

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FROM CHINA AND JAPAN

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Abstract

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Japan's grand strategy for infrastructure investment

After experiencing decades of rapid economic growth since the 1950s, Japan has become one of the major donors of foreign aid. In fact, Japan was the world's largest foreign aid donor between 1991 and 2000. However, the long lasting recession in the last 20 years made Japan fundamentally restructure its foreign aid programs quantitatively and qualitatively. Also, the Japanese government has faced the public demands for improvement of the cost-performance in its aid programs.

One of the new areas of focus in Japan's aid programs is infrastructure investment. Not only is it considered as a policy with multiple functions and benefits for the recipient countries, but also is believed to substantially advance Japan's national interest in various ways.

In this presentation, I will explore the historical context behind recent changes in Japan's aid programs and the trend towards infrastructure investment. I will also present an overview of Japan's strategies regarding infrastructure investment focusing on its policy goals, approaches, target countries/regions, etc.