicted by a deepening of Southern cooperation and complemented by TrC. The final chapter (VII) charts the way forward, underlining the paucity of knowledge and literature on southern development challenges and southern-led solutions. It also provides a set of policy recommendations to mainstream SSC and TrC.

In following paragraphs we discuss the various chapters of the Report, bringing out the essence of the issues covered, and presenting an initial analysis. *Chapter I* details the evolution of SSC, highlights the various narratives and the non-negotiable principles guiding Southern cooperation. It reflects upon the uniqueness of SSC unlike North-South Cooperation (NSC), on issues of conditionality, diversity of actors and modalities, and the role of guiding principles that lay the groundwork for a solidarity based model of cooperation. It adopts the UNDP definition of TrC, articulating it as a Southern-driven approach, supported by developed country/s or multilateral institutions. The idea of 'beyond convention' is best reflected in the cited examples of cultural cooperation in SSC through the 'Confucius institutes, Yoga and Nollywood', that showcases a model of cooperation that goes beyond mere political and economic spheres to build trust, shared values and knowledge to ultimately strengthen the sphere of Southern influence regionally and globally. Furthermore, the contribution of SSC towards various dimensions of

socio-economic development, ranging from capacity building to infrastructure financing, is critical towards overcoming a 'trust deficit' that has often been an impediment in NSC. Thus, SSC presents a more stable base for cooperation built upon mutual trust and shared value systems essential to establish successful partnerships and collaborations, as envisioned in SDG 17.

Chapter II draws upon the 'multidimensionality' of participation and leadership of the emerging economies of India, China, Turkey, Brazil in a world with shifting power balances. It makes a distinction in the evolution of the South characterising the old South in the context of the core-periphery theory as a dependent region. However, the new South is depicted as an emerging economic entity which is increasingly becoming independent in furthering its own development interests. SSC is the main driver of this phenomenon and it can best be noticed in the new-found Southern institutions which aim to provide an alternative to the pre-existing Northern-led global financial architecture. The chapter also depicts southern countries as the new defenders of multilateralism and globalisation. Furthermore, it recognises the need to move towards an inclusive global engagement process between developed and developing countries. This need for a more inclusive engagement conducive to the interests of developing countries was strengthened during the deliberations at BAPA+40, calling for a more complementary approach towards development cooperation and the achievement of Agenda 2030.

Chapter III takes multiple lenses – economic, political and financial

- to understand the process of institutionalisation in the South. It explains this process taking into account all the above aspects, highlighting their tangible impact on contemporary South-South institutions. The chapter discusses that this impact has been two-fold. First, 'the growth in South-South institutions has had a positive effect on the structure of the global economy'; and second, 'SSC institutions have had some, albeit limited, impact on the modalities of cooperation in global relations' (p.75). It makes a reference to the fact that political cooperation is 'the most important' area of SSC. However, the process of Southern integration suffers due to political differences between states which highlight the changing nature of solidarity in the South. While discussing the impact of South-South institutions, the report mainly elaborates on the impact on global economy, but it misses to emphasise on the importance of interdependency between economic and political cooperation, which requires an identification of some minimum common political objectives that are necessary for enhanced cooperation to be achieved in the 'new' era of SSC for facilitating a greater economic impact of cooperation.

Chapter IV showcases case studies and best practices that highlight the plurality and heterogeneity in terms of actors and modalities of SSC and TrC. These case studies further the narrative of 'beyond convention' depicting collaborations between civil society organisations, academia and private sector such as the Cuba-Brazil Entrepreneurial Collaboration in Biotechnology; India-South Africa programme on Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI); and seed banks project established between Brazil-Mozambique-South Africa. These examples show how

institutions beyond governments can promote capacity building and provide cost effective solutions for developing countries through enhanced Southern collaborations. Furthermore, the chapter also highlights role of platforms such as Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST), to promote evidence-based policy making and enhance knowledge exchange to integrate southern knowledge and avoid 'research in silos' as a key case of bridging the knowledge gap and building capacity is highlighted in the report.

Reflecting upon the technological revolution with the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and digital finance, e-Commerce, e-Health etc., *Chapter V* delves into the potential of emerging technologies for developing countries to ensure better access to markets, innovation and knowledge resources. It tries to urge the Southern countries to treat technology and its development as an essential tool for sustainable growth and prudently employ it in the progression of their respective development strategies. The potential in the South vis-à-vis cross border e-Commerce trade, technological innovation, and robust broadband infrastructure is such that it would bring a transformational shift in the digital economy. In order to tap into this immense potential and an economic sector that itself requires connection, sharing, engagement and mutual cooperation, SSC becomes imperative to overcome this digital divide and unlock its true potential.

The focus of *Chapter VI* is on the role of SSC and particularly TrC, towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The chapter situated legal basis for TrC in the original BAPA document (article 60[b] and 65[h])

and articulates that TrC embodies the values of partnership as articulated under SDG 17 (p. 133). It cites a legal premise in the original BAPA document as an instrument of legitimacy to establish TrC in the wider ambit of cooperation and provide a foundation for it which is in sync with the ideals and aims of SSC. It is noteworthy that the report, in general, apart from relying on international law, explicitly picks up the UNDP definition for TrC. This highlights the fact that, apart from having a foundational understanding of what TrC is and why it must be practiced, there is an operational angle to TrC as to how it must be practiced being articulated as well.

It is important to bring out this linkage between a legal premise and an operational definition because TrC as a concept is relatively new and does not have the same traction as SSC or NSC within the larger ambit of development cooperation. In order to achieve a significant impact, TrC is in need of contemporary relevance along with historical significance. The chapter further reflects upon the diversity in triangular cooperation, with the coming together of two southern countries with developed partners (eg. Germany's TrC approach with African and Latin American Countries) or three developing countries (such as the case of IBSA) which further extended cooperation with the UN to establish the IBSA Fund. It calls upon Southern countries to consolidate their development cooperation architecture at the national level to further their role in establishing global partnerships for the achievement of Agenda 2030.

Chapter VII underlines the need for research to investigate into 'second generation issues' that emerged with the

Nairobi Outcome Document to better understand the role of SSC in peacekeeping, debt relief, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, amongst others. There is also a need to look into the curation of comparative perspectives emerging from the South, to critically examine the role and impact of SSC across different levels, from governments to grassroots. In line with this view, the chapter concludes with policy recommendations demanding transparency in monitoring Overseas Development Assistance monitoring, increasing southern integration and strengthening southern-led innovation and knowledge systems, as well as effectively tapping into the use of digital technology to drive the development agenda in the South.

Examining the Report in light of Key Issues Post-BAPA+40

As discussed above, the report articulates SSC as a framework through which different development approaches converge providing an alternative model of individual development strategies. In doing so it indicates SSC as a unique mode of cooperation that allows actors to form partnerships and collaborations based on their own development trajectories directed by a mutual interest to cooperate. SSC can then be said to provide these actors multiple modalities, that often work in tandem with each other highlighting the multimodality approach of SSC as articulated in the Development Compact (Chaturvedi, 2016), to arrive at the destination of collective action for development. Given the plurality of approaches constituting Southern development cooperation, the report recognises its limitation in coming up with

a concrete definition of SSC. It has been one of the challenges towards finding a balance between the various perspectives and approaches that currently exist on SSC.

As we move forward Post-Buenos Aires, it must be noted that over a period of time a wide range of principles have emerged out of many conferences from Bandung to BAPA+40. The emphasis here is that there exists a set of non-negotiable principles that are instrumental in making a particular mode of development cooperation, a Southern one. These principles have remained more or less constant throughout this period. One of the principles that remain a central pillar of these principles is the demand-driven nature of Southern cooperation. The report could have elaborated on the demand-driven nature of SSC, which allows SSC to emerge from the grass-roots of the situations, thereby enhancing the sustainability of cooperation.

In defining triangular cooperation, the report finds its essence as 'one of South-South Cooperation, supported by a traditional development actor or donor (p.21).' The deliberations and outcome document of the BAPA+40 conference took forward this view. As Chakrabarti (2019) points out, there is a fundamental issue with fusing TrC within SSC as the latter has developed over decades (evident in the stocktaking) guided by a set of non-negotiable principles. TrC on the other hand, is a more nascent approach yet to be 'concretised in terms of guiding principles that would facilitate its operations' (Chakrabarti, 2019). Additionally, TrC in a short time has positioned itself as a supplementary approach to NSC and SSC. To an extent the report claims TrC

to be a remedy, bridging the divide between NSC and SSC and overcoming existing contentions that impede collective development and tapping into comparative advantages of all actors. However, as we move towards institutionalising and operationalising TrC it is important to retain it as a complementary approach, rather than being subsumed under SSC or as a replacement to the 0.7 per cent ODA target for DAC countries.

With respect to reporting, accounting, and assessment of development cooperation, the independent report draws upon the need to improve transparency, focusing mainly on ODA and its role in traditional cooperation. The report further recommends that the 'monitoring and measuring [... of] ODA should be at an international forum such as the UNDESA Development Cooperation Forum (p. 173)', the aim being to promote coherence among the development activities of various partners. With respect to monitoring mechanisms of SSC, the report only marginally touches on the same (in various case studies or in Annex - paper 3). The outcome document of BAPA+40 proposes institutionalisation of SSC through the establishment of 'country-led systems to evaluate and assess the quality and impact' of SSC and TrC (Para 25) (Chakrabarti, 2019). Acknowledging the existing 'voluntary and needs-based' monitoring mechanisms undertaken in SSC, the outcome document urges the establishment of an experience oriented 'methodology for accounting and evaluating (UNGA, 2019, para 26)' that is tailored to the reality and modalities of SSC and complements national systems. The efforts initiated in the recent meet of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Academic Forum (May 2019) to set up an

academic taskforce to look into the impact assessment of the initiatives taken under the IBSA Trust Fund is a welcome move in the desired direction.

The need for collective, or even individual, mechanisms for monitoring, accounting and assessing SSC continues to remain a contentious issue. However, as we move forward there is need to break down this contention to establish a synergetic approach among all actors that is compatible to the demand-driven nature of SSC. There is also a need to acknowledge the fact that the plurality of Southern approaches towards development cooperation and their corresponding tailored assessments should ideally be able to facilitate transparency and accountability as a show strength of the South rather than being a hindrance to them.

A Case for Knowledge Sharing

The report also acknowledges the role of knowledge sharing in SSC and TrC for building long-lasting partnerships. It rightly points out that there is a considerable gap in research and curation of knowledge in the South. It should be noted that the South is continuously creating and evolving knowledge to address endemic challenges, which are common to most developing and least developed countries. The issue lies not just in its curation, as pointed out by the report, but also its effective exchange. With the changing ground realities given triangular cooperation, knowledge exchange can move beyond binaries of North to South or South to South to a more circular flow, that is demand-driven to address domestic and global challenges. TrC can play a key role, through which the traditional

donors can learn from the plurality and uniqueness of the Southern approach to facilitate a two-way flow, creating a circuit of knowledge sharing. Multilateral organisations such as development banks, which currently play the role of knowledge brokers in development cooperation, can then become proactive members in this circuit wherein knowledge shared can better guide lending practices and innovation while ensuring organisational effectiveness with targeted context-specific development approaches and tailor made strategies for a stronger impact (Bawa, 2018).

The process of bringing about a free and unconditional flow of knowledge sharing would inevitably need to be started from the operational level in order for it to be sustainable and not subjected to strategic considerations. Therefore, it is important to strengthen SSC which has started to emerge in a big way at the grass-root level in the form of people-to-people ties collectively and by identifying themselves as peoples of the South (Dwivedi, 2018). Therefore, programmes like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), which aim to propagate the sharing of technical know-how and best practices across developing countries, needs to be strengthened and expanded across the South for a global flow of knowledge, which is liberating in nature from the challenges of development. The rationale for this lies in the fact that in SSC no country is too rich to refuse assistance provided and no country is too poor to be overlooked in its efforts to provide assistance.

In conclusion, the report is a comprehensive collection of key issues related to South-South Cooperation, best practices, new perspectives and also

provides a way forward. But, as realised within the report itself, there are many more avenues that await to benefit from being analysed through the lens of SSC.

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ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE – THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENT AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

Nine developing countries – Nigeria, Armenia, Brazil, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, Republic of North Macedonia, Uruguay and Vietnam – would present their role and contribution towards reducing greenhouse emissions at the UN Climate Talks at Bonn in June 2019. A process called “Facilitative sharing of views” (FSV) will help identify the role of North-South and South-South cooperation to increase interaction for transparency in reporting efforts, build resilience and improve the means of implementation such as finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed called for Africa to be “at the center” of the climate action agenda, and for mobilising increased finance to the region. There is a need for increased investments to harness renewable energies while ensuring clean development through existing energy sources.

Source: Uwaegbulam, C. (2019, April 22). Nigeria, eight other countries to present climate action in Bonn. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from: <https://guardian.ng/property/nigeria-eight-other-countries-to-present-climate-action-in-bonn/>

SSC in Statistics

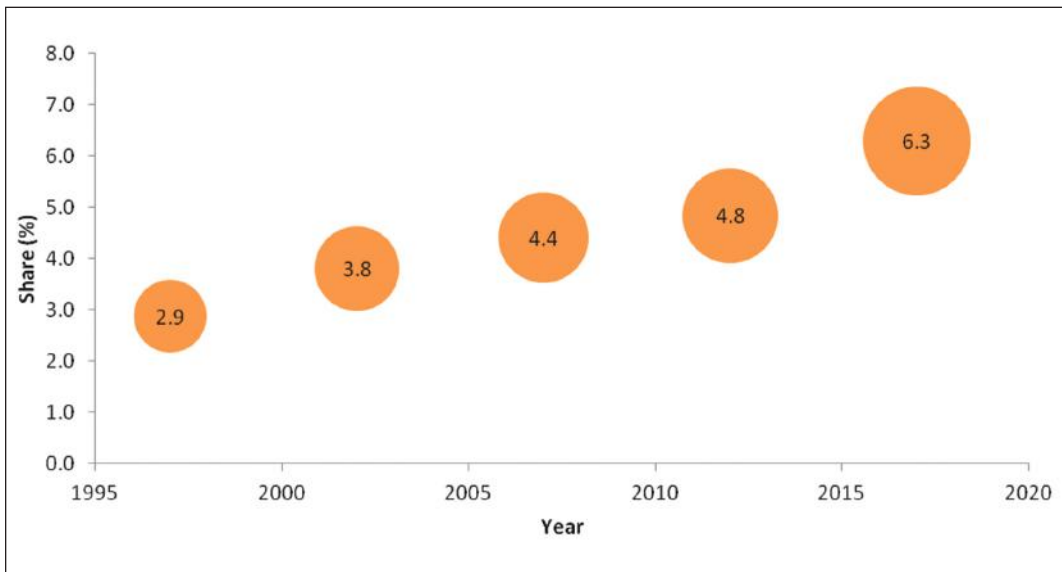
Intra-Regional Trade in BIMSTEC



*Sushil Kumar**

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was set up in June 1997 to foster socio-economic cooperation between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar and Nepal (Bhutan and Nepal joined the bloc in 2004). It brings together 1.5 billion people constituting 21 per cent of the world population and combined GDP of USD 2.5 trillion (RIS, 2016). It was launched primarily as a combination of India's the then 'Look East Policy (now Act East Policy) and Thailand's Look West Policy. Developed as a sector-driven organization BIMSTEC identified 14 priority sectors where a member country takes the lead, viz trade and investment, energy, technology,

Figure 1: Intra-BIMSTEC Trade as Share of Total BIMSTEC Trade (%)



Source: Estimated from UN Comtrade database

* Consultant, RIS

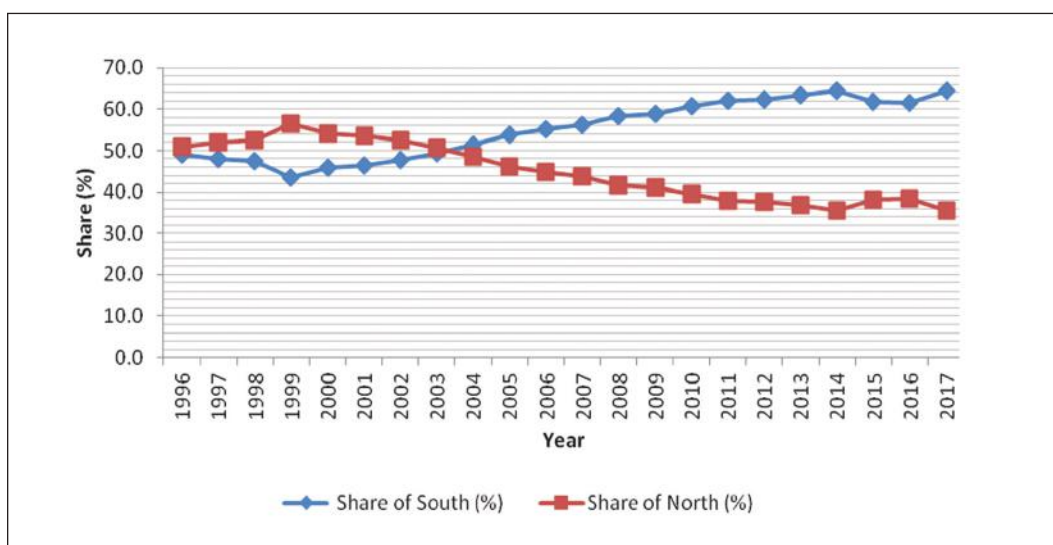
transport and communication, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, poverty alleviation, public health, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, environmental and natural disaster management, people to people connect, culture and climate change (RIS, 2016).

Since its inception in 1997, BIMSTEC countries have been able to sustain an average growth rate 6.08 per cent, despite global downturn. Total exports of BIMSTEC countries increased from USD 34.79 billion in 1997 to USD 574.78 billion in 2018¹, whereas the imports grew from USD 41.43 billion to USD 867.12 billion during the same period. It is important to note that among the seven member countries two are a part of the ASEAN grouping, five are members of SARRC and six are member of SASEC (South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation). Further, three are middle income countries (India, Thailand and Sri Lanka) and four are low income countries (Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar).

Intra-Regional Trade (IRT) in BIMSTEC has been increasing steadily since 1997 - from USD 2.19 billion in 1997 to USD 51.28 billion in 2017. Intra-BIMSTEC trade as share of total BIMSTEC trade has also grown from 2.88 per cent in 1997 to 6.29 per cent in 2017 (Fig. 1). It has not only posted better performance in IRT than that of SAARC, but also has signalled better performance during the period of recession (RIS, 2016).

BIMSTEC's improved trade performance is also reflected in intra-regional trade growth. During 1997-2017, IRT among BIMSTEC countries grew at a compound annual growth rate of 14.32 per cent (based on constant price 2010-11). It is important to note that the same for the EU countries and member countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) grew at compound annual rate of 2.23 per cent and 4.30 per cent respectively over the same period. This perhaps suggests a growing incidence

Figure 2: BIMSTEC trade to South and North as % of its Total Trade



Source: Estimated from UN Comtrade database

of cooperation through trade among the BIMSTEC countries.

BIMSTEC's percentage of total trade with South (all countries who are not member of OECD) climbed from 49.16 per cent in 1997 to 64.33 per cent in 2017 while trade with North declined from 50.83 per cent in 1997 to 35.47 per cent in 2017 (Fig.2). During the same period the share of South-South trade in total southern trade increased from 40.17 per cent to 56.14 per cent.

Endnotes

- ¹ Trade data of Bhutan and Nepal is from 2004 onwards (Bhutan and Nepal joined the BIMSTEC in 2004)

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PEACE & DEVELOPMENT: RWANDA'S DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ENDOGENOUS SOLUTIONS

Rwanda – once written off as a 'failed state' after the 1994 genocide – today is one of Africa's fastest growing economies. Eight years after the genocide and the seizure of control by the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the Rwandan Government chose to undertake a customary based system for trying genocide cases called 'Gacaca' rather than approaching the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The decision was driven primarily by the high cost of approaching the ICTR and the need to heal the society. Gacaca is a community-based dispute resolutions mechanism focused on strengthening reconciliation.

Similarly, other endogenous or home-grown solutions were adopted by the Rwandan Government to put the country on its current growth trajectory. 'Umuganda' – a practice of self-help and cooperation – was adopted to construct and rehabilitate schools, medical clinics and infrastructure for inclusive people centric development. 'Imihigo/ Umuhigo' – a decentralised programme that empowers the local levels of government with the central government ensuring accountability – was adopted as the national policy to improve governance and achievement of targets. 'Umushyikirano' – a mechanism for knowledge and ideas exchange – was established as a national dialogue for participatory governance.

These solutions draw from the indigenous systems of Rwanda, are tailored to the needs of the country and its people, and aim to ensure inclusive development to overcome the societal fragmentation. Rwanda's experience stand as a unique practice in post-crisis reconstruction and reconciliation and its experiences can be shared for 'fragile-to-fragile cooperation'.

Source: Mayar, H.U. R. (2019). Inspiration: Rwanda's transformation through home-grown solutions. UNOSSC, April 8. Retrieved from: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/2019/04/08/inspiration-rwandas-transformation-through-home-grown-solutions/>

BRICS 2019 – PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

As Brazil gets set to host the BRICS Summit on November 13-14, 2019, it identifies sectors that are a priority for the host but also for other emerging economies of the BRICS Grouping. The priority areas identified include scientific-technical and innovative cooperation, digital economy, fight against organised crime and money laundering.

Counter-terror cooperation and fighting organised crime have been the focus of India and China as well, given the statements made at the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires and the BRICS Summit in 2018. The BRICS Sherpa meet held between March 14 and 15, 2019, took forward the issue of countering terror effectively. Moreover, in light of the recent annual meet of the New Development Bank, cooperation in science, technology, innovation, and green and clean development is critical.

Supporting the presidency of Brazil, other BRICS members have highlighted cooperation to be strengthened in health and traditional medicine sectors along with deepened people-to-people cooperation.

Source: Chaudhury, D.R. (2019, April 20). Brazil outlines slew of sectors for 2019 BRICS Summit under its presidency. The Economic Times. Retrieved from: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/brazil-outlines-slew-of-sectors-for-2019-brics-summit-under-its-presidency/articleshow/68967255.cms>

INDIA-NIGERIA COOPERATION – REVIVING EFFORTS TO MEET COMMON CHALLENGES

Given Nigeria's experience in handling ecological challenges, India has sought to cooperate to learn from the African country on how to tackle similar biosafety challenges. India has always given importance for a need to strengthen bilateral ties with Nigeria in the areas of renewable energy, sustainable development and addressing environmental issues.

The bilateral cooperation between India and Nigeria dates back to centuries with Indian doctors and educators supporting Nigeria in shaping its healthcare and education sectors. Nigeria and India collectively face the challenge of high population, with Nigeria having the highest population among African countries and India housing over 900 million of the world's population. India also continues to be Nigeria's biggest trade partner for the purchase of crude oil.

Recently, Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Abhay Thakur, noted the need for both the countries to mutually synergise their voice on global environmental issues at international stage and indicated towards the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to deepen renewable energy cooperation. The Nigerian Minister of Environment Hassan Suleiman Zarma noted on the ratification to the International Solar Alliance and called for collective action towards cooperating on programmes and projects that address diverse ecological habitats.

Source: Badejo, E. (2019, April 3). Nigeria, India Renew Relation To Tackle Environmental Problems. Independent. Retrieved from: <https://www.independent.ng/nigeria-india-renew-relation-to-tackle-environmental-problems/>

Guidelines for Contributors

1. DCR is a refereed multi-disciplinary international journal. Manuscripts can be sent, as email attachment, in MS-Word to the Managing Editor (milindo.chakrabarti@ris.org.in).
2. Manuscripts should be prepared using double spacing. The text of manuscripts should not ordinarily exceed 1500 words. Manuscripts sent for peer review section may be limited to 5000 words. Such submissions should contain a 200 word abstract, and key words up to six.
3. Use 's' in '-ise' '-isation' words; e.g., 'civilise', 'organisation'. Use British spellings rather than American spellings. Thus, 'labour' not 'labor'. (2 per cent, 3 km, 36 years old, etc.). In general descriptions, numbers below 10 should be spelt out in words. Use thousands, millions, billions, not lakh and crore. Use fuller forms for numbers and dates – for example 1980-88, pp. 200-202 and pp. 178-84. for example 'the eighties', 'the twentieth century', etc.

Reference Style: References should be appended at the end of the paper. References must in double space, and should be same author(s) is cited, then arrange them chronologically by year of publication.

All references should be embedded in the text in the APA style. For details please refer to Course and Subject Guides: <https://pitt.libguides.com/c.php?g=12108&p=64730>

Invitation to Join our Mailing List

If the reader wishes to be added in our mailing list in order to receive the soft version of *Development Cooperation Review*, kindly send in details along with organisational affiliations to Mr. Pranay Sinha (Email : pranay.sinha@ris.org.in). Also specify if hard copy is desired.

Call for Contributions

We invite contributions from interested readers on issues related to development cooperation in general and South-South Cooperation in particular. Contributions may also capture theory, practice and associated debates on development cooperation. Reviews of latest publications - books, monographs, reports - are also welcome. Any institutional upcoming events on development cooperation may also be captured in DCR. The contributions should be restricted to not more than 1500 words.

For editorial information, contributions, feedback and comments: mail to milindo.chakrabarti@ris.org.in and dgoffice@ris.org.in

Introduction of a Section on Peer Reviewed Articles/Essays

In keeping with suggestions, feedbacks and accumulated experience, we have decided to introduce a section, containing peer reviewed full length articles/essays. Interested scholars willing to contribute are requested to send in their manuscripts (preferably in not more than 5000 words) to the editorial office.

About Development Cooperation Review

Development Cooperation Review (DCR) aspires to capture holistic narrative around global development cooperation and fill an important knowledge gap towards theorisation, empirical verification and documentation of Southern-led development cooperation processes. Despite growing volumes of development partnerships around the Southern world, there remains an absence of detailed information, analysis and its contribution to global development processes. Even though there have been sporadic efforts in documenting some of the activities, a continuous effort in chronicling the diverse experiences in South-South Cooperation (SSC) is still absent. RIS, in joint publication with FIDC and NeST has endeavoured to launch DCR, a monthly periodical, to fill this gap till March 2019 after which DCR would graduate to become a full-fledged Journal.

DCR is designed to bring policy-makers, officials, researchers, academics and the development practitioners onto a global platform to share their ideas, experiences and concerns vis-a-vis development cooperation. The periodical would further allow us to feature special write-ups, analyses, opinion pieces, commentaries and in general the South's take on the emerging narratives of global architecture of development cooperation, including ODA.

About Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

RIS is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. [@RIS_NewDelhi](#)

About Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST)

Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. Consequent to the consensus reached on many of these issues at the High-Level Conference of Southern Providers in Delhi (March 2013) and establishment of the subsequent Core Group on the SSC within the UNDCF (June 2013), the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) was formally launched at the Conference on the South-South Cooperation, held at New Delhi during 10-11 March 2016. The purpose of the NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on SSC approaches for international development. [@NeST_SSC](#)

About Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC)

FIDC aims to encourage detailed analysis of broad trends in South-South cooperation and contextualise Indian policies by facilitating discussions across various subject streams and stakeholders based on theoretical and empirical analysis, field work, perception surveys and capacity building needs. [@FIDC_NewDelhi](#)

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