

This project was highly relevant to China's policy and needs, as well as Japan's assistance policy; overall, therefore, its relevance is high. Although there was a change in the project period due to coinciding with the timing of the establishment of the new operating organization of CTC and a change of the construction site, these changes were unavoidable, and thus it can be said that the implementation of the project was efficient within the acceptable range.

In terms of effectiveness, estimating from the obtained numerical data, it is likely that the indicator for quantitative effects has not been achieved in the target year. On the other hand, indirect effects, though limited, were produced. Sustainability of the project is also believed to be high as no issues of concern are found viewed from any aspect, i.e., institutional, operational, technical or financial. Also, there is no problem from the viewpoints of maintenance and management.

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be highly satisfactory.

<Constraints of this evaluation study>

A large change was introduced by the Chinese side in the facility scale of the CTC, which was constructed at the expense of the Chinese government, and its operation system during the project implementation. It is believed that the difference found between the target values and the actual values is attributable to these changes, and this should be taken into account when evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the project.

1 Relevance

(1) Relevance with the Development Plan of China

The following principles were stated in the "White Paper on Population and Growth of China in the 21st Century" published by the Chinese government in 2000: (1) Improvement in health level of women and children and improvement of the techniques of rearing infants through enhancement of reproductive health; (2) increase of health awareness among the farming population through implementation of health education activities in rural communities; and (3) Quality of Life (QOL) improvement through buildup of health services according to methods using an approach based on the age group of residents (periods of adolescence, pregnancy, perinatal, menopause and aged). The Population and Family Planning Act enforced in 2002 expanded the activities of the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China to cover reproductive health from family planning to adolescent education, STI/AIDS prevention and control, and outreach activities to encourage family planning. China's Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2006 – 2010) also assigns importance to the buildup of health services for mother and children, development and promotion of local healthcare, and improvement in health and medical service systems. As above, therefore, this project was relevant in that it was in line with the development policy of China all the while during the implementation period.

(2) Relevance with the Development Needs of China

During the implementation of the project, comprehensive health promotion service activities were ongoing in China. These activities include family planning, mother and child health, parasite control, nutrition improvement, etc.

In the Central and Western Regions of China that lag other regions in economic development, however, these health promotion service activities were limited, and especially for inhabitants in poor regions there was a pressing need to provide basic services and to help improve hygiene and health conditions through health education. Family planning staff engaged in general family health services in these regions had to be trained and family health service centers that would become bases for these activities were to be established. Even at the time of this ex-post evaluation the role that these service centers play is very important as there are many persisting problems such as the spread of HIV and other infections, increase of population mobility, rapid increase of the aged among the populace, etc., many of which began to surface in recent years. Therefore, there are many needs, and thus, this project is relevant in that it has been in line with the development needs of China not only at the time of planning but also at the time of ex-post evaluation.

(3) Relevance with Japan's ODA Policy

Japan's Economic Cooperation Program for China (2001) focuses on improvement in people's livelihood and welfare, human resources development, system formation, technology transfer, etc. in the inland regions; particularly, stress is placed on assistance and support to help overcome poverty, including grass-roots aids in the health and education areas and cooperation for livelihood improvements in the poverty regions. Furthermore, as part of the "cooperation in resolving environmental and other global issues," importance is assigned to the control of infections (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, etc.). Therefore, the project was relevant in that it was in line with the Japanese government's ODA policy.

This project has been highly relevant with China's development plan, development needs, as well as Japan's ODA policy; therefore, its relevance is high.

2 Efficiency

(1) Project Outputs

The outputs on the Japanese side were executed as originally planned. As to the construction of the CTC carried out under the responsibility of China, the scale of the design was enlarged greatly and the construction site was changed. Nevertheless, no delay was caused and completion was on time. (According to information received from the consultant of the project)

(2) Project Period (Project Inputs)

The actual project period was 19 months; the planned period was 12 months, so the project was accomplished at 158% of the planned period. According to the consultant of the project, the discrepancy in the delivery date of equipment between that planned and the actual date was caused because the delivery date was adjusted while verifying the level of preparedness of CTC's operational conditions.

(3) Project Cost (Project Inputs)

Total project cost was 265 million yen; the amount in the E/N was 279 million yen, so the project was completed at 95% of the

planned amount.

Although the project period was significantly longer than planned, it was to obtain the intended outputs. The project cost was lower than planned; therefore, efficiency of the project is high.

3 Effectiveness / Impact

(1) Quantitative Effects

The indicators for quantitative effects established at the time of planning the project are the number of training courses at the CTC (27 courses/year) and the number of trainees (1,780/year). The target year was 2006. No numerical data were available during this ex-post evaluation. Actual data that can be referenced are:

* JICA technical cooperation project in 2007: 10 training courses; 231 trainees

* Other training conducted in October 2005 through to September 2007 (approx. 2 years): 18 training courses; 956+α* trainees
(This is according to the interim evaluation reports of the relevant technical cooperation projects.)

Although a simple comparison cannot be made, it is likely that the intended indicator for quantitative effects of the project has not been achieved in the target year. This may be attributable to the absence of the expected integration of two service centers, namely, Taicang City Family Health Service Center (the training center is placed here) and Taicang City Mother & Child Health Service Center (these two centers, combined into one, were expected to work as the CTC). Consequently, the planned clinical and technical sections were not established. With respect to the equipment and materials furnished under the project, frequency in use of those installed in the CTC and town service stations is high according to the information received from the executing agency, while some are not used frequently; for example, equipment for text preparation are needed less, so frequency of use is low (information received from CTC).

*) The number of trainees is unclear for 1 course.

(2) Impacts (Impacts on the Natural Environment, Land Acquisition and Resettlement, Unintended Positive/Negative Impacts)

One of the expected indirect impacts was: "the capacity of IP staff that will be in service mainly in IP areas of Central and Western Regions of China will be improved, then, as a result, IP activities in these regions will be vitalized and the quality of IP activities will be improved." Quantitative evaluation is not possible, but after the training, techniques and skills at family health service stations in the Central and Western Regions have improved a great deal, according to the CTC.

With respect to the other indicator: "healthcare level in IP areas will be improved," items related to mother and children health in 7 provinces of Central and Western Regions (Shanxi, Jiangxi, Henan, Hunan, Chongqing, Yunnan and Gansu)** were investigated. As a result, some declines were observed in the mortality rates of pregnant and perinatal women (death of fetuses and newborns) and the venereal disease rate. As above, therefore, it can be assessed that effects have been produced to a certain extent due to the synergetic effect with other factors including the technical cooperation project.

There were illegal residents on the land planned for construction the CTC and the construction work was to start after appropriate steps were taken for their relocation. However, because the Chinese side decided to enlarge the building scale, use of another site was arranged and no illegal residents were there, consequently, no problem occurred (according to the hearing from the consultant who was engaged in this project).

There were no other reports of serious adverse impacts.

***) Part of the model regions under the Project for Capacity Building of Reproductive Health and Family Health Service in Central and Western Regions, which is related to this project.

This project has somewhat achieved its objectives; therefore, its effectiveness is fair.

4 Sustainability

(1) Structural Aspects of Operation Maintenance

According to information from the CTC, this center is a substructure of the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China and its policies are decided in the committee comprised of the representatives from the local government of Taicang and those from the Population and Family Planning Commission of each administrative level (the central government, Jiangsu Province, Suzhou City and Taicang). The center obtains cooperation from Taicang Family Health Service Center, affiliate agencies, laboratories and research institutions of the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, universities and other organizations for its training, practices, health techniques, etc. Therefore, its operation and management are ensured (according to the information from CTC).

(2) Technical Aspects of Operation Maintenance

Personnel in charge have been appointed for the maintenance and control of equipment (according to the information from CTC). Considering maintenance and repairs, manufacturers who have agents within China were selected as much as possible for the equipment and materials furnished under the project. Nevertheless, the technical level of these agents is not satisfactory (according to the information from CTC). In addition, as for the skills to operate and implement the training at CTC, the training by the specialists and the internal studying activities have been conducted to improve and strengthen the ability of the staff members (according to the information from CTC).

(3) Financial Aspects of Operation Maintenance

Operation maintenance costs of the CTC are covered by the subsidies from the government and revenues from training courses. No detailed data about its financial conditions were available, but they say that they have obtained enough funds since 2006. On the other hand, training revenues (CTC's own earnings) accounted for about 66% of the total revenues in FY2007 and FY2008, however, these earnings started to decline in FY2009, and fell to 45% in FY2010 according to the estimate (total revenues are also expected to

reduce in FY2010 to about 60% against FY2008) (according to the information from CTC). In any event, however, because of its position of being a substructure of the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, it is believed that the CTC will be given necessary funds continuously.

(4) Current Status of Operation Maintenance

Periodical inspections are conducted by the Technical Supervisory Bureau of Taicang City for the equipment and materials furnished under the project. CTC is also conducting inspections of all these pieces of equipment once a year (according to the information from CTC), and thus, it is believed that there is no problem of maintenance. JICA's China Office also remarked "good maintenance and control" in its audit last year. With respect to training activities, various training courses, seminars, international conferences, etc. have been held recently with the cooperation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Red Cross Society of China and various other donors as well as Provincial Population and Family Planning Commission and other government agencies (according to the information from CTC), and thus it is expected that the impact of the project will be positively sustained in the future.

No major problems have been observed in the operation and maintenance system; therefore, sustainability of the project effects is high.