

International Workshop 2004

**International Workshop on Aid to
Developing Countries at Minpaku (1)
Aid to Developing Countries by
Denmark, Sweden and Japan: The Role
of Social Sciences in Development
Projects**

Programs and Abstracts

**6th (Saturday) and 7th (Sunday) November, 2004
National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan**

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Purpose and Themes

Development projects undertaken by Danish and Swedish agencies in Africa, Asia and Latin America are more highly appreciated by the local people, and thus presumably more successful, than are projects undertaken by Japanese agencies. This is in spite of the fact that Denmark and Sweden fund these projects to a much lesser extent than Japan. Why is there this discrepancy? The purpose of this workshop is to compare the two aspects of development projects. The first relates to development policy, the role of social sciences such as cultural anthropology in development projects, the training of development specialists and practitioners, and the relationships between development agencies and universities/research institutes in each country. The second relates to examples of successful development projects, focusing on the investigation of the approaches and evaluation methods that made these projects successful, and the contributions of cultural anthropologists in each case. It is hoped that this workshop will identify those areas in which Japanese development agencies can improve their approaches and evaluation methods such that Japanese contributions will be more effective and relevant to the local peoples.

(Invited Speakers)

Neil Webster (Department of Development Research, Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark) "On Danish Development Aids"

Tomas Kjellqvist (Department for Research Cooperation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden) "On Swedish Development Aids"

Hiroshi Kan Sato (The Institute of Developing Economies, Japan) "On Japanese Development Aids"

Program

The First Day (Saturday on the 6th, November)

9:30 Registration

**10:00 Welcoming Speech by Makio Matsuzono (National Museum of Ethnology)
Self-Introduction of Workshop Participants**

The Session One "Development Policies and Roles of Social Sciences in Development Aids Projects"

**10:30 to 12:00 : Neil Webster "On Danish Development Aids (1)"
(chairperson) Hisao Sekine (Tsukuba University)**

12:00 to 13:30 : Lunch Break

**13:30 to 15:00 : Tomas Kjellqvist "On Swedish Development Aids (1)"
(chairperson) Nobuhiro Kishigami (National Museum of Ethnology)**

15:00 to 15:30 : Coffee Break

**15:30 to 17:00 : Hiroshi Sato "On Japanese Development Aids (1)"
(chairperson) Ieko Kakuta (Asia University)**

18:00 to 20:00 : Party

The Second Day (Sunday on the 7th, November)

The Session Two "Development Aids Projects and Evaluation Methods"

**10:00 to 11:00 : Neil Webster "On Danish Development Aids (2)"
(chairperson) Hisao Sekine (Tsukuba University)**

**11:15 to 12:15 : Tomas Kjellqvist "On Swedish Development Aids (2)"
(chairperson) Nobuhiro Kishigami (National Museum of Ethnology)**

12:15 to 13:30 : Lunch Break

**13:30 to 14:30 : Hiroshi Sato "On Japanese Development Aids (2)"
(chairperson) Ieko Kakuta (Asia University)**

14:30 to 15:00 : Coffee Break

The Session Three "General Discussion"

**15:00 to 17:00 : "General Discussion"
(Chairperson) Motoi Suzuki (Chiba University)**

Abstracts for Session 1

Development Policy and the Role of Sociology and Social Anthropology (SSA) in Development Aid: Lessons from Danish Development Assistance.

Neil Webster, DIIS, Denmark

Development aid in recent years has witnessed a number of significant changes with implications for sociologists and social anthropologists working in the field of development studies. Three sets of changes can be pointed to here: first in the priorities of development aid; secondly in the instruments utilized in development aid at both national and local levels; thirdly in the manner in which development interventions are implemented.

Changes in development priorities can be illustrated by approaches to poverty and poverty reduction. Poverty is seen today to be multi-dimensional in nature and poverty reduction as requiring diversity in approach. Working with concepts of sustainable livelihoods, of political space for poverty reduction, of entitlements and capabilities, requires analyses that go beyond the technical capacity of an organization to deliver a service to explore the underlying relations and interests that influence the actions of the different actors or stakeholders involved.

Changes in the aid instruments utilized include the emergence of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and sector wide approaches (SWAP), the former with its stress on participation from civil society and the latter with its pursuit of policy coherence and national ownership. At the local level changes include the greater emphasis placed on decentralized elected government, the role of NGOs and the rapid growth of user groups and committees in development projects.

Changes in the implementation of development aid, in addition to the use of new organizational forms already indicated, includes greater consideration of the possible role of research as formative, action or impact research, in implementation and notably in monitoring and evaluation.

In all three sets of changes it can be seen that there is a need to bridge the gap between research and policy, between development researchers on the one hand and development policy makers and practitioners on the other. With this starting point, the paper will address the roles that social anthropological and sociological research can play in development aid and attempt to point to the problems and the potentials in bringing this particular field of research into a closer interaction with development policy and practice. The paper will draw on examples from Danish development assistance to provide empirical material to support its argument.

Abstract for Session 1

Development Policy and Roles of Social Sciences in Development Cooperation: Architectures for Research in Development and Architectures for Developing Research – Swedish Experiences

Tomas Kjellqvist, SIDA, Sweden

In 1975, Sweden was one of the first nations to install a governmental agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries. In 1995 this agency became the department for Research Cooperation within a reorganised Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The Department continued the tradition to support research on development issues for developing countries at Swedish Universities, and in International research organisations. A simultaneous endeavour has been to support research capacity building so that research also could be done by universities and research institutes in developing nations and in regional organisations in the developing world.

The original idea was that research for development has time frames and *raison d'être* that are different from that of development projects. The time to drive a research project from idea to an academically tested result is often much longer than the time frame of a development project. If results should be developed into social, political or economic utilities the time frame extends even more. If the goal is capacity building the time frame between idea, result and utilities grows even longer. There are principal differences between a development project and a development research project. The former provides defined solutions to defined problems. Research must first define a researchable problem, then through a search process reach a conclusion that indicates a possible solution. Development projects have the formulation of an answer as a starting point, while research begins with defining the right question. Such was the reasoning why funding and decision making processes for research should be professionally separated from other development projects. The lecture will show examples on how Swedish research cooperation has tried to develop supporting architectures conducive both to the development of research and to research for development.

To make development research into utilities for development cooperation requires procedures for knowledge dissemination. The original idea is that researchers or institutions that has acquired or developed knowledge on particular issues could make them useful to development cooperation agencies. Policy research, baseline studies, operational or actions research, monitoring research are all concepts that try to capture modalities for researchers to participate in different stages of development cooperation. However, demand driven research of this kind tends to derail researchers from academic endeavours. Again, the time factor is the constraint – time used to produce a baseline study is time consumed that cannot be used for producing academic articles. Thus career moves in separate direction. This mechanism is further aggravated for researchers in developing countries, where research funding is scarce, salaries

low, and the opportunities of consultancies become much more attractive. Hence, knowledge dissemination on short term often becomes an obstacle to long-term knowledge building. The lecture will demonstrate various modalities that the Swedish research Cooperation has used to counteract such effects.

Another problem in knowledge dissemination lies today in the slimmed organisations in development cooperation agencies. Few employees have the possibility to search for knowledge resources themselves, and become disastrously dependent on executive summaries produced by consultants. Only a few scientific journals specialise on development issues, and electronic library services that provide search possibilities to development related research articles in scientific journals are rarely accessible to the development cooperation agencies. Some attempts has been made to provide “free of charge” entry points, such as SciDev.net, Eldis and ID21. Swedish development cooperation with its inbuilt research cooperation could have a unique possibility in this respect, but again, due to slimmed organisations, cannot deliver this. A dissemination architecture needs to be developed.

Renewed focus on Poverty Reduction, increased efforts to strengthen the ownership of development cooperation in the developing countries, harmonisation between donors all contribute to a new architecture for development cooperation. Sector-wide, and budget support programmes, poverty reduction strategies all provide a more holistic, systemic and systematic approach. This is a new challenge to development research, with both risks and opportunities. A major opportunity is that research will be given a greater emphasis in the national development strategies - a major risk that it will be politically governed research that gets the attention, while the curiosity driven academic research is out-crowded. In this situation strategies for capacity development at the level of research policy and research management become all the more important.

Abstract for Session 1

Roles of Social Sciences in Japanese AID

Hiroshi Kan Sato, Institute
of Developing Economies,
Japan

In early 80s, some technical people engaged in conventional Japanese technical transfer-type projects started to notice the importance of social factors even though the projects were not directly intervene local people's life. Therefore, some of agricultural formative research tried to include social analysis in the process of a base line data survey for agricultural development plan, but none of the professional sociologists were called in. Technical people tried to manage social research by applying their traditional technology centered socio-economic survey methodology.

In the late 1980's and early 90's some projects in health sector invited anthropologist or sociologist as a short term expert for conveying social research hoping that they man find practical solution for solving the dead locks the project faced. But those hopes were matured only limited extent. Also importantly, those sporadic experiences of social science commitment were never shared with other social scientist and even within the development agencies.

In 1990s, Social analysis and Gender analysis became obligatory in social development projects, and several methods were imported from European donor agencies (ODA, SIDA, GTZ, CIDA etc.) as was always the case with Japanese ODA. But again, unfortunately, Japanese social scientists had no information about this importation process (very important exceptions are few feminist researchers). Only some liberal minded JICA officers planed to introduce and disseminate these methodology within Japanese ODA circle mainly officers in charge and consultants.

On the separate context, as early as 1980s, there started several cases that Japanese Universities committed "research cooperation" with universities of developing countries in the social development, rural development sphere under the ODA budget. Some sociologist, anthropologists, agronomists participated in those projects in Africa, south Asia countries. But in most cases, their interest rest on pure academic result in their own discipline, and they had little interest in "development studies" itself because it was looked down as a mere applied science. Therefore, there have been very few feedbacks to development theory or development practices from those "research cooperation" projects.

Only recently, form late 1990s, the motivation to utilize social science into ODA project more systematically emerged inside the ODA agencies (mainly JICA and JBIC to some extent). Now the ball is inside of the social scientist's side.

Abstract for Session 2

Development Aid Projects and Evaluation Methods

Neil Webster, DIIS, Denmark.

The presentation will be based primarily on the Danish education sector programme support (ESPS) in Nepal, but reference will also be made to the agricultural sector programme support (ASPS) in Uganda. The presentation will look at the role of researchers in establishing a basis for developing systems of monitoring and evaluation that can enhance the development programme in terms of its equity, effectivity, efficiency and accountability.

In 2001 Danida agreed to extend its support to the education sector in Nepal and to include secondary education. The programme was developed in collaboration with the His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A formative research programme was undertaken as a post-design study by the Faculty of Education at Tribhuvan University in collaboration with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). Amongst other objectives, the purpose of the study was to develop indicators that could be used in monitoring and evaluation in pursuit of two important objectives: a decentralized delivery of education to all schools (secondary and primary) that linked the Ministry of Education and Sport at the national level to each and every individual school, and secondly, the securing of local community ownership of the schools.

The Danish ASPS in Uganda has as with all Danish SPS, poverty reduction as its main priority. However targeting the poorer farmers in an agricultural sector programme is complicated not least for reasons that include farmers' differing capabilities for securing access to land and other assets, to input and product markets, to the rural banking system, and to extension and advisory services. In such development aid, the ability to identify the poor within a specific context and locality is a critical weak point not just for the design of a particular project but also for monitoring and evaluating the development outcomes that it leads to. Sociological and anthropological methodologies can make an important contribution to the task as work linked to the Danish ASPS in Uganda illustrates.

Abstract for Session 2

Cases of Research in Development Projects or Programmes

Tomas Kjellqvist, SIDA, Sweden

This article/lecture will show four examples of how research has supported development projects or programmes.

To follow macro-economic development in programme countries for Swedish Development Cooperation, Sida contracted three Swedish University Departments for National Economics. The contracts demanded one annual macro-economic report per country. The set-up was that each department was responsible, and was free to develop the methodology, could use any staff member for the job and was paid a lump-sum for the entire endeavour. Two of the departments received funding for a capacity development programme jointly with The Economics department at University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and some research students from other developing countries. Mostly Ph.D-students were used for the reports under supervision of the Department head or a P.R. The Ph.D.-student could also apply for funding from the Sida Development Research Council. Major achievements was that the programme contributed to the development of research capacity both in Sweden and in partner countries. It also kept up a format for discussions on achievements in development at Sida. However, it is impossible to say whether these macro-reports actually did influence operational planning of Swedish development planning. Unfortunately, Sida has misunderstood new legislation on procurement and entered into a system of tenders and not of proposals on commissioned research. This has discriminated Swedish universities in favour of British or Dutch universities that has special units for Development Consultancies.

In the late 1980's a soil conservation programme was started by Sida in Tanzania. A joint research programme to monitor social, ecologic and geographic changes was set up between the University of Dar es Salaam and Stockholm University. One early mistake was to justify the research programme almost totally by potential improvements in the conservation programme. This proved to be difficult because when the programme coordinators asked for advice, researchers was in the problem formulation phase, when researchers started to have results the programme coordinators were already past the line were advice was meaningful. Despite this, on long term the research project showed results that totally contradicted the practitioners view of soil erosion as a recent phenomenon that could be fixed by either closing off eroded areas and training in better practices. Instead, the researchers argued, erosion was a historical phenomenon that had developed over long time and solutions required a much deeper understanding of social and ecological processes. When researchers failed in bringing this message to programme coordinators, their efforts to explain deeper truths to the inhabitants in the area was more successful, however, not without difficulty. Researchers continue to develop their problematisation of the historical landscape changes behind erosion, contributing to both academic and popular understanding of various processes, while development programmes

during the same time has changed shape several times, with conceptual changes on policy level but only minor changes in their field practice.

Demographic Surveillance sites has for 25 years been developed at various places by the Department of Epidemiology at Umeå University, all in cooperation with the local Universities. The set-up has been capacity building for the collection of longitudinal health data covering every household in selected communities, combined with Ph.D.-training based on collection of additional sample data on particular issues, all derived from the analysis of the longitudinal data. Research has been published both in academic journals and in popularised brochures, masters training and academic seminars has been developed, and seminars has been conducted with local decision makers and local population. Some impact results deserve to be mentioned: longitudinal data displayed high incidence of asthma in Butajira, Ethiopia, Ph.D.-projects analysed the reason being the construction of houses with an indoor fire. Jointly with architects and engineers it was possible to find simple modification of modify house construction and/or install ovens with a chimney instead of a fireplace. In the coming years incidence among kids fell drastically. The possibility of showing this in figures to the local politicians lead to great appreciation, and curiosity on what other measures that could be taken to improve the health situation in the region. Among other thing this has resulted in the establishment of a local hospital constructed entirely without development cooperation funds. A similar programme in Nicaragua has worked closely with local popular movements, the municipality and with the Ministry of health on various health issues. The most spectacular might be the mapping of domestic violence against women and children and the local campaigns to change men's behaviour, again without involvement of development cooperation.

Multi-disciplinary research programmes that trigger development in marginalised areas in Bolivia are also examples of the potentials of research. Here the Universities of Cochabamba and La Paz have searched for partners at the Lund University of Sweden to develop new products from natural resources and to find biological methods to restore environments damaged by mine waste. Although these programmes was only started recently, some patents are already pending and, best of all, local population and local politicians have already taken an active part, both in improving definitions of the research agenda and grabbing opportunities from the knowledge disseminated in discussions with the researchers.

The conclusion from these examples is that while research defined from the logic of development cooperation projects have difficulties to deliver, it might be better to base development projects on the findings emanating from partnerships between local population and researchers. This calls both for a reversed agenda for and a reversed architecture of development cooperation. A true participatory process of the PRS, where local researchers interact with both government officials and civil society in problem definition and the search for solutions would be needed. The role of development cooperation agencies and of collaborating researchers should be to facilitate such processes. One thing is to engage in research on the role of research and knowledge in development.

Abstract for Session 2

Evaluation culture in Japanese ODA: Some Case Studies

Hiroshi Kan Sato
Institute of Developing Economies, Japan

Evaluation culture in Japanese ODA is now on the process of forming. There is no common understanding why and how we evaluate ODA among evaluators and people related in evaluated projects.

There are five main actors surrounding Japanese ODA evaluation. The first is mass-media who criticizes that Japanese ODA is corrupted and business oriented. This anti-ODA campaign started in middle of 1980s. Second is NGOs who also blamed Japanese ODA as anti-humanistic, environmentally destroying.

On the defending side, there are three actors; Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) who is expected to supervise whole ODA activities, JBIC for Yen loans, and JICA for technical cooperation. Among them, MOFA is most stiff and tries to defend those critiques as hard as possible, and cannot afford to give ear to social scientist's view. Because MOFA must face critique from the Diet that is not necessarily related global trend of development aid and have very little interest in lives of poor people in developing countries in comparison with the people in their own constituency.

JBIC now become very sensitive about the voices of international NGO's and environmentalist campaign, and they are now on the process to evaluate every single Yen-loan and publish them. Since JBIC's loans are mainly infrastructure building, there perceived to be little room for social scientists contribution. Even though JBIC already noticed the importance of social dimension, within the limited number of its staff JBIC has very little capacity considering social dimension of infrastructure projects, and it allocates very few resources for this direction.

JICA is the most open for social scientist's view in evaluation, and even started consulting anthropologist's opinion when evaluating its projects. Furthermore JICA is now hoping that social scientists may participate in planning process as a professional development specialist.

There are some interesting cases which I myself experienced as an evaluator. First one is argument between an evaluator and MOFA about the evaluation of the Opera House in Egypt and Cairo Child Hospital. Second argument is between an evaluator and JBIC concerning a participatory afforestation project in India Third topic is about participatory rural development projects of JICA (Bangladesh, Indonesia etc.). This third argument involves Japanese people's notion of helping/assisting that is different from the notion of charity in western world.

Invited Speakers

Neil WEBSTER

Dr. Neil Webster is currently Head of the Department of Development Research at the Danish Institute for International Studies in Copenhagen. Originally trained as a sociologist, he has undertaken research on various aspects of rural development in south Asia since 1977. From 1990 he has been resident in Denmark undertaking research and consultancy work. His current research includes a long-term research project on political interventions for rural development and poverty reduction in West Bengal based upon repeated village studies together with a second research project examining the local politics of service provision with a focus on decentralization and its impact on access to services, education in particular. He currently coordinates an international research programme on: Local Politics, Poverty and Decentralisation covering studies in 10 countries. Consultancies include extensive advisory work for Danida on decentralization and education in Nepal and for a number of Danish NGOs on their aid programmes.

Recent publications include: 'Democracy, Development and the Institutionalized Participation of the Poor for Poverty Reduction', in Paul Collins (ed) *Applying Public Administration in Development: Guideposts to the Future*, (2000); An edited book: *In the Name of the Poor: Contesting Political Space for Poverty Reduction* (2002) and a co-authored book: *Do the Poor Matter Enough? A Comparative Study of European Aid for Poverty Reduction in India* (2002).

Tomas KJELLQVIST

Experience of Development issues since the early 1980's, within popular education programmes for the Swedish solidarity and environmentalist movements including study trips to Latin America. He studied human geography and pedagogics with a specialisation on demography and knowledge for technological and spatial change, both in historical and recent time. Assistant lecturer in Development Studies, participated in research cooperation programmes within geography.

He joined the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation, SAREC, in 1992 to develop a research policy for population and environment issues. Gathered research perspectives on population issues from developing countries and made these available to participants in the preparatory processes of the 1994 Kairo conference on population and development. Participated in the Swedish Kairo Delegation as advisor.

He continued work at SAREC with regional and international social science programme. After the establishment of the new Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in 1995 I started to work more with bilateral research cooperation, university development and research policy analysis.

In 2000 he became head of the division for the Sida Development Research Council, a grant programme for Swedish development researchers. The division also had the responsibility for developing strategies for ICT in development. In 2002 he moved to become Head of the Division for University support and National Research Development.

Hiroshi Kan SATO

He is a senior researcher at Development Study Department, Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, Japan.

Thematic specialization

Development Sociology, Social impacts of Development Aid projects

• Geographical specialization

Yemen, Eritrea, Japan

Current research

a. Japanese social development experiences during the post World War II period (before the Japanese Miracle economic growth)

b. Evaluation of social analysis related to Japanese ODA projects.

Their quality, relevance, feedback to the project field.

c. Social impacts of development aid projects in Yemen. The core of this work has been undertaken from 1985 till now.

Selected publications (in English)

a. 2003 “Growth with equity through Livelihood Improvement Program”
Globalization carried on Human Feet,

Hirano and Sato ed. Institute of Developing Economies.

b. 2000 “People’s committee and Primary Health care projects in Yemen”
Social Development under the structural Adjustment policy in Yemen

Sato ed.,. Institute of Developing Economies.

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