Impact Evaluation of JICA’s Projects: Overview
• JICA’s project evaluation is almost always based on less rigorous, qualitative methods.
• Only a few rigorous “impact evaluations” were/are officially conducted by JICA
  – Third Elementary Education Project in the Philippines
    • Propensity score matching
    • Yamauchi et al. (2011), Yamauchi et al. (2012)
  – “Support to the Improvement of School Management through Community Participation” in Burkina Faso
    • Randomized control trials
    • Sawada et al. (2012)
  – Some more ongoing ones

Impact Evaluation of JICA’s Projects: Overview
• Some “semi-official” impact evaluations were done in and outside JICA (mostly in JICA RI)
  – Irrigation project in Sri Lanka
    • Natural experiments & PSM
    • Sawada et al. (2010)
  – Some were done by Todo (explained later)
    • Participatory forest management in Ethiopia (funded by JICA RI)
    • Tech assistance in the foundry industry in Indonesia (funded by Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, a public institution related to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
Results from current (less rigorous, qualitative) evaluations look very good.

Results of ex-post evaluation of 93 projects conducted in 2010 (A [very good]-D [poor])

Consequence of Few Impact Evaluations?
Cabinet Office (2011), Opinion Survey on Diplomacy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2009), Opinion Survey on ODA
- “What should be done regarding ODA?”
  47%: “Clearer information should be provided.”
- “What should be on the web site of MOFA?”
  36%: “Outcomes of ODA”

An Example of Impact Evaluation on Sustainable Development and Climate Adaptation: JICA’s Participatory Forest Management Project in Ethiopia

Share of forests in total land
35% in early 20th century → 16% in 1950 → 13% in 2005

Deforestation in Project Areas: Constructed from Remote Sensing Data

40% of forests have been lost since 1985.
Summary of the Results from Ethiopia

Large positive effect on forest protection
– Directly through forest associations and forest coffee certification
– Indirectly through income generation due to farmer field schools

Lesson learnt
Effect of forest associations on forest areas in the year of establishment: - (though + in 2 years) ➞ “Last-minute logging”

Another Example: Impact Evaluation of Technical Assistance in the Foundry Industry in Indonesia
Project: 1999-2004

Direct technology transfer
Local firms

Japanese engineers
Indirect transfer
Local counterpart engineers
### Summary of Impact Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Training by Japanese engineers</th>
<th>Training by local counterpart engineers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>No training</td>
<td>No training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>Retrospective data from the firm-level survey in 2006</td>
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<td>Estimation</td>
<td>Difference-in-differences propensity score matching</td>
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<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Change rate in the reject ratio</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Effect</td>
<td>-15% in 1 year</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
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<td>Note</td>
<td>Average change rate in the reject ratio: -2.5%</td>
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<td>Finding</td>
<td>Large effect</td>
<td>Successful transfer to local counterpart</td>
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<td>Reference</td>
<td>Todo (2011)</td>
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### Suggestions to JICA
- Expand impact evaluation
  - By spending more:
    - How much is spent on evaluation?
  - By making the evaluation unit more independent
  - By enhancing evaluation capacity
- Utilize impact evaluation
  - To convince tax payers
  - To improve future projects

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### References