

## **The 'non-DAC donors' and the role of public perspectives in shaping the future of aid**

### **Final Report**

This project was funded under DFID's 'The Future of Aid and Beyond' research competition (announced July 2010). We were awarded £38,451 (plus overheads) for the project, to run from October 2010-June 2011. We sought to provide best value for money and to keep necessary costs to a minimum, and this was one reason that the project was completed around £8000 under budget (£30,400.78). We were also under considerable time pressure, as we were informed that DFID were keen to get the money spent quickly; and because the PI was leaving the UK in July 2011 for a four month Visiting Fellowship to New Zealand.

### Outputs

Final Workshop (as planned and budgeted), June 2011, SOAS, London.

We had forty participants from academia, the OECD-DAC, the ODI and civil society organisations. DFID representatives were invited to attend but were unable to do so. Four of the five researchers presented in person. In her absence, Dr May Tan-Mullins work on China was delivered by Dr Mawdsley. Powerpoint presentations on each country case study were made available, and the workshop generated an excellent afternoon of analysis, feedback and discussion. The workshop provided networking and future research collaboration opportunities. For example, Dr Mawdsley was invited to attend a conference on the future of aid at the LSE, and was approached by two participants who wanted to apply for PhDs under her supervision. These have gone ahead, including one who I hope will be funded through a larger £350,000 ESRC-funded project to examine Trilateral Development Cooperation (focussing on Brazil and South Africa). The other wishes to research Brazilian development cooperation with Mozambique.

### Website

The project website was established shortly after the start of the research, as planned. It can be found at:

<http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/foreignaidperceptions/>

This details the nature and goals of the project, the biographies of the five researchers, and has links to the five power point presentations made at the workshop, and to the five summary documents (see below). Any future outputs, academic or otherwise, will be added to the website.

## Summary documents

We made the production of four page summary documents a priority over lengthier and longer-term academic outputs. One has been produced for each of the five country case studies (China, India, Poland, Russia and South Africa), and they are designed to provide an accessible account of the main issues and findings. These are available on the website, and each researcher has circulated them to their respondents and to relevant individuals and organisations.

## Invited presentations and seminars

All five researchers have been invited to present their research findings in various forums, listed below (to date – more are in progress).

Drażkiewicz-Grodzicka, E. (2012) 'Public perceptions of Polish foreign aid'. Presented at 'EU-12: development policies at half-time: Europeanization, specialization, or both?', Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, 15-17 February 2012.

Drażkiewicz-Grodzicka, E. (2012) 'Public perceptions of Polish foreign aid'. To be presented at the International Studies Association conference, San Diego 1-4 April 2012.

Gray, P. (2011) 'Public perceptions of foreign aid in Russia'. International Development Department, Birmingham University. Workshop: A Future for Aid Data, 31 Oct-1 Nov.

Gray, P. (2012) "The Changing Landscape of Foreign Aid: Russia as a (re)emerging donor", NUIM Library Festival of Social Sciences Roundtable, 25 January 2012.

Gray, P. (2012) "Russia as a Development Donor: Giving and Receiving in a Global Context", Department of Anthropology at Queens University Belfast, 7 February 2012.

Gray, P. (2012) "The anthropology of "emerging donors" and the uncertainty of developmental futures" Workshop at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), July 2012. Will include Gray's paper on 'Donor Expansion': Russia as a re-emerging donor and practices of donor recruitment

May Tan-Mullins, Kinga Katus and Gary Chen-Guangli (2012) Chinese public perception of overseas aid: Chinese development at a glance. Conference: 2nd international conference on Asian Studies, Osaka Japan, 1-3 June 2012

Mawdsley, E. (2011) 'Public perceptions of Indian development cooperation'. Seminars to the Geography Department and International Politics Department, University of Otago, New Zealand.

Mawdsley, E. (2012) Invited seminars to be given in Geography at Wageningen

University, The Netherlands (May 2012); the Gothernberg Centre for Globalisation and Development, Sweden (April 2012); and Birmingham University (October 2012).

### Academic outputs

Drażkiewicz-Grodzicka, E. (2011) 'From Recipient to Donor: the case of Polish developmental cooperation', submitted to Human Organization (under review).

Mawdsley, E. (2012) 'What do India's public(s) think about its development cooperation activities?'. To be submitted (March 2012) to Journal of Development Studies.

Tan-Mullins (in progress) Public perceptions of China's foreign aid and international development cooperation. To be submitted to Journal of Development Studies.

The research outcomes have also contributed to sections of:

Mawdsley, E. (2012) From Recipients to Donors: Emerging Powers and the Changing Development Landscape. Zed Books (due to be published July 2012).

### Summary

The project was a modest one, as we explained in our application, but we aimed at value for money. It was also highly original, and the outcomes have been very well-received. All five researchers have ongoing research ties and projects with the five countries (China, India, Poland, South Africa and Russia), and in the course of ongoing discussions, seminars and future research we are pursuing dissemination within these contexts.

Dr Emma Mawdsley

5 March 2012.