Emerging Donors and the Changing Landscape of Foreign Aid: Public Perceptions of Development Cooperation

Introduction
Origins of the project

• Surge of political, policy, practitioner and academic interest in the ‘non-DAC donors’
• Principally focused on:
  – Impacts on development (economic growth, poverty reduction, humanitarian crises, well-being, sustainability etc)
  – Implications for foreign aid architecture, norms and procedures
  – Role of ‘development cooperation’ within the wider agendas, trends, impacts of the emerging powers, including trade, investment, military power, geopolitical strengths
The ‘public face of development’

• Significant research and analysis within many DAC donor countries
  – Not just measuring levels of public awareness/understanding of and support for different forms of foreign aid and development policy, but also attempts to educate and persuade the public of legitimacy and effectiveness
  – Public, civil society and parliamentary scrutiny of foreign aid: a democratic imperative and a social-political debate

• Academic analyses
  – Policy-oriented analyses (for bilaterals, NGOs, philanthropic foundations, private giving etc)
  – Critical research examining social constructions of Self and the Other; postcolonial perspectives; historical and present cultures of aid
The public face of (non-DAC) development cooperation?

• Contributes to the understanding and theorising of the wide variety of ‘non-DAC’ donors/development cooperation partners
  — To date, few analysts focusing on the articulation between public awareness/debates and development cooperation discourse and practice
• Extends the public face of development literature beyond its western heartland
• Contributes to analyses of the ‘rising powers’: public perspectives on this aspect of international relations
  — Significant symbolic value, often higher than actual material flows.
• Contributes to regional studies expertise: international relations, politics, sociology, geographies of case study countries.
Why China, India, Poland, Russia and South Africa?

- A network of congenial scholars with country expertise
- A range of ‘non-DAC’ donors: ‘new’ EU, Asian Drivers, post-socialist, different attitudes to OECD-DAC/UN/global architecture etc
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• All of the views expressed here are independent, and are not necessarily endorsed by DFID.