

Analysis on Index of International Development Cooperation and its Implications : Focusing on CDI and QuODA

The Center for Global Development (CGD) announced the result of the Commitment to Development Index (CDI) and the Quality of Official Development Assistance (QuODA) in 2021 based on the drastically revised methodology.

The CDI evaluates whether the policies on 8 areas including financial resources for development, investment, migration, trade, environment, health, safety, and technology of major 40 countries have been established to promote economic and social development of developing countries. This index is meaningful in that it expanded the subject from OECD members to emerging donor countries to reflect the changing landscape of development cooperation. However, it might hurt a logic of evaluation as it evaluates groups with different income levels with the same criteria. Countries with different economic size, social composition, and culture might need different policies and strategies. To improve policies in a meaningful manner through the evaluation, there should be a separation of evaluation subject, evaluation on similar groups, and improvement in index per area.

QuODA evaluated 4 areas of priority, ownership, transparency, and untiedness for 49 donors including multilateral organizations. Based on the discussions on aid effectiveness, the 5th evaluation added indexes for support for vulnerable countries, share of support for global public goods, and contribution to low-aid countries. It also added and separated new areas for evaluation. However, there are still limitations; simple interpretation due to the ranking; credibility issue of some statistics; a weak logical link between utilization of multilateral organization channels and aid effectiveness.

However, CDI and QuODA are useful as they reflect changes in policies for development cooperation; the increasing influence of emerging donor countries; transparency of development cooperation data; and importance of support for vulnerable countries and global public goods. Donor countries need to consider political implications of evaluation system and draw up policies and strategies to efficiently respond to new threats such as increasing conflicts, climate change, and pandemic and to create a partnership with new donor countries.