

Book Review

Editor's Note

Our policy is to review all books which are either sent to us or in our opinion are useful to our readers.

Agarwal, Saurabh; *Dynamics of Investor's Behaviour*; 2016, LAP Lambert Publishing Company, Germany, pp. 138, Price EURO 64.90

One of the biggest paradoxes in India has been that it had huge savings, but rarely productive. Lethargy led to bank deposits reign supreme and gold was an obsession. Times are changing and financial assets are getting upper hand. Investment is a complex process. Theories and models in the past have highlighted the various factors in the economic, social psychological background of an investor that determine his/her investment decision process. This study is an attempt to explore and identify the behavioural finance in Indian context which understand the relationship between social, economic and psychological factors that influence individual investment process. The study is an empirical work conducted to understand the demographic influence of investment decisions with respect to investment alternatives in a given defined financial economic environment.

Author tried to interpret the effect of variables like age, marital status, annual income, retirement, occupation, perception and source of income on investment behavior. An exhaustive review of literature covered work done by Hary Markowitz, Roy, Tobin, Sharpe and so on provided by the author in this book. The selection of an investment decision, in literature strongly attribute individualistic choices that influence investment decision which are neither homogeneous nor ubiquitous.

To understand the Indian investors, a questionnaire was prepared and used by the author. Unfortunately, author experienced low response of self administered questionnaire through mail and e-mail. Later on a mixed model was used to increase the number of respondents for the study. Personal touch increased the response rate to 74%. For the questionnaire both rating scales and ranking scales were used. Author focused on small retail investors and they constituted 89% of the sample. It had been observed that 62% of the respondent preferred putting their money in long term investment. 89% of

respondents had plans to invest within next 12 months. Investors preferred source of information in newspaper. Majority of respondents were satisfied by the speed of service by portfolio managers. Respondents gave more importance to return than risk. Variable income securities was the most preferred investment option. Saving was found to be the major source of investment and 48% of the respondents rely on fundamental analysis. It is found that people keep multiple goals while saving. Majority preferred the investment combination of saving deposits (for debt securities) and self created portfolio of securities.

Using conditional probability, it was observed gender and marital status did not affect the purpose and process of investment. Age, retirement, risk and return do affect the goals and process of investment. Further, gender, occupation and age of an individual also affect the choice of source an investor chooses. The dynamics of the investment process, culture and the relationship between investors and their advisors, significantly impact the decision-making process and resulting investment performance. Generally investors try to avoid pain of regret by avoiding the realization of losses, employing investment advisors as scapegoat and avoiding share of companies with low reputations.

Economists, sociologist and psychologists explained the investor's behavior in their own way. Economist's focuses on the rationality and "irrationality" of investor's decision making processes. A sociologists focuses on investor's social environment. A sociologist perceives investor to be preserving or enhancing his / her stature within a group in the society. A psychologist focuses on individual characteristics. This research work is an overlap between these disciplines. If the markets are efficient and complete information is available, then there would be predefined outcome of investor's action/actions. However, the markets are not efficient and the complex market conditions make it more risky and uncertain to invest. Uncertainty in returns makes it more difficult for an investor to make objective decision/decisions. Return is the sum of all possible variables, adjusted for the level of probability. "Possible return" values also include the potential losses. This research study takes up number of issues affecting investors behavior. It becomes more relevant for vibrant and transforming Indian economy. Transformation is not only in capital markets, foreign exchange policies, stable political system but also broad based population pyramid. To reap demographic dividend and to enhance investment opportunity, this research work will be of immense use for each and everyone in the society. This research study has four sections. Section one dealt with the research problem, research objective and review of literature. Section two, discussed the methodology used by the author. Section three, discussed the findings and observations of the study. Section four, summarized the whole research work and placed the conclusion. At the end, author had provided areas for further exploration and research. Lastly, author had also given questionnaire in the appendix. Detailed references for the help of new generation and research is also given in this book.

This book will be a good guide and must read for post graduate and graduate students of commerce & finance, common men, researchers and so on. This book is must for each educational library. I must compliment the author to explain investment process in a very simple and lucid manner. Lastly, I would like to thank the publisher "LAP Lambert Academic Publishing" for bringing out this book.

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Mc Cawley, Peter; *Banking on the Future of Asia and the Pacific: 50 year of the Asian Development Bank; Asian Development Bank, Manila, Phillipines, pp. 522, Price US \$ 36*

"The purpose of Bank shall be to foster economic growth and co operation in the region of Asia and the Far East – – – and to contribute to the acceleration of the process of the developing member countries in the region, collectively and individually." Article 1, ADB charter, 1966

On 24th November 1966, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was established by the Inaugural Meeting of Bank opened at the Tokyo, Prince Hotel in Shiba Park, Tokyo. Since then 24th November has been regarded as the bank's Birthday. At that time, Asia and Pacific region was defined by poverty. It was the poorest region in the world with an annual per capita income of about US \$ 100. One of the most important challenges in the region was how to feed the large and growing population by increasing agricultural productivity. 24 November of 2016 marked the official 50th birthday of ADB. The first 20 years were chronicled in an earlier book, "A Bank for Half the World" by Wilsen (1987). Half a century later, Asia has emerged as a centre of global dynamism. Today, it accounts for the third of global gross domestic product and contributes to more than half the world's economic growth. More than a billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990. ADB had played an important role in transformation of Asia. Fifty years ago, ADB was created through the collective wishes and collaborative efforts of countries within and outside the region. Half a century later, the bank has expanded from a newly established financial institutions into a full-fledged multilateral development bank. Since 1986 (when ADB commemorated its 20th anniversary and published a corporate history book in 1987), Asia has changed a lot. So has ADB. Takehiko Nakao, President and chair of the Board of Directors, ADB, thought that they should also publish another book to commemorate ADB's 50th anniversary. President of the Bank perceived and desired that the book should be informative, a narrative and an archive. The aim was to show how growth and change in ADB had been influenced by many factors, both within the organization itself (role of its nine Presidents) and across Asia, and also by international events as well.

Underpinning the narrative and serving as anchors to help define the story are three themes which reflect the nature of the institution as a multilateral development bank: finance, development, activities, and support for regionalism. ADB is a bank so its financial activities, are central to the operations of the organization. But it is more than a bank because it had steadily widened its development activities, increasingly emphasizing the importance of knowledge and information for borrowing countries. And in its support for regionalism, ADB had drawn on its strength as a multilateral organization to encourage co-operation across Asia and Pacific. ADBs original members totaled 31 (19 regional and 12 non-regional) on 19 December 1966, compared with today's 67 members (48 regional and 19 non regional). At that time, ADB had 20 board members (10 Directors and 10 alternate directors), and only 40 staff. ADB started with small office space in Makati, spread across several buildings. Today, ADB has offices in 31 countries including Manila

In 1966	—————→	In 2016
31 member economies		67 member economies
40 staff 10 EDs, 10 AED		3092 staff 12 EDs, 12 AEDs
US \$1bn Authorized Capital		US \$143bn Authorized Capital

Author in this book aimed at to review how ADB over 50 years had responded to Asia's challenges given its unique regional perspective. This book contained three historical narratives on Asia's economic development, on the evolution of the international development agenda, and on the story of ADB itself. It will be very useful to know how ADB evolved over time in term of its membership, operations, knowledge work, funding organization, staff, strategies, and succession of leaders. At the same time, the unique characteristic of this book is to look back at Asian economic history in a fair and balanced manner, from the perspective of development and based on the rich experience of ADB's interactions with countries.

Some interesting episode from the early days of ADB along with pictures (Black and white) are covered in this book written by Peter Mc Cawley. Beginning in March 1963, there were many preparatory meetings for the establishment of ADB in Bangkok, Manila, Wellington and other Asian cities. Many people made great contributions to the creation of the bank. Florentino P. Feliciano, a Filipino lawyer helped write the ADB Charter. He drafted and redrafted the charter provisions by incorporating diverse country opinions and learning from the experiences of other multilateral development banks. Eugene Black, a former world Bank President and an investment banker, encouraged ADB to mobilize resources from capital markets. Young officials from Japan Masao Fujioka and Tadao Chino, who became fourth and seventh Presidents of ADB, were also among them. Of course, Takeshi Watanabe, a Former senior official from the ministry of Finance in Tokyo with rich international experience, played a central role in preparing the establishment of ADB before he became the first ADB President. He was closely supported by C. S. Krishna Moorthi from India and Douglas Gunesequera of Ceylon, who later served as ADB's first vice - president and

secretary respectively. In late 1965, a meeting held in Manila, 18 Asian prospective members voted to decide the location of the headquarters. In the third and final round, Manila edged out Tokyo, nine votes to eight. Manila turned out to be good decision. Manila has brought ADB closer to its developing member countries. ADB had benefited from the warm hospitality of the Filipino people and a strong pool of English-speaking professionals.

This book in all has fifteen chapters. Author introduced and emphasized ADB's characteristics as a multilateral development in introductory chapter. Each of these features – multilateralism, development, and its role as a bank – is essential to the work of the organization and had been discussed in the following chapters. ADB is multilateral in the sense that the members of the institution are governments both from across the Asia and Pacific region and from non region countries. To protect the Asian influence in key decisions in the organization, it is set down in the ADB charter that regional members must always hold at least 60% of the capital stock non regional members therefore, may never hold more than 40% of the authorized stock. ADB is also multilateral in the sense that it has numerous international partners. As set out in its charter, ADB is “Asian in its basic character”. But it is also international in outreach and cooperates with a wide array of stakeholders. By 2006, around the world there were 225 bilateral agencies and 242 multilateral agencies.

ADB activities vary widely: in many cases, ADB joined with other agencies, both in borrowing countries and with bilateral or multilateral bodies, to implement projects; in other cases, meeting were held to consider strategy and conduct policy dialogue, numerous conferences and seminars were held with participants from universities and think tanks to strengthen the knowledge base of discussion about development policy in the Asian region. On some occasions, ADB staff met with donors or the international financial community to raise fund to support the banks grant and loan programs in borrowing countries.

The ADB Charter sets out that one of Bank's main purposes “shall be to foster economic growth” in Asia and the Pacific. ADB both promoted change as well as adapted to it. In the 1950s and early 1960s, prospects for developing countries in Asia and Pacific were not encouraging. Over the next half century, the picture was dramatically transformed. During the 1970s and into the 1980s, living standard rose on a strong tide of economic growth–Propelled in many countries by the Green Revolution and export-oriented industrialization. This progress was underpinned by major economic reforms—from the late 1970s in the People Republic China (PRC), for example, and later in India. Despite the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis and the 2008 global financial crisis, this momentum was sustained in 1990s and 2000s. There had also been marked progress in people's quality of life. In 1966, average life expectancy in developing Asia was around 50 years. Now, average life expectancy had risen to 71 years.

Three broad themes reflecting trends across the region emerge as the story unfolds in the chapters that follow. The first theme is that of

transformation. The transformation across developing countries in Asia during the past 50 years had been astonishing. A determination to promote change began to spread across developing Asia. The vibrant developing Asia of 2016 presented a picture entirely different from the discouraging scene of 1960s. The second theme points to the importance of resilience. Many shocks of various kinds have brought confusion and distress in developing Asia during the 50 years. Whether the shocks had been economic, financial, or humanitarian, developing countries in Asia have rebounded. The third theme relates to stability. Element of stability had been maintenance of careful fiscal and monetary policies along with spread of peace and increasing co-operation. In the mid 1960's developing Asia was marked by regional instability and open conflict. In the last 50 years, many successful steps were taken to reduce conflict and encouraged regional co-operation. Today, there is a strong sense of the need for countries to co-operate to promote development and of the benefits of supporting programs to strengthen stability in the region. Chapters outlined ADB's participation in this remarkable period of change. In the early years, loans were mainly for public sector projects such as agricultural development, roads, industrial, programs and finance institutions. Later the Bank expanded into other areas introducing new forms of loans and other financial assistance. Today, ADB offers access to a wide range of loans and as well as equity investments and bank guarantees. This support had been adapted to countries at differing levels of economic development. The charter established that ADB should have "special regard to the needs of the smaller or less developed members in the region. Even as membership grew and became more diverse, the Bank's work continued to be guided by this principle.

In the early 1980's the fourth President Masao Fujioka, planned for Bank to become a "development resources centre for Asia and Pacific". ADB publications included regular surveys of regional economic trends and key sectoral issues. These international public goods informed and contributed to an Asian perspective and global policy. To foster regional economic co-operation, Bank undertook a series of strategic studies – the Asian transport survey and the Asian Energy Survey – which identified opportunities for regional countries to work together. For the 21st century, ADB had set out a four pillar strategy for regional co-operation: supporting infrastructure connectivity, expanding and intraregional trade and investment coordinating financial and monetary policy, and providing regional public goods .

The founders of ADB aimed to establish a bank to mobilize resources to finance the large development needs of Asia. Asia was poor and had a desperate shortage of capital. ADB is as much a bank as a development institution. Non regional membership in ADB by developed countries was essential to enhance creditability of ADB as a borrower. President Watanabe insisted on sound banking principles as it took more than one year before ADB approved its first loan. The importance of "economic considerations"

was mentioned in the ADB charter and analysis of the economic value of individual project had been an integral part of ADB's operation right from the beginning. ADB could successfully launched an ADB bond in Germany in 1969, in Austria and Japan in 1970, and in the United States (with a AAA rating) in 1971. In the early years, ADB's lending was around \$100 mn per year. By 2005, annual approvals were US \$6.3 bn and by 2016 these had reached US \$ 17.5 bn. Initially, providing only to sovereign loans during first decade of operation, ADB broadened its activities into nonsovereign approvals in the early 1980s. In 1983 a direct equity investment – a first for the Bank – was approved for an investment in the private sector. In 1986, ADB began direct lending to private sector enterprises without the benefit of any government guarantee. In 2005, with the support of industrial donor countries, ADB provided the first grants from the ADF program in 2013, ADB decided to initiate discussions on a remarkably innovative restructuring of its balance sheet. The plan was unanimously approved in 2015 and came into effect on January 1, 2017. The financial implications of the restructuring for the bank, and for its capacity to support expanded operations, are far reaching. The change merged its concessional Asian Development Fund (ADF) loan resource with non concessional ordinary capital resources (OCR). As a result of this startling piece of financial engineering, equity was boosted from US \$ 17.2bn to more than US \$ 48 bn. ADB could respond positively to the growing request for support from borrowing countries. ADB had also to be cost-effective and efficient. During 1966 to 2016, ADB's internal budget grew from less US \$ 3mn to around US \$ 636mn.

Chapters organized chronologically by decade, the book traces major developments in the Asia and Pacific region and showed how ADB responded since its establishment in 1966. ADB had nine Presidents. There are clear patterns of both continuity and change in the different approaches that different Presidents had brought. Each president aimed to build on the priorities of previous Presidents, promoting reforms. Past five decades, ADB itself had become a much more complex institutions as reforms had been introduced and as the international development agenda had evolved. Over time, Presidents have had to take on widening roles, guiding ADB in a region where rapid development and globalization had been taking place. Takeshi Watanabe (1966-1972) often called " Father of the Bank" (chapter three), Shiro Inoue (1972-1976), a banker from the Bank of Japan, the Japanese Central Bank, arrived just as there were early hopes for peace in Viet-Nam (chapter five). Very soon, his attention to peace in Indo-China was overtaken by the first oil shock in 1973-74. Tarochi Yoshida (1976-1981) initiated measures to widen the Bank's role. Yoshida's legacy was to commission a major report on a study of operational priorities and plans of the Asian development bank for the 1980s (chapter six). Masao Fujioka (1981-1989) adopted the program set out in the operational priority study (chapter seven). Masao Fujioka was keen to see the organization widen its activities beyond a focus on banking and play a role as a wider development institution. In

1987, Fujioka invited an external group of five experts to prepare a study on the work of the bank "Report of a panel on the Role of Asian Development Bank in the 1990's", provided an agenda for reform for the next president Kimimasa Torumizu (1989-1993). Within the Bank, Tarumizu's decision in 1992 to introduce a strategic planning process set the frame work for continuing institutional reform throughout the 1990s (chapter eight).

The sixth President, Milsuo Sato (1993-1999) immediately gave top priority to reaching agreement on General Capital increase (GCI), which was approved in May 1994 (chapter nine). A second priority was to strengthen ADB as a "fully fledged development institution," during his 5 years tenure. However, Sato was immensely concerned by the effects of Asian financial crisis in 1997 (chapters ten and chapter eleven). He led ADB's responses in the crisis affected countries and then supported the expansion of a range of new program within ADB designed to strengthen financial systems in Asia so as to help guard against similar events in the future. Tradao Chino (1999-2005), introduced a new "poverty Reduction Strategy" (chapter twelve). New corporate strategies - a 15 year Long-Term Strategic Framework and a 5 year medium term Strategic Framework- were introduced to support the poverty reduction strategy. Tadao Chino also took steps to raise the proportion of women in senior and professional positions in the Bank. ADB's first woman Vice-President was appointed in 2003. Haruhika Kuroda (2005-2013), gave strong support to an expansion of ADB's regional activities. However, Kuroda faced the task of guiding the bank through the unexpected 2007-2008 global financial crisis. He also guided the Bank to set a new corporate plan, strategy 2020, in 2008. Takehika Nakao (2013 onwards), believed that additional efforts to reform the Bank were needed and urged ADB to be "stronger, better, faster". Nakao revised strategy 2020 through a midterm review and began considering a new "Strategy 2030". In August 2013, Nakao initiated the innovative ADF- OCR merger to reform the finances of the Bank in a way that will permit a sharp increase in operations (loans and grants) by 50% toward an annual level of around US \$ 20 bn within a few years. Nakao also strengthened sector and thematic groups to share experiences as "One ADB" and announced a doubling of ADB's climate finance ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP₂₁) in Paris in late 2015.

At ADB Board meeting (May 2017) at Yokohama, Japan, Nakao, summarized ADB's achievements in its three broad functions. First is support for developing members in combining finance and knowledge, through sovereign and non-sovereign projects in both infrastructure and social sectors. Second is the promotion of good policies through high level dialogue, technical assistance and capacity building and policy-based lending (budget support for reforms), ADB had also provided emergency budget support when members were hit by crisis. Third is catalyzing regional co-operation and friendship. ADB support initiatives for sub regions in Central Asia, South Asia, South East Asia the Pacific, and the Greater Mekong.

Development is a continuing journey- a transforming process – which emerging countries in Asia are currently embarked upon. Many forces that have influenced this process in the past will continue to exert their influence in the coming decades. New challenges will emerge along the way as well. Still 330 mn people live in absolute poverty on less than US \$ 1.90 a day. Large infrastructure gaps constrain economic development and people's welfare. Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by world leaders at the United Nations in 2015 and climate change actions agreed at COP₂₁, are collective priorities for Asian countries. Countries in Asia, collectively, had shown the commitment and capacity, to manage the transformation process- in ways that vary and were seen to be appropriate in the different situations that different countries faced. There is need to promote private sector, gender equality, solving problem of aging and of widening inequalities.

This book is a history of the Asian Development Bank, a multilateral development bank established 50 years ago to serve Asia and the Pacific. It depicts the story of the institution, focusing on the way ADB has evolved over time. This book in true sense fulfills the expectations of the President, Takehiko Nakao–informative, a narrative and an archive. This book is a comprehensive record of ADB's history, "Banking on the Future of Asia and the Pacific" raised several key questions: what were the outstanding features of regional development to which ADB had to respond? How had the bank grown and evolved in changing circumstances? How did ADB's successive leaders promoted reforms while preserving continuity with the efforts of their predecessors? These questions have been answered in detail in this book along with number of photographs, explanations, monograms and interviews etc. A detailed Bibliography will help researchers and academicians. At the end of the book, there are 4 appendixes namely- Asia: Regional overview tables, ADB; Institutional; operational, and Financial Highlights Tables, ADB; Impact of the ADF-OCR merger and ADB's Financial statements; ADB: Time Line of Key ADB Milestone, 1950s to 2016. In chapter fifteen "Epilogue: Looking beyond 50 years" had been presented by Peter.

Takehiko Nakao President's Message in ADB Annual Report 2013, *"Asia's development landscape has changed dramatically over the past several decades. Impressive growth has brought equally impressive poverty reduction – . Yet the region has a long way to go on its development journey. A large proportion of the region's population lives on less than \$2 a day and remains highly vulnerable to external shocks – . As it continues to grow, Asia must increase its focus on environmentally sustainable development."*

This book can provide valuable insight on how best to serve Asia and the Pacific in the future. This book will be very helpful and will serve the purpose of understanding the important characteristics and culture of ADB. It is a must for students of history, finance, economics, international relationship and international trade along with bilateral and multilateral agreements.

The Book is a must for academicians, politicians, economists, managers, Banking and Financial institutions' CEO's to know how ADB responded in last 50 years to Asia's challenges. The book gives its unique regional perspective. ADB had played in last 50 years and will continue to play a critical role in building on Asia and Pacific that is vibrant, inclusive and sustainable. This book is a beautiful gift to the academic world by Peter Mc Cawley. Without his relentless enthusiasm, this book would not have become a reality. Last but not the least I must thank President Takehiko Nakao and his team for conceptualising and publishing "Banking on the future of Asia and the Pacific" to commemorate ADB's 50th anniversary.

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Thomas, Vinod; *Climate Change and Natural Disasters -Transforming Economics and Policies for a Sustainable Future*; 2017, Transaction Publication, New Jersey, USA, pp.150, US \$ 100

The world today faces a grave danger with climatic factors that have a event life span that ranges from a few minutes (earthquakes), hours (tornado, thunderstorm), days (cold front, floods), months (tropical cyclone, Mid latitude weather system), years (monsoon, droughts), decades (El Nino), century (climate change) . The world has already suffered disaster related loss of US\$3.8 trillion during 1980-2012 of which 74% was caused by weather related or hydro-meteorological disaster where 1.4 millions lives have been lost. World's 136 largest cities could face an estimated annual flood losses of US\$ 1 trillion by 2050 (Expeience 2013). Over a million people worldwide have died from natural disaster since 2000 with damages estimated at over US\$ 1.7 trillion. Climate change can push a hundred million people into extreme poverty by 2030 for which there is an urgent need for climate smart development and safety nets. The urgency to the act can be found in observed effects of warming world; shrinking glaciers; decreasing crop yields and irreversible sea level rise from ice sheet loss. Risks arise from interaction of three elements namely hazard, exposure and vulnerability. Every 1C rise in global temperatures is likely to increase the frequency of the event Hurrican Katrina seven times with twice its magnitude. Climate models indicate 3% to 5% increase in wind speed per degree Celsius increase of tropical sea surface temperatures. Hurricane Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan and El Nin Southern Oscillations are all a result of warm ocean waters. Poorer economies are hit harder by natural disasters than developed economies as there is less awareness, preparedness and technology to deal with the disaster and its consequences besides the huge rebuilding costs. Less than 5% of disaster losses in Asian and Pacific are insured as compared to 40% in developed countries. To limit CO₂ levels to 450 ppm the book estimates that 80% of electricity will have to to be supplied by renewables and nuclear by 2050. Unless greenhouse gas Emissions including CO₂ concentrations are checked, global temperatures would rise and would escalate climate change and disaster risk.

Disaster Risk today is an important risk that is likely to cost a US \$ 1 trillion annually to world economies. The risk is determined by the occurrence of natural hazard, vulnerability of the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged who are also exposed to poorly planned development. Poorer nations are at a greater risk than the high income or advanced economies for their development in terms of technology, habitats, education, healthcare, information systems and governance maintains their survival and growth rates ten-twenty times higher than any emerging or developing nation. It is estimated that between 2001 to 2006, middle income economies observed impact of disaster to be about 1% of GDP, ten times higher than high income trapped in poverty and be vulnerable to natural hazards especially in Sub Saharan Africa, South Asia, Large coastal Line regions including several emerging middle income group economies.

Disasters cause a damage and loss of a decade of development in qualitative and quantitative terms both forward and backward from the point of time the disaster happened. Immediate damages are easier to control and rebuild against long term implication that fall on human development because of recurrences of disasters like malnutrition and others. Some losses may never ever be compensated like loss of human life, environmental damage and other indirect impacts are difficult to be quantified against the destruction of physical asset. Investment in risk preparation through assets and services across four sectors namely human capital, physical and financial assets, social support and state support can help mitigate any loss. One of the important drivers of this risk is concentration of population and assets at risky areas. Economies need to minimize the magnitude of the hazard especially caused by the weather related factors that begin their impact from hours to day and then over centuries for smogs to El Ninos or depleting ozone layer, all this has called for international organizations like the UNCTAD, World Bank, OECD, WTO and other to cooperate on climate change which include the recent developments on carbon pricing. It is observed that climate change in 134 countries with an increase of 1pC has lead to a reduction of 9% percentage points in per capita GDP. Climatic changes worst affect the vulnerable section of the society that struggles for basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter and hence it is necessary that the policy makers build better and stronger habitats for poor people that may reduce certain and uncertain damages and losses.

This book explores dimensions of disaster risk reduction, gives estimates of regionwise impacts of disasters and how rising temperatures are a serious cause of concern. The book explores with special reference to Philippines the world second highly risky country prone to disasters and how measures taken in the economy have lead to zero causalities.

The book also claims that there is lack of political will to deal with the problem of climate change and the economics of climate changes presently does not estimate correctly the impact of climate change. The book

continuously emphasizes on the need for reestimating project costs that impact the environment adversely and to take steps that can restore the equilibriums on the earth. The book explains in a simple language the process of climate change and its impacts felt through different natural disasters that are no longer natural but man made or man enabled. Climate change mitigation measures like carbon pricing, removing fossil fuel subsidies, greater dependence on renewable sources, switch to nuclear energy, achieving energy efficiency through better technology and forest management and protection have been explored. The book also explores disaster management cycle to soften the impact of hazards. The need for social safety nets like transfer payments to protect the poor has been emphasized. Good Governance with Zero tolerance for corruption is proposed. India has been praised for its efforts for adopting higher standard of professionalism in dealing with disasters. The book advocates the need to act locally and quickly by asking governments to create partnerships with local ownerships. The role of information technology in reallocating emergency funds and creating communication channels is further emphasized.

The book steadily builds a case for green growth against economic growth which lacks political will globally. The book is optimistic that all this can change but for it to change, the world does not have to simultaneously change but needs to take small and concrete steps at the policy level that can channelize green growth engines partaking the present economic growth engines.

The book is a must read for policy makers, researchers, post graduate students and governments who guide, develop, regulate and supervise investments in different economic growth engines. Environmentalists, social service groups and disaster relief teams would also gain from climate change and natural disaster mitigation insights presented in this book.

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Yamini Agarwal

Brian, Tomlinson, *The Reality of Aid 2016*; 2016 IBON International, Manila, Philippines, 2016, pp. 315, Price US \$ 10

A lot of aid is being given for poverty eradication, little literature is present on how the aid is effectively improving the lives of poor and down trodden. The current report does a reality check on aid and development cooperation.

Technical assistance also called technical cooperation (TC) involves training programs, capacity building or technical expertise for enabling achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Technical cooperation is aimed for increasing the domestic resource mobilization in

developing countries, creating local capacities, supporting micro, small and medium sized enterprises, investment promotion, infrastructure development and developing trade capacities.

Over the years, it has been observed that there is a poor track record of technical cooperation. For improving the progress of technical cooperation it is recommended that four Busan principles should be adopted: (a) Democratic country ownership; (b) Focus on developing country results; (c) Respecting inclusive partnerships and (d) Transparency and accountability.

The situation of technical cooperation in Uganda has been analyzed by Juliet Akello. Many initiatives have been undertaken for debt relief, poverty reduction and economic development. It was found that effectiveness of any program depends upon motives of the partners, policy effectiveness, resource allocation and priorities of the partner countries. Donor countries are anxious about proper utilization of their funds. The safeguard of aid utilization must be done in a manner that in the long run it leads to local institutional building and capacity development.

Yumnam discusses the issues in technical assistance in Manipur and North East India. International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are increasingly getting involved with Government of India for development of infrastructure projects, roads, urban project, power reforms, trade and investment. Asian Development Bank (ADB) continues to be the most important IFI in the north east region (NER). IFIs like ADB, the World Bank (WB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Department for International Development (DFID, UK), Australian Aid (AUS AID) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are promoting the development agenda with focus on private sector. Attention should be given to even promote the interest of indigenous communities. Projects should only be implemented after detailed socio, economic, health and environmental impact assessment. Attention should also be paid that the corporate coming to the north east should not exploit the abundant natural resources in the region. Accountability on the part of IFIs, Corporate and the government towards the indigenous communities should be recognized and given due attention before implementing any project.

Cortes and Ryding emphasize on the concept of tax dodging by multinational corporation (MNCs) costing developing countries between US \$ 70 billion to US \$ 120 billion per year. Organization for Economic cooperation and development (OECD) plays an important role in the area of international taxation. Developing countries have little say in OECD. It is important that developing countries should also be a part of negotiations of the international tax standards. This can happen if there is an inter-governmental body on tax matters under the United Nations (UN). Taxation of Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) is a very political issue and as such must be handled very sensitively but at the same time not compromising on the principles of fair taxation. Developing countries should have a fair share in the international taxation revenues.

Ait Bayeya acknowledged the increase in technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan. Focus areas include public administration, transport sector and sustainable development. A need for collaborative project planning and implementation was recommended so that variances between budgeted forecasts and actual data could be minimized. Civil society organizations (CSOs) can play a vital role in monitoring credits, grants and donor's technical assistance.

Mahmud and Akter have questioned the effectiveness of technical cooperation in Bangladesh. Technical Assistance was found to ignore local conditions and in-appropriate for meeting the long term priorities of Bangladesh. High salaries to the consultants also distort the labor market. Authoritative comments on the performances of technical assistance can only be made if information on technical assistance projects is made public.

Chamikara has analyzed the technical assistance in the water sector in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, people are seeking a new economic vision. Technical assistance in the past has been directed towards structured adjustment programs. World Bank recently recommended shifting focus from food security to a more export oriented industrial agriculture. Prioritization of water has been recommended to make small scale production in agricultural uneconomical. Profits can hence be generated by use of water and also private cooperation having large land can make agriculture profitable. However, this may leered to small scale farmers to leave agriculture and move into cities. It is because of this reason farmer and members of civil society have staged protests against discouraging local food production (especially paddy) and privatization of water.

Ziadic focuses on public-private-partnership (PPP) program. Countries actively engaged in USAID PPP include Colombia (109 projects), followed by South Africa (94), India (80) and the Philippines (79). PPP Programs have over looked social cost benefit analysis which should not have been the case.

Caceres provides a detailed analysis of Horizontal South-South bilateral cooperation (HSSBC) particularly Argentina and Paraguay. Paraguay has benefitted through exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and participative methodologies. Argentina has helped Paraguay develop human capital. Argentina has also benefitted by capacity building and creating expertise in training. The relationship is symbiotic especially in hydroelectric energy generation and production. Specific case studies at the end make this chapter interesting.

Tomlinson talks about the ambitious goal to eradicate extreme poverty such as destitute people living on less than US \$ 1.90 a day. Around 2.1 billion people live on conditions of poverty. The Official Development Assistance (ODA) continues to remain far less than required to eliminate extreme poverty. Mohan discusses the South-South in experience in technical cooperation in India. Despite having a low level of Human Development Index (HDI), India has been recognized as an aid providing country. India has been extending lines of credit (LoCs) and technical assistance programs under South-South Cooperation. There has been increasing North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation. The

increasing South-South cooperation has led to the establishment of 'Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) in March 2016 bringing together southern think tanks, civil society, academia and media. Civil Society Organizations can play a major role in synchronization of global and local issues.

Hadebe raises the issue of tied aid, food aid and technical assistance as a problematic aspect of current aid modalities. African institutions getting aid deserve the right to have an input in shaping as to how the aid is used. According to Sladkova, European Union (EU) continues to be the largest Official Development Assistance (ODA) donor prorating • 64.4 billion in ODA (2015). Around • 12 billion of this is spent on in-donor costs such as refugees, support for students, debt relief, interest and tied aid. The recent political issue like Brexit and rise of anti-immigration sentiments is likely to affect the commitment to fund aid requirement. Joint action plan should be to endorse for providing aid. ODA funding should not be used for financing refugees or climate.

According to Reilly Kind, Canada should chart out a clear cut time table for increasing the budget of aid and supporting developing countries action plans and sustainable development goals. Boe found that Denmark has reduced Danish ODA to 0.71% of GNI (Gross National Income) with focus on providing aid to Syria and its neighboring countries. In Japan, the focus has shifted from poverty reduction and social development to growth orientation.

Takayangi has discussed the concept of Securitization of aid. There has been a slight increase in Japan's ODA in FY 2016. The twin objective of poverty reduction and meeting the new SDGs may conflict with security and commercial policies pursued by Japan. Primary objective of poverty reduction and achieving the 2030 agenda should be of pivotal importance for Japan. Lee has outlined that South Korea during 2010 to 2013 increased the ODA by 50% and there after increased ODA by averagely 9%. However, it is still short of the target of 0.25% of GNI in 2015. Also the aid program is focused on Saemaul Undong (SMU). The SMU model affected South Korea negatively in the 1970s and has had negative effects in pilot program countries. Long term impact of SMU ODA policy is largely unknown. South Korea claims to have developed very fast by following the SMU model but it may not be suitable for other countries. The top-to-bottom style of implementation may be abused and there are accountability issues in SMU projects. Lee recommends idealizing SMU is not right.

UK government despite leaving the EU has continued to meet the 0.7% ODA/ GNI target. Focus has shifted from cross government approach to development and aid. Africa has remained the largest recipient of UK aid. The Brexit has led to uncertainty with reference to future of UK aid program. For United States (US), strategic priorities include; (a) Preventing and mitigating conflict and violent extremism; (b) Promoting open, resilient and democratic societies; (c) Advancing inclusive economic growth; and (d) Mitigating and adapting to climate change. The ODA in US is a complicated combination of reactive and proactive efforts. The foreign assistance in future should focus on the needs and requests of the recipient country which are grappling with the rising numbers of refugees.

This is an excellent book meant for policy makers and consultants serving in foreign countries porting technical assistance in recipient countries. Most of the article contributors have raised similar concerns and in my opinion a better communication between the donors and recipients of technical cooperation can weed out most of the problems highlighted in this text. Ownership of projects by indigenous people in the projects may be a solution to prevent any resistance to commercial activities' undertaken under the aid program. Students of International affairs and bureaucrats will also enjoy reading this book.

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Ringold, Dena, Alaka Holla, Margaret Koziol and Santhosh Srinivasan; *Citizens and Service Delivery; Assessing the use of Social Accountability Approaches in Human Development*; 2012, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA , pp.131, Price US \$ 25.95

Service pertains to non-physical form of products, obviously, being intangible it is difficult to measure the services being offered and/or served. It is its final outcome that gives the feeling of delight, satisfaction or agony to the individual, group social community or the society at large being served.

Service delivery had have been a matter of great concern for the governance and the organizations in service sector. The book is deeply concerning the matter of high of absenteeism among teachers and doctors, leakage of public funds intended for schools, health clinics or social assistance benefits; and shortages of stock-out of pharmaceuticals and text books. The failure at these services have long impact on the human development, specifically to the segment of society who are widely depending on the governments helps in the form of public distribution of system (PDS), subsidies and direct delivery of material and services. Better the delivery mechanism and its control system, better the social development in the form of human development of the society.

The book thrust on accountability and its routes - the long route of accountability, the short route of accountability) that is the relationship among policy makers, services providers and citizens. It suggests the client power- the direct influence that citizen, specifically the users and receivers of services, can have on service provides - has major impact and influence on better accountability and better efficiency of the services delivered.

World Bank financed projects in human development sector support social accountability intervention for high efficiency in its service deliveries. In chapter three, the book, emphasises the significance of information to citizens and informed citizens. Information is important in making choices about better health care, better schooling and about social benefit program. It says 80 countries have Access to information (ATI).

Legislation, India's Right to information (RTI) is one example. Although countries may have one of three regimes of ATI enforcement. The study found the lack of resources and capacity to be a great constraint to its implementation. However Indian RTI Act has been found to be very effective in PDS. The findings suggest that citizen can take advantage of ATI provisions and receive benefit from improved services. The book also highlights the modes of informing citizen through various channels and types of information to be informed about.

The fourth chapter highlights the grievance redressal mechanism that can serve as significant channels for improving service delivery and holding policy makers and service providers greatly accountable. The book also describes the system of redress the grievances. It suggests on the requirement of a well-designed and well- linked supply of redress procedure and organization induces for demand for redressal. As technology is gaining and shifting new paradigm, the book thrusts on the use of technology is informing as well grievance redress mechanism. Information and communication technology should be used for the better and filtered formation and targeted redress mechanism to ensure better accountability achievement in service delivery for the human development at large.

This iconize book is a great tool for citizen to read and adopt the findings in their conduct regarding service receipt and be acknowledged about what they ought to receive, and the gap in receipt. It describes in domains of Education and Health care services being served by the policy makes that is the governments of nations in six continents through their service delivery mechanism as well as the service delivery problems faced by world bank-funded projects and how it can be overcome through dissemination of information regarding service providers, the system of service provision and the active participation of the citizen group and client power. The book is an eye opener and motivator to individual in respect of their latent strength regarding the enforcement of better accountability through grievance redress mechanism in the way of human development at large.

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