FOCUS SESSION 3:
Leveraging development innovations from Non-State Actors in the BRICS and MICs: Civil Society Organisations, Think-Tanks and Businesses as drivers of mutual learning for inclusive and effective development
08.00-09.15, Room Diezmo 3

Objective:
To highlight and showcase the roles played by CSOs, Think-Tanks and Businesses in South-South Cooperation; analysing their current and potential value-added for the “how” of development cooperation in the post-2015 landscape; drawing on an evidence-base of case-studies and research on the BRICS’ and Mexico’s engagements with Low-Income Countries.

Session Format:
The session is hosted by the Future International Cooperation Policy Network, and brings together research and policy-oriented CSOs and think-tanks from the BRICS with counterparts from DAC member countries in a live-streamed ‘talk-show’ format. With the moderator as ‘host’, it will open with a panel of 3 keynote speakers giving framing presentations; followed by a moderated round-table of contributions from the key discussants, and audience interaction. The presentations will be accompanied by short sections of a film relating to the specific case-studies, which showcase innovative CSO development cooperation initiatives and business practices from the BRICSAM countries’ engagements with LICs in Africa and Central America.

Speakers/Panellists:

- Moderator: Ana Toni, CEO of GIP, Board Chair of Greenpeace International, Brazil
- Keynote speaker – Civil society, innovation and mutual learning: Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President of PRIA, India
- Keynote speaker – Private-sector actors, innovation and mutual learning: Lizbeth Navas-Alemán, Associate and Lead Researcher on “Business from the BRICS”, Institute of Development Studies, UK
- Keynote speaker – Think-tank networks, innovation and mutual learning: Li Xiaoyun, China Agricultural University/China International Development Research Network, China
Discussants:
- Ahmed Ali Silay, Minister-Delegate of International Cooperation, Djibouti [TBC]

Round-table discussion speakers:
- Bianca Suyama, Coordinator and Founding-Partner, Articulação SUL, Brazil
- Kaustuv Bandhyopadhay, Director of Society & Global Partnerships, PRIA, India,
- Richard Carey, Advisory Council member, Future International Cooperation Policy Network

Background/Narrative:
This dynamic session will debate the engagement of Civil Society Organisations, businesses and think-tanks from Middle-Income Countries in South-South Cooperation (SSC) policy and practice. These non-state actors (NSAs) have played a significant role in the delivery of SSC, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge from which other actors in SSC can learn. The session will foreground the hitherto neglected roles of these NSAs, and identify the key lessons learned from recent case study research, presenting a set of recommendations for working with NSAs through inclusive partnerships which leverage key innovations, maximising their impact and effectiveness in the post-2015 development landscape.

Related Links:
Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA): www.pria.org
Articulação SUL: http://www.articulacaosul.org/home.html
Institute of Development Studies: http://www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/rising-powers-in-international-development-programme
Forthcoming: Mini-site for the Focus Session at the GPEDC Mexico HLM:
To be launched on 14th April 2014: http://cso-ssc.org/

Organisers:
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