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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE

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EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION: DRAWING LESSONS FROM AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Invitation to DAC members/observers to nominate participants for a Roundtable organised by the China-DAC Study Group

Beijing, 18 June 2013

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English - Or. English



Deputy Director

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE

Dear DAC Delegates,

Invitation to nominate participants for the China-DAC Study Group Roundtable on

“Effective Development Co-operation: Drawing Lessons from Agricultural Development in Africa”

9:00 to 17:00, 18 June 2013, Beijing, China

Since 2009, the China-DAC Study Group has provided an international platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging experiences on promoting growth and reducing poverty in developing countries, including how international assistance can provide effective support. Most recently, the Study Group has focused on increasing mutual understanding on how to deliver quality aid to support more effective development and poverty reduction in developing countries.¹

Improving the quality of international development co-operation is an objective for both China and the DAC. In its *White Paper on Foreign Aid*, the Chinese government stressed that it will make efforts to optimise the country’s foreign aid structure and improve the quality of foreign aid. As part of its mandate, the DAC seeks to enhance the quality and effectiveness of development assistance, particularly regarding pro poor economic growth and poverty reduction.

To continue sharing knowledge and experience on this important topic, the Study Group is organising in Beijing on 18 June 2013 a Roundtable discussion on *Effective Development Co-operation: Drawing Lessons from Agricultural Development in Africa*. The specific objectives of this Roundtable are to:

- Improve mutual understanding on China’s and some DAC members/observers’ international support for agricultural development, drawing on the findings from the joint study visits the Study Group organised to Tanzania [see: DCD(2012)3] and Zimbabwe [see: DCD(2013)1 – forthcoming].
- Share views and hear the perspective of people from Africa on some of the main challenges related to providing effective international support for development - including issues related to conditionality, sustainability and the management of development co-operation.
- Identify areas where fruitful co-operation between China and DAC members/observers will help improve the quality of their international development co-operation, in Africa and elsewhere.

1. Further information on the China-DAC Study Group is available on the Internet at: www.iprcc.org and www.oecd.org/dac/cdsg. DCD(2011)5 sets out the Study Group’s work programme for 2011-12.

A draft agenda for the Roundtable is attached, for your information. The Roundtable will take place at the Grand Hyatt Beijing (Address: No.1, East Chang An Avenue, Beijing 100738; Telephone: +86 10 8518 1234) starting at 9:00 a.m. on 18 June 2013.

Participation in this Roundtable will be by invitation only. The Roundtable will bring together a total of around 100 high and senior-level officials and development practitioners from Africa, China and members and observers of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), as well as academics and researchers. Erik Solheim, the DAC Chair, has agreed to speak in the opening session.

Bearing in mind the constraints on overall attendance, DAC members and observers may nominate 1 (one) representative each to participate in this Roundtable, who can contribute substantially to discussions by sharing their experience and insights. Members of the China-DAC Study Group may nominate up to 2 (two) representatives.

If you or another representative from your government/institution would like to attend this Roundtable in Beijing on 18 June 2013, please register by sending the person's name, title and organisation to Zhang Xiaoying (at: zhangxiaoying@iprcc.org.cn) and Li Linyi (at: lilinyi@iprcc.org.cn) at the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) by 13 May 2013. Registered participants will subsequently receive the event agenda, background documentation and further practical information. Upon request, IPRCC can also supply a visa notification letter.

To ensure an inclusive Roundtable with balanced representation from people from China, DAC members/observers and Africa, contributions to cover the travel costs so that more people from Africa can participate in the Roundtable would be very welcome. If your government/institution is able to provide such financial support, please contact Michael Laird (at: michael.laird@oecd.org).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Serge Tomasi', written over a horizontal line.

Serge Tomasi

CC: Members of the China-DAC Study Group

EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION: DRAWING LESSONS FROM AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

18 June 2013, Grand Hyatt Beijing

OVERVIEW

Improving the quality of international development co-operation is an objective for both China and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In its *White Paper on Foreign Aid*, the Chinese government stressed that it will make efforts to optimise the country's foreign aid structure and improve the quality of foreign aid. As part of its mandate, the DAC seeks to enhance the quality and effectiveness of development assistance, particularly regarding pro-poor economic growth and poverty reduction.

"Quality aid" is well-managed aid. It is:

- Strategic, i.e. provided in support of developing countries' own strategies and implementation processes.
- Implemented effectively, i.e. is good value for money, has low transaction costs, is delivered promptly and does not duplicate or overlap with the actions of other external partners.
- Pays attention to sustainability, i.e. to the environmental impact and social consequences.
- Has a development impact, i.e. contributes to promoting economic growth and reducing poverty.

How are China and DAC members/observers providing their international assistance? What can they do to improve the quality and make their international development co-operation more effective? What lessons can China and DAC members/observers share with each other? To provide a basis for answering these questions, the China-DAC Study Group organised joint study visits to Tanzania and Zimbabwe, countries with very different sets of characteristics. Agricultural development provided the specific sectoral context for the studies conducted. The findings and observations from these visits will be an important input for discussions at this Roundtable.

The China-DAC Study Group was formed in 2009 to share knowledge and exchange experiences on promoting growth and reducing poverty in developing countries, including how international development co-operation can be effective in supporting this objective. It comprises experts and officials from China and DAC members/observers with detailed knowledge and operational experience of providing development co-operation to foreign countries. The Study Group is supported by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) and the OECD, which form a joint secretariat and provide its Co-Chairs.

Participation in this Roundtable is by invitation. The Roundtable will bring together around 100 high and senior-level officials and development practitioners from Africa (including from Tanzania and Zimbabwe), China and DAC members/observers, as well as academics and researchers. The specific objectives are to:

- Improve mutual understanding on the main characteristics of China's and DAC members/observers' international support for agricultural development, especially in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.
- Share views and hear the perspective of people from Africa on some of the main challenges related to providing effective international support for development - including issues related to conditionality, sustainability and the management of development co-operation.
- Identify areas where fruitful co-operation between China and DAC members/observers will help improve the quality of their international development co-operation, in Africa and elsewhere.

DRAFT AGENDA	
9:00 - 9:30	Registration
9:30 - 10:30	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Facilitating mutual learning on promoting growth and reducing poverty in developing countries is a key objective of the China-DAC Study Group. The joint study visits to Tanzania and Zimbabwe showed some differences in the approaches of China and DAC members/observers. They also showed that Africa's partners are facing some similar challenges, for example in ensuring sustainability, in using the "right" mix of financing instruments and in managing their external assistance effectively. There is much experience that China and DAC members/observers can share with each other on addressing these challenges. This session will provide the context for the work of the China-DAC Study Group and introduce the main issues to be discussed during the day.</p> <p>Keynote presentation: Characteristics of China and DAC members/observers' support for agricultural development in Africa - Main findings from the joint study visits to Tanzania and Zimbabwe Prof. Li Xiaoyun, Senior Advisor of IPRCC and China-DAC Study Group</p>
10:30 - 10:45	Tea and coffee break
10:45 - 12:15	<p>Session 1. Good practices to improve the impact of international development co-operation</p> <p>China and DAC members/observers face common challenges to improve the financial, social and environmental sustainability of projects and programmes as well as to find the "right" mix of financing instruments to use. Drawing on the experience of panellists and participants from Africa, China and DAC members/observers, the discussion is expected to identify good practices to improve the impact of international development co-operation.</p>
12:15 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	<p>Session 2. Good practices to improve the delivery of international development co-operation</p> <p>China and DAC members/observers face common challenges to ensure that their international development co-operation is effective, including cost effective, and is channelled to the "right" counterparts, who have strong ownership of the project or programme. Drawing on the experience of panellists and participants from Africa, China and DAC members/observers, the discussion is expected to identify good practices to improve the delivery of international development cooperation.</p>
15:00 - 15:15	Tea and coffee break
15:15 - 16:45	<p>Session 3. Towards fruitful co-operation between China and DAC members/observers to improve the quality of international development co-operation</p> <p>There are many ways that China and DAC members/observers can work together to make their international development co-operation more effective, ranging from policy dialogue, to greater co-ordination, to trilateral/triangular co-operation, to joint activities. Drawing on the experience of panellists and participants from Africa, China and DAC members/observers, the discussion is expected to identify some fruitful ways that China and DAC members/observers can co-operate more effectively in the short term to improve the quality of their international development co-operation.</p>
16:45 - 17:00	Closing remarks