



USAID/U.S. Embassy Beijing Newsletter

March 2013

The mission of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to support the people of developing and transitional countries in their efforts to achieve enduring economic and social progress.

Through this newsletter, we hope we can have more interactive communication with colleagues in the development sector in China, and your comments and suggestions are highly appreciated. Please contact us by sending emails to beijingusaid@state.gov.

Recent activities in USAID:

1. President Obama's Commitment to Ending Extreme Poverty

On February 13, President Obama announced in his State of the Union address that the United States will join with the international community to end extreme poverty in the next two decades.

".....In many places, people live on little more than a dollar a day. So the United States will join with our allies to eradicate such extreme poverty in the next two decades by connecting more people to the global economy; by empowering women; by giving our young and brightest minds new opportunities to serve, and helping communities to feed, and power, and educate themselves; by saving the world's children from preventable deaths; and by realizing the promise of an AIDS-free generation, which is within our reach."

Between 1993 and 2005, the number of people living in poverty fell by an astonishing one-third — more than 600 million lifted out of poverty because of historic growth in Brazil, India, and China. Now we see sub-Saharan Africa joining that path, for the first time in human history.

2. Secretary of State John Kerry Speaks at USAID

On February 15, 2013, Administrator Shah welcomed Secretary of State John Kerry on his first visit to USAID. Secretary Kerry delivered remarks on his vision for international development and expressed his appreciation for the work of USAID staff. Secretary Kerry spoke with passion about the mission of USAID and the role of development in our foreign policy. Secretary Kerry described how, in "a world undergoing mighty transformation," international development is in the "interest of our country and our future."

3. USAID wins 'Best Government Policy for Mobile Development' Award

USAID is the first bilateral development agency to launch a dedicated Mobile Solutions team to help us do business better and expand opportunities for individuals, families and communities around the world. With mobile phone ownership exploding in the developing world, we knew we had the opportunity to rethink how we use mobile technology to achieve faster, cheaper and more sustainable development

results. This award not only recognizes the critical global leadership role USAID is playing in this arena, it emphasizes the important role mobile phones play in international development.

What's new in Beijing USAID

1. China-DAC Study Group

On January 22, 2013, USAID hosted the New Member Briefing Meeting of China-DAC Study Group which is an opportunity for new representatives in the China-DAC Study Group to understand the past work of China-DAC Study Group and the future plans. Mr. Michael Laird, Senior Policy Analyst of OECD gave a presentation on China-DAC Study Group and led an interactive discussion with participants coming from development agencies in Switzerland, Australia, Norway, Japan, France and the US.

On January 23, 2013, USAID Beijing representatives participated in the Meeting of the China-DAC Study Group hosted by IPRCC with participants from almost all Chinese and foreign member organizations. Mr. Zuo Changsheng of IPRCC and Mr. Serge Tomasi of OECD welcomed the participants on behalf of the secretariat. It was agreed during the 1-day meeting that a roundtable with participants from both the Study Group and African agencies will be held in June 2013 to further discuss issues related to development assistance, especially relevant to China and Africa with the key topics including achieving sustainability and ownership to local people in development projects; improving coordination among assistance providing agencies; and enhancing cost-effectiveness in project management.



Work Meeting of China-DAC Study Group

2. Joint Scoping Assessment by US and Chinese Experts in Timor Leste

From February 19 to 26, 2013, a group of 9 experts from both China and the US conducted a scoping assessment in Timor Leste to identify areas of cooperation to support Timor Leste's agricultural development. Led by USAID and MOFCOM, the experts worked closely with officials and local people of Timor Leste to design a joint activity which aims at enhancing Timor's food security and human capacity in agricultural extension. The success of the scoping assessment marks the commencement of pilot triangular cooperation among US, China and Timor Leste, in which the strengths of US and China will play complementary roles to achieve sustainable and significant impact.



Joint assessment team visiting USAID project site in Timor Leste