The NeST Global Meeting Program

**Consolidating the Implementation of NeST Strategy**

Nov. 7-9, 2016, Beijing

**Background**

Despite the fact that South-South cooperation has been in existence for more than half-a-century, its significance has just attracted global attention most recently with developing countries gaining increasing weight in the world economy and taking steps to participate more in international development cooperation. At the same time, with its strong advocacy on the principles of equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefits, South-South development cooperation also seems to evoke different sentiments amongst different actors.

The reason for this controversy and debate is largely due to lack of accurate data and information on different aspects of South-South development cooperation. Even for both SSC providers and partner countries, the biggest challenge also lies in that authoritative evidenced-based analysis on SSC is limited, which particularly hinders the translation of good practices into international standards. In this regards, building a platform for information exchange and knowledge sharing among southern research institutions and think-tanks could contribute to addressing issues of common concerns and interest.

The Network of Southern Think-tanks (NeST) was established on the sidelines of the first high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Mexico in April 2014 to bring together distinguished academics and development cooperation experts, especially from Southern countries to address the issue of information deficiency. Since its inception, the network has been giving great efforts in developing a suitable framework and methodologies for measuring and evaluating SSC, gradually exerting influence and impacts on global development community.

Research Center for International Development (RCID) at China Agricultural University (CAU) has been engaging itself for generating and disseminating knowledge in international development. It is an open platform for scholars, policy makers and practitioners to share knowledge and information, and engage in debates on international development. RCID, working with other research institutes and think tanks in China, including CITEC, Beijing University, IPRCC, Xiaomen University, etc. has established the NeST China Chapter to promote the generation and dissemination of development knowledge from Chinese perspective based on Chinese experience in South-South cooperation.

To follow up the previous discussion on the conceptual framework of SSC and make preparation for the HLM2 of GPEDC in Nairobi, the NeST China Chapter (with the support of CAU) invite all the NeST executive members from SSC providers and other key international experts engaging in SSC to have a NeST global meeting in Beijing with the expectation of reaching consensus and making action plan for the next step NeST activities.

**Objectives of the meeting**

The meeting will achieve the following objectives:

1. Review the monitoring and evaluation framework of SSC and corresponding indicators and methodologies;
2. Discuss the progress and achievements of the NeST previous works;
3. Communicate with Colleagues and students at CAU on SSC;
4. Discuss the possible opportunities and plans for future collaborations on research and other activities;
5. Participate in other activities arranged by the organizers.

**Agenda (Draft)**

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| **Time** | **Activities** |
| Nov. 6 | Arrival of international representatives and check in at the Landmark Hotel |
| Nov. 7-8 | Participate in workshop on SSC providers organized by UNDP, MOFCOM and CAITEC, China |
| workshop Program (all NeST executive members and observers will attend) | |
| Nov. 7 | |
| 8:00-9:00 | Registration |
| 09:00-9:30 | Opening remarks:  1. UNDP China Senior Management  2. Senior MOFCOM representative (TBC)  3. Senior CAITEC representative  Facilitator presentation of workshop agenda |
| 9:30-10.30 | Topic: SDG 17 and financing the SDGs  1. What are the major targets, global debates and actors associated with SDG17 and how can its achievements be measured? by UNDP HQ representative (TBC)  2. ‘Financing the SDGs: challenges and opportunities” by AP-DEF representative (TBC) |
| 10:30-10:45 | *Photo &* Tea*/Coffee Break* |
| 10:45-12:00 | Panel Discussion on SSC achieving SDGs  Experience sharing from SSC providers on how to achieve SDG |
| 12:00-13:30 | Lunch |
| 13.30- 14.45 | Topic: SSC modalities  Presentation: New findings from China’s foreign aid modality report  Panel Discussion.  Sharing from other SSC countries on the same theme |
| 14.45 – 15.00 | Break |
| 15:30-17:30 | Group Discussion:   1. How to engage stakeholders, including private sector, CSOs into development cooperation 2. Experiences and challenges on SSC modality |
| **Nov. 8** | **Workshop program (continued)** |
| 9.00-10.45 | Effectiveness of SSC: how to measure impact and results   1. Presentation on SSC monitoring framework with case studies by NeST 2. Panel Discussion:  * SSC monitoring framework: common ground for evaluate SSDC by NeST * DFA: monitoring development flow from recipient countries’ point of view, by Bangladesh (TBC)   GPEDC monitoring framework, by UNDP joint support team representative |
| 10.45 – 11.00 | Break |
| 11:00-12:00 | Group Discussion:   1. How should monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the SSC conducted, and by whom? 2. What mechanisms are in place to communicate effective SSDC to policy decision-makers? 3. What successes and challenges exist? |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00 – 15.00 | SSC with international principle GPEDC  1. Presentation:  Understanding the process: a briefing on the HLM2 and what emphasis does the next HLM place on SSC and how can actors engage in the meeting? By Kenya  2. Panel discussion  SSC partner and/or GPEDC Steering Committee member - |
| 15.00-15.15 | Break |
| 15.15– 16.45 | SSC priorities in the HLM agenda, side events and preparations  Group Discussion:   1. Coherence at the global level between SSC/SDGs/AAAA/GPEDC – what do SSC countries want to see in terms of alignment? 2. SSC positions and priorities in the HLM2 |
| 17:00-17:30 | Concluding remarks  1. UNDP China  2. MOFCOM  3. CAITEC |
| **Nov. 9 workshop program (Continued)** | |
| 9:00-11:45 | UN Theme Group on China in the World share highlights  1. Presentation on SDG 17 and GPEDC  2. Panel on SSC monitoring frameworks  3.Questions and open discussion  4. Facilitated discussion |
| 11:45-**13.00** | Lunch |
| 13:00-14:00 | Go to CAU by Shuttle bus |
| **The NeST Internal Meeting (All NeST executive members are required to attend, with colleagues from UNDP, DIE, Oxfam, UNCTAD as observers)** | |
| 14:00-15:00 | Review the NeST activities conducted so far and roughly evaluate its impacts |
| 15:00-15:45 | Discuss the NeST funding and co-funding issues |
| 15:45-16:00 | Coffee/tea Break |
| 16:00-16:50 | Following-up core activities |
| **CIDRN Public Event Series No. 22** | |
| 17:00-18:30 | Topic: New South-South cooperation and its challenges for future  Moderator: TBC  Lead-in Speech by Professor Li Xiaoyun (10 minutes)  Panelist: Sachin, Neissan, Thomas, Andre, Mehmet, Jorge, Elizabeth |
| 18:30-19:00 | Book Launch: ’The BRICS in International Development’ |
| 19:00-20:30 | Farewell dinner |
| Nov. 10 | Departure from Beijing |