

Annex A: Progress since the 2010 DAC Peer Review recommendations

Key Issues: Strategic orientations

<i>Recommendations 2010</i>	<i>Progress in implementation</i>
Update its policy framework, to refer specifically to Japan's commitment to aid and development effectiveness and to policy coherence for development. The process could also be used to increase the substantive engagement of members of the Diet (parliamentarians) and other stakeholders.	Not implemented
Adapt its development co-operation to suit situations of conflict, fragility and poor governance, using written strategies drawing on Japan's own experience and the lessons collected by the wider donor community.	Not implemented
Take a more systematic approach to considering environmental issues in non-environmental expenditure through (i) consolidating screening process to ensure opportunities and challenges are identified and followed up; and (ii) greater use of SEAs (Strategic Environmental Assessment) in the formulation and assessment of development policies, plans and programmes.	Implemented

Key Issues: Development beyond aid

<i>Recommendations 2010</i>	<i>Progress in implementation</i>
Use a policy statement on policy coherence for development to raise awareness, and improve the understanding of the concept amongst government ministries and agencies, the Diet and the wider public. It can then use its existing inter-ministerial co-ordination mechanisms to implement and monitor this policy statement.	Not implemented
Strengthen capacity within the government for monitoring, analysing and reporting coherence issues and make more use of independent analytical capacity (research institutes, universities) for exploring the development impact of Japanese policies. Japan should share its lessons from progress in this area with other DAC members.	Not implemented

Key Issues: Aid volume, channels and allocations

<i>Recommendations 2010</i>	<i>Progress in implementation</i>
Set a timeline for increasing volumes to regain ground lost over the previous decade and make progress towards meeting the UN target of 0.7% ODA/GNI and other existing commitments. To support this Japan should obtain political backing for an indicative multi-year framework for all of ODA and broadly how it will be allocated.	Not implemented
Review its ODA portfolio to ensure that it meets the requirements of the DAC Recommendation on the Terms and Conditions of Aid in all future years.	Implemented
Agree a formal strategy for multilateral aid to help to guide allocation decisions. Give more weight to core funding of those multilaterals which are effective and aligned to Japan's own priorities rather than earmarked funding and the use of separately administered funds.	Implemented

Key Issues: Organisation and management

<i>Recommendations 2010</i>	<i>Progress in implementation</i>
Review the horizontal and vertical divisions of labour within the system, i.e. whether MOFA can delegate more implementation responsibilities to JICA, and whether they can both delegate more decision-making authority to the field.	Implemented
Harmonise and streamline its procedures across the three main channels or schemes: grants, loans and technical co-operation. Within the grant scheme, Japan should further harmonise and streamline the procedures for sub-schemes, most notably its various NGO funding procedures.	Partially implemented
Invest in increasing staff capacity – particularly through training – to ensure field teams have the competence and support to manage all three channels and to find synergies among them. Ensure training and documents are accessible to all key people in the field, including non-Japanese speakers.	Partially implemented

Key Issues: Aid effectiveness and results

<i>Recommendations 2010</i>	<i>Progress in implementation</i>
<p>Apply more systematically its successful approach to co-ordinating and aligning projects within partner-led programmes, i.e. situate more of its projects within partner programmes and consider using pooled funds where appropriate. It should also increase the proportion of aid which is provided on partners' national budgets and share indicative funding figures for future years.</p>	Partially implemented
<p>Continue to make progress in untying aid and improving transparency by (i) reporting the tying status of all of ODA, including technical co-operation; and (ii) ensuring its procurement guidelines make clear whether primary contractors may act as agents only or also as managers or suppliers – in the latter case, such aid should be reported as tied.</p>	Not implemented
<p>Draw up a clear strategy for supporting NGOs, including (i) harmonised and simplified NGO funding schemes and (ii) how Japan will continue to increase its dialogue and engagement with both Japanese and partner country NGOs.</p>	Partially implemented
<p>Relocate the evaluation function in MOFA to ensure its independence and equip it with the tools and authority to ensure appropriate coverage and standards of all aid-related evaluations, including those led by other ministries.</p>	Implemented
<p>Write and adequately fund a strategy, preferably whole-of-government, to increase public awareness of development and to support a more proactive approach to communication and the engagement of all major stakeholders.</p>	Not implemented

Key Issues: Humanitarian assistance

<i>Recommendations 2010</i>	<i>Progress in implementation</i>
Ensure that its humanitarian assistance procedures are in line with the GHD principles.	Implemented
Produce a policy statement on the objectives of humanitarian action in conflict situations to complement the <i>Initiative for Disaster Reduction through ODA</i> and to clarify the distinctive goals of humanitarian action – as opposed to developmental peace building assistance – in these difficult contexts.	Implemented
Further promote the dialogue among humanitarian and defence actors in order to uphold the impartiality of Japanese humanitarian action.	Partially implemented

* Two recommendations from the 2010 peer review (capacity development and climate change) relate to “special topics”. These are excluded in the above table, as they are not being monitored in the current peer review framework.

Figure A.1 Japan’s implementation of 2010 peer review recommendations

