

Information Bulletin

Quarterly Publication: January – March 2013 Edition
Volume 1, Issue 1

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

Technical Support Facility, Group of Fifteen – The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

MESSAGE



**H.E. Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha,
Chair of the Personal
Representatives, Group of Fifteen**

It gives me great pleasure to launch the first issue of a quarterly information bulletin series, coordinated by the revamped Technical Support Facility of the Group of Fifteen. It aims to deliver the latest news and developments on South-South Cooperation and North-South dialogue of relevance to our membership at our door step.

The very objective with which Group of Fifteen or G-15 was created in 1989 remains rooted in the firm belief that there lies a considerable potential for greater and mutually beneficial cooperation among developing countries, especially in the areas of investment, trade and technology. By acting as a catalyst for greater South-South cooperation, G-15 serves as a forum for regular consultations among developing countries with a view to coordinating

policies and action and supporting national efforts for development and economic progress.

Based on the shared goals of enhanced growth and prosperity, it remains my natural endeavor as the Chair of the Personal Representatives in Geneva to garner, promote and sustain more positive and productive South-South and North-South engagement that is mutually beneficial to the Group's membership and beyond.

While thanking the Technical Support Facility for the initiative, I call upon them to continue to build upon this information bulletin over the coming years with timely topical reviews and analysis produced through active engagement with the membership and networking with relevant external stakeholders.

This Issue Covers...

- *Welcome to the new Permanent Representative of Kenya – Page 2;*
- *South-South Cooperation News - Page 2*
- *North-South Cooperation News – Page 8*
- *News from other international Groupings – Page 8*
- *Voices of Experts – Page 11*
- *Information on upcoming notable meetings in next three months – Page 12*

"South-South cooperation has the potential to balance growth and equity on a global scale. Even in the midst of severe economic, social and political instabilities, South-South cooperation has continued to drive buoyant trade and financial flows in recent years."

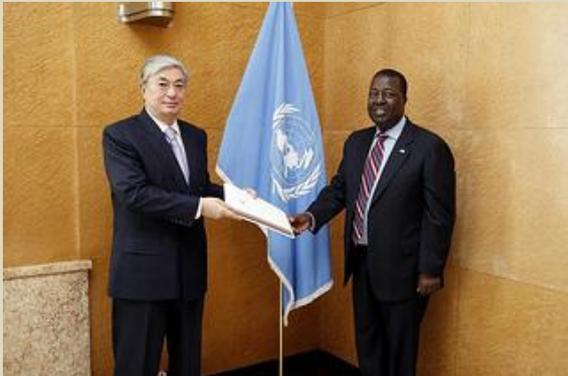
– Mr. Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-General

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

G-15 Welcomes the new Permanent Representative of Kenya



H.E. Mr. John Otachi Kakonge, the new Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office at Geneva, presented his credentials to H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva on 20 February 2013. While welcoming him, we sincerely thank H. E. Dr. Tom Mboya Okeyo, the outgoing Permanent Representative, for his valuable contribution and visionary stewardship.

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Mr. Kakonge had been working since 2010 as a Special Adviser to South-South News, a digital media platform for the countries of the South, based in New York. He has spent most of his career working for the United Nations Development Programme in various capacities, including as Senior Deputy Director of the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in New York from 2008 to 2010 and Special Adviser to the Unit in 2006 and 2007. He joined UNDP in 1981 and worked for them in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Lesotho, Liberia, the Gambia and Rwanda.

Mr. Kakonge started his career as a research assistant at the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya in 1974. In 1976 and 1977, he was an ecologist with the Tana River Development Authority in Kenya. In 1978 and 1979, he was a research assistant with the World Bank and with Africare in Washington. From 1980 to 1981, he was a lecturer at the Department of

Geology and Geography at Howard University, Washington.

Mr. Kakonge has a Bachelor of Education in Geology from the University of Nairobi (1976); a Master of Arts in Development Sociology from Howard University, Washington (1978); a Doctor of Philosophy in African Studies from Howard University (1987); and a Master of Philosophy in Land Economy from Cambridge University (1989). His written work has been widely published.

News Excerpt Source: <http://www.unog.ch>

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION NEWS

The Third Africa-South America Summit and the Malabo Declaration



Photo Source: <http://www.au.int/en/asa>

The Africa-South America Cooperation Forum is a bi-regional Forum of exchange and political cooperation between States and Peoples of the South. It is composed by 55 countries of Africa and 12 of South America, mainly members of the African Union and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), respectively. Its objective is to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood between the peoples and to cooperate for their sustainable development; respecting their sovereignty, independence, and the self-determination of the peoples.

Source: <http://www.asa-malabo.org/index-en.html>

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

From February 20-23, 2013, the Third Africa-South America Summit (ASA) was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The event served as a follow-up meeting to two others held in Nigeria in 2006 & Venezuela in 2009.

Sixty three member states from both continents, including twenty heads-of-state from Africa and five from South America participated in the Summit. The summit was held under the theme: "Strategies and Mechanism to Promote South-South Cooperation."

The summit adopted the Malabo Declaration containing a number of resolutions aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two continents. The deliberations also resulted in the establishment of a presidential committee which will be the decision-making organ between the gatherings that are held every three years.

Trade between Africa and South America has increased significantly over the last decade from \$US7.2 billion in 2002 to \$US39.4 in 2011.

According to President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea, expanding the ASA group would promote solidarity and better strengthen relations between the two large regions. He stressed that the ASA group was designed to enhance South-South ties through direct investment, and the creation of social funds for tourism, education, science and technology. He hoped that this summit will be a turning point that vitalizes cooperation between Latin America and Africa, for the emergence of their states and their integration in the developed world."

News Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com>

Nigeria calls for establishment of ASA Secretariat

President Goodluck Jonathan called for the establishment of a secretariat for the Africa-South-America (ASA) Summit during his

address at the third Africa-South America Summit. He said it would also help to place the regions at an 'advantageous position' in the wider context of multi-lateral engagements.

"It is not enough to have the Strategic Presidential Committee play the role of an interim secretariat when we have already agreed to establish a permanent secretariat at our previous summit," he said.

President Jonathan described Africa and South America as two regions of 'immense possibilities'.

He urged the leaders of two continents to take advantage of the summit to give further impetus and practical expression to South-South cooperation which the continents had long been engaged in.

News Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201302230465.html>

Venezuelan President Issues Statement to the 3rd ASA Summit

President Hugo Chavez of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela circulated an open letter to the ASA Summit urging both regions to unite in order to become a "true pole of power." The letter was read by Foreign Minister Elias Jaua.

President Chavez called for "an authentic and permanent link of joint work" between Africa and South America. He called for a greater cooperation in the areas of energy, education, agriculture, finance and communications. He also suggested the development of a University of the Peoples of the South, a petroleum firm to link oil resources from the two continents and the creation of a Bank of the South.

News Excerpt Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/africa-and-latin-america-building-unity-and-solidarity-against-western-intervention/5325210>

Note: President Chavez passed away on 5 March 2013.

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

African Union Commission at the ASA Summit (February 2013)



African Union Commission Chairwoman, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, in a statement said that “Africans cannot ignore the common heritage shared by our two regions forged by historical ties as well as by circumstances of which we have not always been the masters. Indeed, we have no choice but to take responsibility over our respective destinies in a collective approach as this is dictated by our past and present as well as by the need for us to successfully fight for a bright future.”

The ASA Summit issued a communique demanding statehood for the Palestinian people. The gathering recognized that the Palestinian question was one of the main challenges to international peace and security in the modern world. In regard to Syria, the gathering condemned the ongoing violence inside the country and recommended dialogue over conflict for all of the parties involved.

News Source: African Executive

Africa Trust Fund for Food Security becomes a reality

Equatorial Guinea today donated \$30 million to a new solidarity trust fund that aims to mobilize African financial resources in support of strengthening food security in the region. The first donation to the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund was made official in a ceremony at the margins

of the third Africa-South America Summit in Malabo.

The goal of the new trust fund is to pool resources from Africa's strongest economies and use them across the continent to support national and regional food security initiatives aimed at eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The idea of the fund was launched during FAO's April 2012 regional conference held in the Republic of Congo, when the host, President Denis Sassou Nguesso, called for greater solidarity between African nations to fight hunger. Besides Equatorial Guinea, other African countries have expressed their intention to contribute to the fund.

The Africa Solidarity Trust Fund is intended to complement, not supplant, development assistance from overseas donors. At the onset, it will focus in particular on strengthening the resilience of rural families and communities in the face of recurrent droughts and other crises such as the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, scaling up activities that have already proven successful.

Administered by FAO, the fund will support Africa-led, Africa-owned initiatives such as the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to boost agricultural productivity in the region.

"We can end hunger in Africa if we work together under the leadership of African governments and regional institutions, learning from one another through South-South cooperation and other exchanges," said the FAO regional representative, Maria Helena Semedo.

News Source:
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/170278/icode/>

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

South-South Cooperation Fund in action for increasing access to Energy



The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Republic of Sudan on 28 February 2013 signed an agreement for a grant of \$0.34 million to the National Energy Research Centre (NERC) to undertake Capacity Building and Assessment of Options for Increasing Access to Energy in Sudan.

The grant, which is financed by the South-South Cooperation Trust Fund managed by the African Development Bank, will initiate activities towards eliminating energy poverty as a first step towards the eradication of poverty in Sudan. The specific objectives of the Project financed by this grant are to:

- Estimate the magnitude of energy poverty in Sudan with solid data,
- Identify variations in levels of energy poverty by state, provinces and localities in Sudan,
- Outline strategies for reducing the level of energy poverty through technology transfer schemes, and
- Provide policy recommendations to improve governance, management and equitable use of energy resources.

This is the second of such modest technical assistance grants from the African Development Bank to Sudan this year, the first being a \$0.26 million grant that the AfDB gave to the Momoun Beheiry Centre early this year, a policy think-tank in Khartoum.

News Excerpt Source: <http://www.afdb.org/en>

Brazil and Nigeria



Photo Source: <http://en.mercopress.com/2013/02/25/>

Following the ASA Summit in February 2013, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff made a state visit to Nigeria and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering cooperation in the areas of agriculture and food security, petroleum, power, bio-fuel, trade and investment, mining, education, aviation, infrastructure management, finance and culture. President Jonathan reported that a bi-national commission would be established to implement the MoU.

The heads-of-state noted the growing cooperation in the economic sphere. The MoU noted the progress achieved citing “Our exchanges have actually grown significantly between 2009 and 2012, years marked by crises. Our trade exchanges have grown and for 2012 the figures come to \$US9 billion.”

News Excerpt Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca>

India and Indonesia

An event was held in Jakarta on March 2, 2013 to mark a nearly 50-year-old Indian effort that runs 300 different short-term programmes in various disciplines.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme day was celebrated at the Embassy of India, Jakarta, Friday to commemorate India's South-South Cooperation with Indonesia.

Indian Ambassador to Indonesia Mr. Gurjit Singh gave a brief overview of the ITEC programme which was initiated in 1964 has

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

come a long way since then as today it caters to over 300 different short term programmes in various disciplines such as English training, IT, rural development, agriculture, banking and capital markets, which are imparted by 200 professional Institutes.

He said that ITEC programme was one of the major initiatives of India towards capacity building and showed India's keenness to share its developmental gains with a large number of countries as part of South-South cooperation.

Ambassador Singh said that ITEC programmes have successfully trained over 1,500 Indonesians in different disciplines, including civilian and defense, since its inception in Indonesia in 1994.

News Excerpt Source:

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=165990

South-South cooperation & Argentina

Argentina and Thailand on 18 March 2013 approved 15 South-South cooperation projects under the 2013-2015 Action Plan, the Argentine Foreign Ministry said.

The projects will be jointly financed by the Argentine Fund of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency, it said in a statement.

The 2013-2015 Action Plan of Argentina is aimed at strengthening political and economic ties with Southeast Asia, it said, adding Foreign Minister Hector Timerman's visits to Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam in 2012 were part of the effort.

The plan covers cooperation in the fields of agriculture, education, astronomy and genetics.

Since the first meeting of the Argentina-Thailand Joint Committee was held in 2010,

technical cooperation projects between the two countries have tripled from five to the current fifteen.

<http://www.nzweek.com/world/argentina-thailand-approve-15-cooperation-projects-55123/>

South-South Cooperation & Iran

A senior Iranian official has warned of rising poverty in the world, saying that the ongoing global financial crisis is taking its toll on the more vulnerable echelons of the people in various countries.

During the 51st Session of the UN Commission for Social Development (UNCSD) in New York, Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholam-Hossein Dehqani warned about the increase in the number of people living in absolute poverty.

The Iranian official said economic crises have led to an increase in food and fuel prices, negative social development, and job losses, leaving around 900 million people hungry across the world.

The comments come as the UN Development Program (UNDP) has praised Iran's important role in South-South Cooperation, an initiative that calls on developing countries to work together to find solutions to the common challenges facing them.

"According to the UNDP report, the Islamic Republic of Iran has played a significant role in South-South Cooperation through exchanging knowledge, technology, and scientific research and education at regional and international levels," Mr. Dehqani said.

News Excerpt Source:

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/02/13/288715/iran-warns-of-rising-global-poverty/>

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

South-South cooperation & Sri-Lanka



Photo Source: <http://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/4317-sri-lanka-invests-in-a-water-project-in-uganda>

The Sri-Lankan government has allocated 150 million US Dollars to invest in a project to provide safe water to the people of western Uganda.

Uganda's leading daily New Vision reported that VA Tech Wabag, the largest multinational company specializing in water treatment has, recently sent a three-man delegation from its Sri Lanka unit to explore Uganda's potential in the water sector,

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni during his visit to Sri Lanka last November impressed with Sri Lanka's advanced state of water treatment and distribution requested assistance from technologically competent companies to provide similar sustainable solutions in Uganda.

The Ugandan newspaper said that the team from the VA Tech Wabag had met President Museveni at the State House in Entebbe and expressed their eagerness to provide safe water to Ugandans. Consul General of Sri Lanka in Uganda, Kana V. Kananathan has also participated in the discussions.

The newspaper also said that during his visit to Colombo President Museveni has assured the Sri Lankan government that Uganda needed investors with real money.

President Museveni has also sought more Sri Lankan investment and expertise to set up more hydro power projects in addition to the

three mini hydro power projects operated in his country by Sri Lankan investors.

News Source: <http://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/4317-sri-lanka-invests-in-a-water-project-in-uganda>

UN-FAO's South-South Cooperation to benefit from Brazilian expertise

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and UN-FAO formally partnered to identify opportunities where Brazilian experience and expertise can best contribute to the battle against hunger under FAO's South-South Cooperation initiative.

EMBRAPA's President Maurício Lopes said, "With this agreement, we have opened avenues to develop a strong cooperation agenda in the fields of agriculture, food security and policy support in developing countries."

Under the agreement, EMBRAPA will assign an expert to FAO headquarters to identify key programmes and projects where Brazilian experience can best contribute to strengthening knowledge and technology transfer in the fields of agriculture, food security and sustainable management of natural resources.

EMBRAPA is a globally recognized centre of tropical agricultural research that was key in Brazil's successful program to drastically cut hunger at home by focusing research on crops produced by smallholder farmers that increased local food supplies in different geographic and climatic conditions.

Many developing countries, especially in Africa, have expressed their interest in working through FAO to access the knowledge and experience that EMBRAPA has developed in tropical agriculture to promote the inclusion of smallholders in the food market.

The two partners committed themselves to strengthening their joint work in agricultural

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

research, food security and policy development, while keeping in mind the need to expand knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among developing countries. In addition, both recognized the need to aim for sustainable food production and improved food consumption, food quality and nutrition, as well as greater fairness in the global management of food.

News Excerpt Source:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302261535.html>

NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION NEWS



Photo Source: www.bluemarkconsultants.co.uk

Denmark's historical development cooperation ties with South Africa are now narrowing in on the clean energy sector, with an agreement signed on 4 March 2013 between the two governments whereby Denmark has given its commitment to help South Africa achieve targeted low carbon economic growth while reducing greenhouse gases by using low carbon technologies within South Africa.

As part of this North-South Cooperation endeavor, Denmark is set to provide financial support to South Africa to invest in wind based electricity generations to help South Africa meet its future clean energy goals, along with providing technical support to Eskom, South Africa's electricity public utility, whereby appropriating the integration of renewable energy into the electricity supply chain.

Reports say that the Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) is expected to provide 'an interim grant of DKK40 million to South Africa'. "Some of the money will be used to further develop the Wind Atlas of South Africa (WASA2) in order for the country to pursue and invest in wind based electricity as opposed to power generation using fossil fuels", reported South Africa News.

News Excerpt Source: <http://www.southsouthnews.com/>

NEWS FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS

ASEAN and SAARC Secretariats enhance relations

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) seeks to enhance relations with external partners and friends such as the South Asian for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and South Asian countries, Alicia dela Rosa Bala, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community on behalf of Secretary-General of ASEAN said.

She noted the long historical linkages between the two regions and how some SAARC Member States-such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka-participate in the ASEAN-driven regional processes such as the ASEAN Regional Forum.

She highlighted how ASEAN has embarked on an ambitious long-term strategy in improving the region's physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity within ASEAN and beyond. This encompasses, among others, physical infrastructure connections covering road, rail, air and sea; information communication technology; as well as trade, commerce and tourism linkages.

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

The two Secretariats discussed developments in the regions and reviewed the ASEAN-SAARC Secretariats' Partnership Work Plan (2008-2009) and the future practical cooperative activities that would be mutually beneficial and in the spirit of south-south cooperation. The discussions focused on issues such as trade and investment, energy, health, agriculture, tourism, disaster management, narcotics control, trafficking in persons and poverty alleviation."

News Excerpt Source: <http://www.asean.org/news/asean-secretariat-news/item/asean-and-saarc-secretariats-enhance-relation>

BRICS Strategic Road Map March 2013



*Photo Source:
http://indrus.in/economics/2013/02/26/the_brics_strategic_roadmap_22531.html*

BRICS members have pooled their intellectual capital and come up with a strategic agenda for forging closer links among themselves to consolidate and expand their roles in global affairs.

A new strategic agenda will be considered during the upcoming 5th BRICS summit in Durban, South Africa (March 26- 27, 2013). Its contours are so broad and vast that this four-continent outfit will inevitably take several summit meetings to implement it.

The BRICS officials have identified 13 specific areas to synergize BRICS economies. The political and technical feasibility of this 13-point programme is yet to be determined.

The deep-focus areas for the BRICS policymakers are as below:

- intra-BRICS trade and investment cooperation;
- cooperation in infrastructure financing;
- industrial development and cooperation;
- cooperation in transportation;
- cooperation in food security;
- cooperation in technical education;
- cooperation in financial market development;
- cooperation in research and development;
- cooperation in culture and tourism;
- cooperation in international issues;
- cooperation in energy security;
- cooperation to build effective institutions;
- Setting up an International development Bank for fostering South-South investment.

The BRICS roadmap is that the member countries should coordinate their economic policies and diplomatic strategies not only to enhance their position as a grouping in the international economic and financial system, but also to be a stabilization factor for the world economy as a whole.

Though the BRICS countries have shown remarkable resilience to the global economic crisis, there is a source of potential downward pressure on growth in the BRICS because of weak growth and the spillover effects of policy responses in advanced economies. Perhaps the single biggest common challenge being faced by the BRICS economies is the need for institutional development, a pre-requisite for sustainable growth. Virtually all of BRICS

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

countries are still a long way off from institutional development.

Moreover, the credibility of the policy of reforms is crucial for the BRICS economies to make their growth processes more durable and development-oriented. Policy changes are needed by the member countries to address these challenges, domestic as well as external.

News Excerpt Source:

http://indrus.in/economics/2013/02/26/the_brics_strategic_roa_dmap_22531.html

BRICS Business Council

The BRICS Summit in South Africa will see the launch of the BRICS Business Council - a platform to strengthen ties among the business communities of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

News Excerpt Source:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/317126/brics-business-council-set-up.html>

Egypt and BRICS

President Mohamed Morsi has been invited to attend the BRICS summit due to take place in Durban, South Africa, on March 26-27, 2013.

BRICS summit is the title of an association of emerging national economies grouping Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The association aims at bolstering cooperation and partnership between the association countries and African countries, the source added.

News Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201303110468.html>

Poverty Eradication, Equity, Stressed for Post-2015 Agenda

A UN group tasked with defining a new post-2015 development agenda completed their second substantive meeting in Liberia in February 2013, focusing on the theme of "National Building Blocks for Sustained Prosperity."

The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) is a 27-member panel formed in July 2012 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015, the completion date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Having met twice during the latter half of 2012, the HLP will have one more substantive meeting - dealing with Global Partnerships - in March 2013, before submitting their final report to the UN Secretary-General by the end of May 2013.

During the 29 January - 1 February, 2013 meeting in Monrovia, panel members held outreach sessions and consultations with stakeholders, including parliamentarians, people with disabilities, youth, children, women, the elderly, farmers, trade unions, the business community, and academics.

While much of the meetings were devoted to economic justice, the HLP said that this on its own was not sufficient. In order to achieve the structural transformation goals that they seek, the HLP noted the necessity of obtaining sustainable growth with equity, creating wealth through sustainable and transparent management of natural resources, and partnerships.

Regarding trade, a thematic e-discussion on development-led globalization is being steered by the UN Conference on Trade and Development. This online discussion seeks to answer questions regarding the employment implications of current trade patterns; possible alternative trade agendas that can be pursued at the regional and international levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development, given the current state of the WTO's Doha Round; and whether there is indeed a crisis in economic multilateralism.

News Excerpt Source: <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/153777/>

VOICES OF EXPERTS



Photo Source: UN news and Flickr.com respectively

South-South Cooperation Holds Key to a World without Hunger

*By: Laurent Thomas - Assistant Director-General
FAO; Indroyono Soesilo - Director at FAO*

When a massive food crisis affected sub-Saharan Africa in the 1980s, causing widespread hunger and severe malnutrition, four million Indonesian farmers came together to sell 100,000 tons of paddy rice and raise money to help their fellow farmers in Africa. That was 1985 — a turning point for Indonesia's agricultural sector. From being the world's largest rice importer the country had become a self-sufficient rice exporter.

Two decades of concerted efforts on agriculture intensification, irrigation and water system development, fertilizer plants, high quality seed plants, troops of agriculture trainers supported by FAO experts, village cooperatives, direct credits for farmers and fishers, village infrastructure, medical facilities and schools, had paid off. From a mere 11.7 million tonnes in 1968, rice production had reached an astonishing 25.8 million tonnes in 1984 — a 121 percent increase.

When Indonesia's President Suharto received an award for this feat in November 1985 at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's headquarters in Rome, he proudly announced that the Indonesian farmers had voluntarily raised money in response to the crisis in Africa and donated the money to FAO to set up the Indonesian Farmers Fund. "People were dying and we wanted to help", said H. Oyon Tahyan, former chairman of the Fund, "But we did not just want to give food or money. What we really

wanted to do was to help them help themselves."

Since its founding in 1985, the Fund has established two Agricultural Training Centers, one in Tanzania and one in Gambia, training hundreds of small-scale farmers, most of them women, who in turn trained thousands of farmers at village level. It also offered agricultural apprenticeship programs in Indonesia for African farmers and has funded more than 80 agricultural development projects across the African continent, ranging from support to women's cooperatives in Madagascar and women market gardeners in Guinea to training farmers in animal husbandry in Zambia.

That moment exemplified South-South Cooperation at its best. It was a reminder of what had happened 30 years before, in Bandung, when the first large-scale Asian-African Conference took place in April 1955, orchestrated by President Sukarno.

The 29 countries that participated in the conference, most of which were newly independent, produced the Bandung Declaration that aimed to promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation and to push forward the decolonization processes.

Again, almost 30 years have passed since the Indonesian farmers showed the power of solidarity among farmers in developing countries. The world is gathering a new momentum. The Cold War threat has disappeared, the Berlin Wall has collapsed and regional economic cooperation blossoms.

The traditional world economic power houses, in North America and Western Europe have shifted to Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, the Near East and South Africa. However, 870 million people are still living in hunger and food insecurity, particularly in Asia and Africa. The time to revitalize the South-South Cooperation spirit is now. Those, who 30 years ago, were

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

January – March 2013; Volume 1, Issue 1

developing countries, have now, become the 20 largest global economic powerhouses. Among them: South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, China, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

The time is now to join efforts to eradicate global hunger once and for all. Developing countries that have succeeded in expanding food production, preserving natural resources and fighting hunger, have valuable experiences to share with other nations that want to follow their example. Partnerships should be built in the spirit of cooperation and must be showcased.

The Indonesian aquaculture experts, for example, could assist rice farmers in the region to combine their rice planting activity with fresh water fish production. Seaweed farmers in Africa could produce high quality dried seaweed ready to be processed to become alginate, carrageenan, gelatine and 350 other end-products. They may learn from their fellow farmers in Indonesia and the Philippines. Other countries can learn from the Brazilian poverty eradication and “zero hunger program.” These, among others, are models of the South assisting the South.

As a global knowledge organization, FAO is a facilitator and an interlocutor for its 191 member countries working toward the common goal of eradicating global hunger once and for all. FAO intends to scale up its support to South-South Cooperation partnerships to defeat hunger and malnutrition and to build a world where food and agriculture contribute to the well-being of all, especially the poorest. Together with partners such as Indonesia, FAO can turn this vision into concrete changes for the hungry.

Note by the authors: The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FAO or those of its collaborating organizations.

A few notable upcoming meetings

- **April 4-5, 2013:** The Second Green Growth Knowledge Platform Annual Conference, Paris, France;
- **April 11-12, 2013:** Food Security Futures I: Research Priorities for 21st Century, Dublin, Ireland.
- **May 20-25, 2013:** World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland
- **June 5-21, 2013:** 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, Switzerland
- **June 15-22, 2013:** 38th Session of the FAO Conference

Quarterly Information Bulletin

The Technical Support Facility (TSF) invites news, information, articles and or related inputs for this regular bulletin from G-15 members as well as welcomes comments and/or suggestions on this information bulletin. Please address your contribution to: Technical Support Facility, Group of Fifteen, 1 route de Morillons, case postale 2100, CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland or via email at: tsf@g15.org

The restructured TSF has the following three staff members as of January 2013:

- Mr. Saurabh Bhandari - Head of Office;
- Ms. Pamela Okeyo - Administration and Finance Assistant;
- Ms. Salima Djebbari - Secretary.

Information Bulletin Disclaimer

This information bulletin contains collection and compilation of South-South and North-South news, opinions, statements and excerpts from various information providers on the web. G-15 or TSF cannot vouch for veracity or the accuracy of news / analysis. It is compiled purely for internal information purposes and it does not necessarily represent or endorse in any way the position or the views of TSF or the Group of Fifteen.

G-15 or the TSF shall not be liable for any error, exclusion, omission or oversight with respect information contained therein. Some information snapshots or excerpts may have been slightly adjusted in language to appropriately fit the bulletin. All efforts are undertaken to duly reference the news/information/photo source, where and when applicable.