

Introduction to the Symposium "Development Cooperation of Norway"

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(1) Norway Research in 2005

In late November, 2005, I visited the Department of Social Anthropology and Centre for Development Studies at the University of Bergen, the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Bergen, the Department of Social Anthropology of Oslo University, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) in Oslo, Norway. These visits were undertaken to gather information on development research, education, and projects relating to these organizations. Several characteristics of Norwegian development co-operation were identified during this research.

First, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation financially supports various development programs and projects of universities, research institutes and NGOs. Secondly, universities and research institutions participate in international development cooperation projects in various ways. Thirdly, Norwegian NGOs play significant roles in international development co-operation. Finally, social anthropologists and their expertise are highly valued and socially respected in Norway. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation employs and utilizes anthropologists as program directors and/or advisors.

Before starting the first session, I would like to briefly introduce NORAD, the Department of Social Anthropology and Centre for Development Studies at the University of Bergen, and the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI).

(2) Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and Norway's International Development Cooperation

The history of Norwegian Aid is deeply associated with missionary activities and with supporting the independence of African countries under the influence of the Norwegian left social movement. Characteristic of the aid provided by Norway is that it attempts to spread Norwegian social democracy to other countries at the same time. Also, it is important to point out that NGOs such as the Red Cross actively engage in development aid activities.

Norwegian development cooperation began at the end of 1940s. In 1952, the Norwegian Government established an Aid Fund for Underdeveloped Countries to assist development activities in India. In 1962, the Aid Fund for Underdeveloped Countries was replaced by Norwegian Agency for International Development, an independent state institution under the overall control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. By the end of the 1960s, aid activities were extended to many countries in Asia and Africa. In 1968, the administrative structure was again reorganized and aid activities were taken over by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

Until 2004, the administration of Norwegian development cooperation was divided between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NORAD. While NORAD was responsible for bilateral and long-term aid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

oversaw the administration of aid through international organizations such as the UN, the World Bank, etc., . They also handled emergency relief and humanitarian aid programs. Since 2004, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been responsible for bilateral development cooperation. NORAD concentrates on giving advice and being a good dialogue partner in development cooperation. It also gives financial support to Norwegian non-governmental organizations.

In 2003, Norwegian assistance totaled NOK 14.5 billions (about 2,900 oku yen), or 0.92 per cent of Norway's Gross National Income (GNI), and NORAD assistance totaled about NOK 4.9 billions (about 980 oku yen). In 2007, Norway's assistance will probably total about NOK 20 billions and correspond to 0.97 per cent of its estimated Gross National Income (GNI).

Following the UN's "Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs), Norway's current development aid focuses on poverty reduction. Its primary partner countries include Ethiopia, Uganda, Mali, Zambia, Sudan, Malawi, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, etc. in Africa, China, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Vietnam etc. in Asia, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Bolivia, etc. in Latin America and Palestinian Area in Middle East.

Twenty-five years ago, NORAD was carrying out several infrastructure construction projects in developing countries, requiring the work of many engineers. In the mid-1980s, the government introduced what is called a multi-sector program, and in the 1990s, democratization and human rights became main issues for Norway's development projects. At the same time NORAD began employing social scientists such as anthropologists, political scientists, as well as other aid agencies. They played an active role in various development projects.

The development projects with which NORAD is concerned are those of civil-society building, research, education, multilateral cooperation and international NGOs. Because NORAD employs a staff of only 190, it relies on cooperation with universities, research institutes and NGOs to conduct development projects.

(3) University of Bergen and International Development Cooperation

In the 1960's Norway began to admit a large population of immigrants to fulfill a shortage in her labor force. Many of these were from third-world countries such as Pakistan, as well as from African and Arabic countries. Given the complex situation that arose in Norway following mass immigration, research into social integration and related topics became important research topics in the country, a large number of graduate students and researchers in social anthropology began to focus on these topics, and social anthropological study devoted to Norwegian society has begun to resemble applied anthropology there.

There are departments of social anthropology at Universities of Oslo, Bergen, Tromso, and Trondheim, where many students specialize in social anthropology. There are two characteristics of Norwegian anthropology. One is that field research and developing the ability to write ethnography are both considered an essential part of the anthropology. Another is that the faculties of these universities encourage students to carry out research both in their own country and abroad.

In the 1990s, social anthropology became the major and most prestigious discipline in Norway. Because social anthropologists like Thomas H. Eriksen

actively disseminated their opinions to the citizens through mass media, they are very influential in the social public sphere. Because social anthropology is highly respected discipline in Norway, good anthropology students have little difficulty getting scholarships, fellowships or jobs.

The University of Oslo covers a variety of research topics. On the other hand, in 2002, University of Bergen began to develop a strategy to focus on marine and development studies in education and research. Bergen, facing the Atlantic Ocean, is an economic center for export and import of marine products. Also, since the 1980's, the faculty of medicine at the university of Bergen, with funding from EU, has studied socially relevant health problems such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

In this symposium, Professors Edvard Hvding and Leif Manger will talk about development research and education, and projects of department of social Anthropology and Centre for Development Studies at University of Bergen.

3.1 Department of Social Anthropology

The department of Social Anthropology at the University of Bergen was established by Professor Frederik Barth. In the 1960s to 1970s, because department members, like Barth, emphasized the study of social transaction and process, they were called "Bergen School".

While faculty members carried out sociologically oriented research at the department, they also studied development. The Sudan development project of the department is especially well known. In Session III, Professor Manger will give a presentation on the Sudan Project. In the 1980s, many professors worked as development consultants. For example, Professor Hvding was lucky enough to play an advisory role in a UNESCO development project focusing on environment and education in the Solomon Islands.

The department of social anthropology at University of Bergen gives basic anthropological as well as applied-anthropological education. Half of the Master students are studying their own country (Norwegian society). Applied anthropologists with MA degree are working in business world, governmental and international organizations, culture centers and museums, and development sectors.

In the 1990's, with NORAD funding, the M. Phil program of the department of social anthropology began to offer courses on development studies to students from developing countries. In this special master program in the anthropology of development, 10 students from developing countries and 5 from within Norway are accepted with scholarships every two years. Six or seven faculty members teach the courses in rotation. The foreign students primarily came from Asia (India, Bang radish, China, etc.), Africa (Sudan, etc.), South America and the former Soviet Union. One third of them will go on to do Ph.D. work in the department. There is an F. Barth Fellowship for Ph.D. to assist students from developing countries.

3.2 Centre for Development Studies

The Centre for Development Studies was established at the University of Bergen in September, 1986. The aims of the center are to stimulate, implement, and coordinate research, training and other activities related to development. The Center is interdisciplinary and involves various departments and faculties of

University of Bergen. The activities of the centre include the research, education and practice of a wide range of development problems. The main research areas of the centre include development studies, resource system, dry area, water resource management, NGO, development aid, and international cultural heritage. The centre consists of 13 researchers, 7 administrators, 5 centre associates, 3 Ph.D. students and 18 MA students.

(4) Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI) and International Development Cooperation

Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Bergen is an independent, non-profit research institution and a major international centre in policy-oriented and applied development research. The institute's main goal is to conduct high quality research and to contribute to political decision making and the public discourse on international development.

The focus is on development and human rights issues and on international conditions that affect such issues. That is, CMI's Main research areas are: Human Rights and Democratization, Peace-building, Global Economy and Development, Public Sector Reform, Aid Policy and Impact, Poverty and Social Transformation, Natural Resource Management.

The institute's geographical focus is Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern and Central Asia, the Middle East, the Balkans and South America. CMI employs about 45 social scientists, primarily anthropologists, economists and political scientists. About 20 are cultural/social anthropologists.

In 2004, the Institute maintained four Strategic Institute Programs (SIP), which are financed by the Research Council of Norway (NFR): Political Institutions in Africa, Courts in Transition, Peace-building, and Business Ethics for Multinational Corporations in Developing Countries. Additionally, CMI runs a Human Rights Program with separate financing from Norway's Ministry of Education and Research (EFD).

Today, Mr. Alf Morten Jerve from CMI will talk about the role of research in the development projects.

(5) NGOs and International Development Cooperation

One distinct characteristic of Norway's development aid is a focus on the development activities of NGOs such as the Red Cross. In this symposium, Professor Terje Tvedt from Centre for Development Studies at University of Bergen was supposed to give a presentation on Norwegian Development and NGOs. Unfortunately, however, he was not able to make it in this occasion.

Session II will focus on development activities of the Japanese NGOs. First, Mr. Kan Hiroshi Sato will speak about relationships between ODA and NGOs in Japanese international development cooperation. Then, Mr. Toyohiko Nakata will talk about international development co-operation by Japanese NGOs.

(6) Themes of This Symposium

This symposium focuses on relationships between international development cooperation and universities/research institutes, those between NGOs and ODA, development NGOs activities, and the Sudan development project of the University of Bergen, with case studies from Norway and Japan. By discussing these examples,

the roles of universities, research institutes or NGOs in international development cooperation projects will be examined. Furthermore, the symposium will address the following additional questions.

- ① What are the roles of cultural anthropologists and sociologists in Norwegian Development Projects ?
- ② How are the University and Research Institutes involved in the development cooperation projects in Norway?
- ③ How were students of development cooperation trained in Norwegian universities?