Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia: Toward a Common Language for Governance

Parallel Session
ISAP 2014 July 24
Simon Hoiberg Olsen
IGES

Outline

1. Governing the MDGs and SDGs
2. Toward a common language on governance
3. Means of implementation in current proposals for the SDGs
4. Conclusion and questions
MDGs: many desirable impacts

- Equal access to primary education for boys and girls
- Share of urban slum dwellers fall from 39-36% between 2000-2012
- More than 200 million gained access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities
- Child mortalities drops 60 percent in Cambodia

MDGs: did not happen in a vacuum

- Need to set goals
- Allocate resources
- Implement actions
- Governance: how this authority is exercised at multiple levels
Governance vital for SDGs

- SDGs: transformational, aspirational, and integrated
- But views vary on key elements of governance
- Poorly structured governance could undermine implementation of the goals
- Need: common language on governance

Toward a common language on governance

International: Governance of the SDGs

National: Governance for the SDGs
Governance for the SDGs: Two negotiations streams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad principles</th>
<th>Narrow institutional processes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Rule of Law</td>
<td>Means of Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Control Corruption</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ ......</td>
<td>Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ ......</td>
<td>Strategies and plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Accountability</td>
<td>Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Regulatory quality</td>
<td>Institutional coherence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Government effectiveness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOI in current proposals

- Reviewed 10 proposals between 1992 and 2014
- Around 80 references to different aspects of MOI
  - 25 smaller sub-classifications of MOI
  - Three larger baskets (see flowchart)

Most emphasized MOI:
1. Institutional coordination, integration and coherence (10%);
2. Technology transfer and sharing (8%);
3. Trade and FDI (8%);
4. Official Development Assistance (ODA) (7%);
5. Stakeholder involvement and (global) partnerships (7%);
6. Education, training and awareness (6%).
Towards sustainable development – policy oriented, practical and strategic research on global environmental issues

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

MoI in current proposals

MOI

Finance (F)

Institutions (I)

Technology (T)

*() means a number of MoI elements mentioned in the various proposals

Conclusion and questions going forward

• Which are essential governance elements in terms of principles, process, and practice?

• What are the capacity needs for implementing SDGs in Asia?
Thank you

olsen@iges.or.jp