

Emerging Donors and the Changing Landscape of Foreign Aid:

Where does Russia fit?

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Oiliúint na hÉireann Mhá Nuad

For more details on this research, see my article “Looking ‘The Gift’ in the mouth: Russia as donor.” *Anthropology Today* 27(2):5-8.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8322.2011.00794.x/abstract>

“The non-DAC states and the role of public perspectives in shaping the future of development cooperation”

A collaborative project funded by DFID under the Future of Aid and Beyond Research Competition 2010-11

- **China:** Dr May Tan-Mullins (University of Nottingham, Ningbo Campus, China/International Studies)
- **India:** Dr Emma Mawdsley (University of Cambridge/Geography)
- **Poland:** Ela Drążkiewicz-Grodzicka (University of Cambridge/Anthropology)
- **Russia:** Dr Patty Gray (National University of Ireland Maynooth/Anthropology)
- **South Africa:** Dr Helen Yanacopulos (Open University/Development Policy & Practice)



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This presentation reflects research I did within the context of this collaborative project.

Summary papers may be downloaded from: <http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/foreignaidperceptions/>

Basic project aim:

- Investigate what various publics in a range of non-DAC countries think about their foreign aid/development cooperation activities

Methodology

- Field-based
- Interviews with government officials; academics and think tank personnel; development NGO workers; private sector interests; and journalists and editors
- Media analysis



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Note: I am an anthropologist, and therefore my approach – my goals, the questions I ask – differs from those who approach these issues from the perspective of development studies or international relations. In investigating Russia's participation in development assistance, I am interested in the social practices involved and the way they emerge from a Russian cultural context.

What to do with Russia?

- It is non-DAC
- It is non-South
- But it is the 'R' in BRICS



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BACKGROUND

Soviet-era aid

- Offered a socialist model of development to compete with capitalist
- Strengths in health care and education:
 - e.g. Hospital in Ethiopia
 - e.g. People's Friendship University in Moscow



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Ólascail na hÉireann Má Nuad

Like most “emerging donors”, Russia actually has a long history of aid donorship – in its incarnation as the Soviet Union. This tends to be framed in the context of the Cold War and for the most part forgotten. However, that era could be cast as a competition between two models of development, one socialist, one capitalist.

“No colonies” – Since at that time many of Russia’s current development partners were incorporated within the Soviet Union, its foreign assistance was directed farther afield – to strategic partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is significant that the Soviet Union could boast of (*technically*) never having established colonies in Africa, and as historian Maxim Matusevich has pointed out (personal communication 2011.), this gave the Soviet Union a certain cachet during the period of decolonisation in Africa, which coincided with the Krushchevian thaw and was precisely when Soviet-era foreign aid activities intensified. To some extent, the Soviet Union felt it could claim the moral high ground in Africa.

The Soviet Union had traditional strengths in health care and education – a couple of examples:

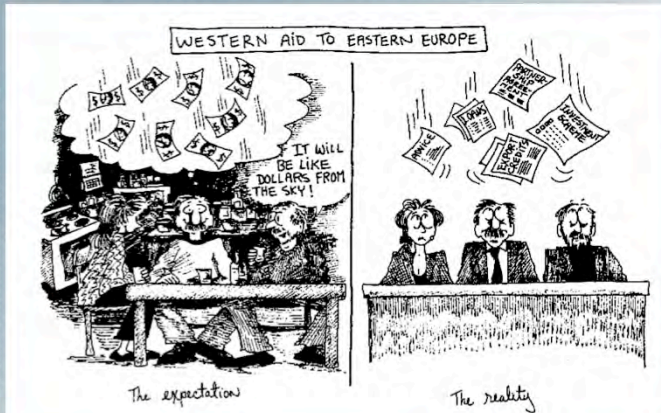
- Soviet Red Cross built **hospital in Ethiopia** in 1947 - It was an important symbol of Soviet-Ethiopian Cooperation (the hospital still operates, staffed by Russian doctors)
- The Soviet Union’s **Peoples’ Friendship University** in Moscow, whose purpose was to educate students from the Third World, was named after Patrice Lumumba, first Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo. The university linked the Soviet Union with the idealized context of Soviet Solidarity with the Third World, and the memory of this remains salient in some quarters in Russia today. (This university still operates, although fewer Third World students now attend.)

BACKGROUND

Russia as aid recipient

- Dissolution of Soviet Union in 1991
- “Transitioning economy” rather than “developing economy”
- Demeaning subject position: “We are not starving Africans!”

From Janine Wedell's *Collision and Collusion: The Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe*




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Oileán na hÉireann na hOileáin

The dissolution of the Soviet Union by the first and last Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in December 1991 opened the way for a radical disjuncture, i.e. the transformation of formerly Soviet Russia from a donor state to a recipient state, in the midst of Western triumphal rhetoric about the winning of the Cold War (to this day, *The Economist* magazine's online glossary begins its definition of the term “capitalism” with the statement: “The winner, at least for now, of the battle of economic ‘isms’”.)

Russia was targeted by multiple aid programmes starting early 1990s – but there was some awkwardness in the traditional development approach because the Soviet economy was not exactly undeveloped, it was just developed according to the “wrong model”, so to speak. So a vocabulary of “transitioning economy” was devised rather than “developing economy”.

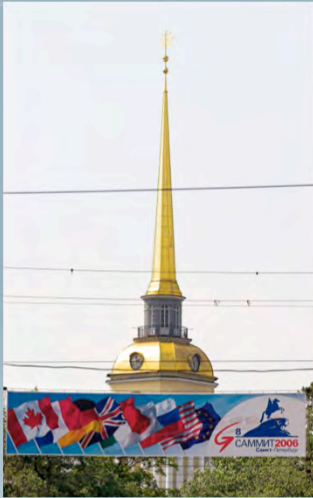
Experientially, being made into a recipient is a demeaning subject position, especially when you had once been a superpower. There is some interesting anthropological research on Russian experiences and Russian responses to this; a common phrase heard in the 1990s was: “We are not starving Africans!”

Russia is therefore unique in the world in terms of having been a “superpower” that experienced being a recipient of ODA for a period of time (from 1991 and continuing until the present in some ways), and then began a return to being a donor.

- However, the recipient period was long enough so that a generation of European and American university students grew up to think of Russia as one of the parts of the world that exists on the receiving end of aid.
- At the same time, there is a generation of Russians of a certain age and experience – “specialists” of varying definitions – who see in their country a natural continuity of involvement in providing aid to the “Third World”.

BACKGROUND

Russia as (re)emerging donor



➤ 2006: Russia's Presidency of the G8 and hosting of the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg in 2006

➤ 2007: 'Concept on Russia's Participation in International Development Assistance'



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Oiliacai na tEileann Mhaid

We are now in a period where Russia is re-emerging as a donor:

First signs. As early as 1994, Yeltsin issued decree creating a “Russian Agency for International Cooperation and Development” – but this did not pan out. The idea for such an agency re-emerged in 2004 – according to an anonymous consultant in the Russian government who has practical expertise in development programmes, the idea was to create an analogy to USAID (USAID has been active in encouraging Russia to do this, as well as providing training).

2006 G8 Summit. Russia's presidency of the G8 and hosting of the G8 summit in St. Petersburg in 2006 was something of a formative moment for Russia's national persona as an aid donor. In an article in *Parlamentskaia Gazeta* following the summit, a reporter commented, “Russia is currently the only G8 country that has not worked out a strategy for activity in the sphere of international development assistance.” Russia is today the only G8 member that is not also a member of the DAC

2007 Concept. Following this event, in 2007, the Russian President issued the seminal document, “Concept on Russia's Participation in International Development Assistance”.

- The authors were mainly key individuals in the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Concept outlines what should be the nature of cooperation among the various branches of the Russian government expected to be involved in international development assistance.
- Of particular relevance for this project is the statement that Russia's activities in setting up a system for international development assistance “will be supported with a broad public awareness campaign”. To date, such a campaign has not been undertaken by the Russian government.



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ИНФОРМАЦИИ И ПЕЧАТИ

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КОНЦЕПЦИЯ

участия Российской Федерации в содействии международному развитию

1017-25-06-2007

Концепция участия Российской Федерации в содействии международному развитию (далее – СМР) представляет собой систему взглядов на содержание и основные направления политики Российской Федерации в области оказания зарубежным странам финансовой, технической, гуманитарной и иной помощи, призванной способствовать социально-экономическому развитию государств – реципиентов, урегулированию кризисных ситуаций, возникающих вследствие стихийных бедствий и/или международных конфликтов, а также укреплению международных позиций и авторитета Российской Федерации.

Настоящая Концепция призвана обеспечить системный подход федеральных органов исполнительной власти к участию Российской Федерации в СМР.

Концепция определяет основные цели, задачи и принципы политики Российской Федерации в области СМР.

Правовую базу Концепции составляют Конституция Российской Федерации, Концепция внешней политики Российской Федерации, Концепция национальной безопасности Российской Федерации, Бюджетный кодекс Российской Федерации. Кроме того, Концепция основывается на положениях Устава ООН и других международных документов, таких как Декларация тысячелетия, Монтеррейский консенсус, Йоханнесбургский план выполнения решений Всемирной встречи на высшем уровне по устойчивому развитию, Итоговый документ Всемирного саммита 2005 года, Парижская декларация по повышению эффективности внешней помощи 2005 года и другие.

Concept of the Russian Federation's participation in International Development Assistance

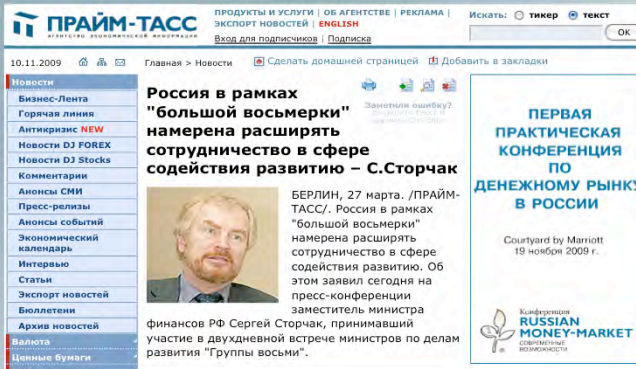


NUI MAYNOOTH
Офисы на Рейкьявике и в Москве

KEY ISSUES

For Russia as an aid donor

- Latent character of Russia's aid programme
 - Intentions declared but mechanisms not yet in place – almost unknown among Russian public



"Russia, within the framework of the G8, intends to expand its cooperation in the sphere of development assistance – S. Storchak" (March 2007)



NUI MAYNOOTH
Официал на Република Македонија

1. The latent character of Russia's aid programme: Russia is poised on the precipice of an aid programme, but –
 - Although it has declared its intention, it has not yet put all the mechanisms in place to fully launch its programme
 - Russia's aid programme almost unknown among Russian publics

KEY ISSUES

For Russia as an aid donor

- Ambiguity of existing mechanisms
 - Aid functionality dispersed among several ministries
 - ⊙ **Ministry of Finance**
 - ⊙ **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
 - ⊙ Ministry for Emergency Situations
 - ⊙ Ministry of Economic Development
 - ⊙ Ministry of Education & Science
 - ⊙ Ministry of Health
 - Russian Agency for International Development *does not yet exist* (to be created in January 2012)



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Dlíocht na hÉireann Mhá Nuad

2. The ambiguity of its aid delivery mechanisms:

At the moment, there is no such thing as a “RussAid”. In practice, aid functionality is dispersed among several ministries. Although the creation of a dedicated development agency has been officially proposed since 2007 (in the Concept), it was not until August 2011 that the Ministry of Finance (in the person of Andrei Bokarev, Director of the Department of International Financial Relations) announced that a Russian Agency for International Development would be established in January 2012.



РОССОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

Федеральное агентство по делам Содружества Независимых Государств, соотечественников, проживающих за рубежом, и по международному гуманитарному сотрудничеству

О РОССОТРУДНИЧЕСТВЕ

ЗАРУБЕЖНЫЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВА

ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ

- НА ПРОСТРАНСТВЕ СНГ
- СООТЕЧЕСТВЕННИКИ ЗА РУБЕЖОМ
- МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ ГУМАНИТАРНОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

ПАРТНЕРЫ

ПРЕСС-СЛУЖБА

ОБЩЕСТВЕННАЯ ПРИЕМНАЯ



Анонсы мероприятий

Центр инновационного сотрудничества на базе Российского центра науки и культуры в Аргентине планирует открыть в апреле 2010 г. в Буэнос-Айресе.

19-20 апреля 2010 года в городе Ашман (Израиль) планируется проведение региональной конференции российских соотечественников, проживающих в странах Ближнего Востока и Африки.

ЛЕНТА НОВОСТЕЙ

Видеоматериалы

Видеозапись рабочей встречи Руководителя Россотрудничества с Председателем России.



Встреча молодых художников «Огни в России»



Открытие в МГУ Международного молодежного форума науки и инноваций стран СНГ

12.04.2010



12 апреля Руководитель Россотрудничества Ф.Мукамендин принял участие в торжественном открытии Международного молодежного форума науки и инноваций стран СНГ «Юниорс-2010». Форум открыл академик, вице-президент Российской академии наук, ректор МГУ В.А.Саввинский.

В его работе принимают участие свыше 7 тысяч студентов, аспирантов и молодых ученых, представляющих более 70 регионов России, все страны СНГ и более 40 стран дальнего зарубежья. Работа Форума охватывает все направления современной фундаментальной и прикладной науки. В числе его мероприятий – международные студенческие олимпиады, специальные сессии «СНГ: взгляд молодежи», выставка инновационных проектов научной молодежи и образовательная игра «СНГ: единое инновационное пространство».

В отделе Форума также приняли участие Председатель Исполнительного Комитета СНГ С.Н.Лобачев, Исполнительный директор Многонационального фонда гуманитарного сотрудничества А.Б.Сумбатин, Генеральный секретарь Евразийского экономического сообщества (ЕврАзЭС) Т.А.Манукян и другие почетные гости.

Подробнее

Визит Патриарха Московского и всея Руси Кирилла в Александрию

<http://rs.gov.ru/>

Some additional background: ROSSOTRUDNICHESTVO

The Concept issued in 2007 called for the eventual creation of a “specialized government institution” for handling aid. I was expecting something functionally analogous to USAID, Irish Aid, or DFID, and I was not alone in this assumption – some of my Russian interlocutors expressed similar expectations on my first research trip in 2009; and one Russian Senator who is very active in this issue, Vasilii Likhachev, also described in the press his vision of what he called “a national agency of the Russian Federation for international development”.

The “institution” called for in the Concept seemed to have been created in September 2008, with the somewhat curious name *Rossotrudnichestvo*, or Russian Cooperation. This is actually more of an official nickname, for the full title of the agency is quite a mouthful: The Federal agency on affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States, compatriots living abroad, and international humanitarian cooperation (*Federal’noe agenstvo po delam Sodruzhestva Nezavisimykh Gosudarstv, sootchestvennikov, prozhivaiushchikh za rubezhom, i po mezhdunarodnomu gumanitarnomu sotrudnichestvu*).

In practice, *Rossotrudnichestvo* was created to carry on the legacy of Russian cultural centres abroad (something like the Goethe Institute for Germany), and this is its main function. The overseas aid function was attached to it as an afterthought, which one of my interlocutors suggested was because it ‘sounded sexy’. But this aid function was never consummated, and to date *Rossotrudnichestvo* has had no active project aid programme. The general consensus among my interlocutors in May 2011 was that it was not likely to ever carry out such a function. With Bokarev’s announcement in August 2011, *Rossotrudnichestvo*’s ‘aid’ function would appear to be defunct.

НИЦ СМР
Научно-исследовательский центр
содействия международному развитию

русский english

найти

Новости О проекте О нас ИМОМС Партнёры Контакты

Материалы по теме

Статьи

Официальная помощь в целях развития (ОПР)

Организация экономического сотрудничества и развития

Комитет по содействию развитию (КСР) ОЭСР

Комитет по содействию развитию ОЭСР — ключевой форум основных доноров, усилия которых направлены на повышение эффективности совместных действий для поддержки устойчивого развития.

Деятельность комитета сфокусирована на двух основных сферах:

- содействие международному сотрудничеству в участии развивающихся стран в процессах мировой экономики;
- содействие росту потенциала развивающихся стран в преодолении бедности и полной социальной интеграции населения, его участия в общественных процессах.

Комитет по содействию развитию был основан в 1960 г. в качестве форума для проведения консультаций между донорами в связи с актуализацией потребности оказания помощи в развитии странам, вышедшим из колониальной зависимости. В результате КСР стал одной из первых дискуссионных платформ по содействию международному развитию.

Основные задачи КСР ОЭСР включают: а) предоставление достоверных статистических данных; б) предоставление данных о практической деятельности в рамках содействия развитию; в) оказание консультационной помощи для достижения максимально высоких результатов.

В 1996 г. КСР выпустил ключевое заявление для дальнейшего развития программ по содействию развитию: «Формируя 21-й век: вклад в сотрудничество для развития»¹, сформулировав цели, ставшие основой для целей Декларации Тысячелетия ООН².

Существенным вкладом КСР в реализацию программ по содействию развитию является проведение страновых сопоставительных исследований (peer reviews). Исследование систем содействия развитию стран-членов КСР проводится каждые 4-5 лет. По результатам исследования готовятся рекомендации по улучшению существующих национальных систем, которые публикуются в Журнале ОЭСР по содействию развитию (OECD Journal on Development)³. Политические рекомендации направлены на повышение эффективности содействия развитию, а также выполнение рекомендаций Парижской декларации⁴.

Research Centre for
International
Cooperation and
Development

(International
Organisations
Research Institute
at the Higher
School of
Economics in
Moscow)

www.rcicd.org/dac-oecd/



NUI MAYNOOTH
Oliacail na hÉireann Mú Nua

DAC membership?

Although Russia is sometimes portrayed as something of a rogue donor that lacks transparency and accountability, it shows no animosity toward the DAC, and in fact many Russian experts are favourably disposed to eventual membership, expressing a quiet confidence that Russia could bring positive changes once it is inside.

This slide shows a page from a research project of a Russian academic think tank on international organisations in which the DAC is carefully explained.

KEY ISSUES

For Russia as an aid donor

- “Pull factor” of outside agencies
 - World Bank, DFID, Oxfam, USAID – seminars, training programmes, consulting
 - World Bank / Levada Center survey of public of opinion July 2010



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Ólascail na tÉireann Mhó Ruad

3. Role of outside agencies in “pulling” Russia into the role of donor:

The World Bank, DFID, USAID have all been heavily involved in cultivating Russia as a donor – there have been multiple seminars, training programmes, consultations, etc. (SEE NEXT 3 SLIDES)

2008

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World Bank - Russia Joint Development Aid Program

Location: World Bank Office
Begins: May 27, 2008 16:00
Ends: May 28, 2008 17:45

An international workshop organized by the RF Ministry of Finance and The World Bank in coordination with OECD

Also available: [Press Announcement](#)

The workshop was organized within the framework of The World Bank - Russia cooperation on development aid issues. Its objective is to present international experience and standards in development aid reporting and statistics and to discuss practical measures for setting up a comprehensive reporting system on increasing Russia development aid.

The workshop included representatives of key Russian agencies involved in implementation of recently adopted Concept of Russian international development cooperation, including: Apparat of the Government, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Russia Agency for Statistics (Rosstat), other interested Government agencies. The workshop will include key international development agencies and bilateral donors - OECD-DAC, UNDP, DFID, USAID. Several new donors will be invited to present their respective cases and learn from relevant international experience.

It is expected that information from the seminar would assist in establishment of appropriate mechanism for collection of Russia aid statistics and reporting according to agreed international standards. This work would have to be completed by end 2008, to be coordinated by RF Ministry of Finance with involvement of all relevant Russian Government agencies and with support from The World Bank and OECD.

A. Markov, Coordinator WB Russia Development Aid technical assistance program

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<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/RUSSIANFEDERATIONEXTN/0,,contentMDK:21782715~menuPK:305618~pagePK:64027988~piPK:64027986~theSitePK:305600,00.html>

2010

The screenshot shows the top section of the MGDF 2010 website. At the top left is the Russian coat of arms and the text: "Министерство финансов Российской Федерации" (Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation) and "www.mgdf.ru". Below this, it says "При поддержке со стороны Всемирного банка и Организации экономического сотрудничества и развития" (With the support of the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). The logos for the World Bank and OECD are shown. To the right is the "GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE" logo with the tagline "NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN". Below the logos, the text reads "Московская международная конференция, 17-18 февраля 2010 г." (Moscow International Conference, 17-18 February 2010). The main image shows a large audience seated in a hall, facing a stage where a speaker is at a podium. A "Video & Photos" button is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with links: "Главная страница" (Home page), "О конференции" (About the conference), "Расписание: выступления и презентации" (Schedule: speeches and presentations), "Организационные вопросы" (Organizational issues), "Справочные материалы" (Reference materials), "Пресс-центр" (Press center), and "Видео и фото" (Video and photo). The language selector shows "English // Русский".

Министерство финансов
Российской Федерации
www.mgdf.ru

При поддержке со стороны Всемирного банка
и Организации экономического
сотрудничества и развития

WORLD BANK OECD

NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN
GLOBAL
DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE

Московская международная конференция, 17-18 февраля 2010 г.

Video & Photos

English // Русский

Главная страница | О конференции | Расписание: выступления и презентации | Организационные вопросы
| Справочные материалы | Пресс-центр | Видео и фото

Among the countries represented at this conference were Armenia, Colombia, Japan, Moldova, Poland, South Korea, Tadjikistan, Tanzania, and Turkey. World Bank and OECD were prominently involved.

<http://www.mgdf.ru/>

2011

The screenshot shows the World Bank website interface for the Russian Federation. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Site Map, Index, FAQs, and Contact Us. Below this, there are tabs for About, Countries, Data & Research, Learning, News, Projects & Operations, and Publications. The main header features the World Bank logo and a search bar with the text 'Russian Federation'. The left sidebar contains a list of navigation links, including 'News & Events', 'Press Releases', 'Feature Stories', 'Feature Reports', 'Speeches', 'Events', 'Country Director', 'Economic Reports', 'Publications', 'Procurement', 'Public Information Center', 'Learning & Training', 'Focus on Civil Society', 'TFC in Russia', and 'Contact Information'. The main content area is titled 'Strategic Communication for Russia's Development Aid Program' and includes a date range from January 19, 2011, to January 20, 2011. The text describes the program's goals and the workshop's outcomes. A list of presentations is provided, including 'Strategic Communications As Part of the Russian Aid Program' by Andrew Kircher, 'Communication Aid Lessons from Egypt Projects' by Christopher Neal, 'Russia's adult population shows on development aid' by Sharon Felzer, and 'Russia as a Donor Initiative Program' by Sharon Felzer. Related links are also listed. The footer features the NUI MAYNOOTH logo and the text 'Dlíocht na hÉireanna Mhó Róid'.

This “Strategic Communication” seminar was a culmination of a DFID programme known as the “Russia as a Donor Initiative” – which continues in spite of the fact that DFID officially closed its Russia programme in 2007; the World Bank has been the primary executor of this programme.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/RUSSIANFEDERATIONEXTN/0,,contentMDK:22898782~menuPK:305620~pagePK:64027988~piPK:64027986~theSitePK:305600,00.html>

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Expert survey report within the integrated study : 'Russia as a donor' (Vol. 1 of 2) : Main report

Document also available in : [Russian](#)

Details	
Document Date:	2010/07/02
Document Type:	Working Paper
Report Number:	61890
Volume No:	1 of 2 (See all volumes)

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Abstract

This report presents the findings of the qualitative phase of an integrated study, 'Russia as a donor country.' The objective of this phase of the study was to find out how opinion leaders and experts in a variety of socially significant spheres view Russia's role as an international donor. An in-depth interview method was chosen for the project, which allowed for

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Complete Report

Official version of document (may contain signatures, etc)

PDF	28 pages	Official Version	[1.96 mb]
Text		Text Version*	

*The text version is uncorrected OCR text and is included solely to benefit users with slow connectivity.

Related Links

[See documents related to the project\(s\)](#)

<http://go.worldbank.org/E4C6ZM1SU0>

As part of that “Russia As A Donor” programme, the World Bank project commissioned the Levada Center to carry out survey on public opinion of Russia’s participation in aid to poorer nations – conducted in June-July 2010.

The January 2011 seminar on strategic communication was the venue chosen to present the results of that survey to Russian *insiders* – the results were not released publicly until April 2011.

MODALITIES OF RUSSIAN AID

- Primarily multilateral
- Most sophisticated in emergency humanitarian aid
- Priority areas food security & global health



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Oiliacai na tEiracai Ma Road

Modalities of assistance

- **Primarily multilateral.** Russia's development assistance is primarily channelled through multilateral programmes (UN, World Bank, G8, G20); it is only now beginning to develop channels of bilateral aid (in 2010, Russia provided \$472.32 million in official development assistance, according to the Ministry of Finance.).
- **Most sophisticated in emergency humanitarian aid.** Far more active and visible is Russian's humanitarian assistance for emergency relief, channelled through what is known in English-speaking contexts as EMERCOM (The Ministry of Emergency Situations)

(SEE NEXT SLIDE ON THE 2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE)

- **Priority areas food security & global health.** Aside from emergency humanitarian assistance, priority areas for Russia's emerging aid programme are food security (UN World Food programme) and global health (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the Global Polio Eradication Initiative).



Russian search-and-rescue team pulls a man from under the rubble a week after



Russian cargo plane assists in transport of U.S. mobile air traffic control tower



January 2010
Russian response to
Earthquake in Haiti



NUI MAYNOOTH
Олівері на Відеомає Рад

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Amidst all the humanitarian fervor to assist in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake, Russia was also present, demonstrating its global role as a donor of international aid, although many media sources – professional journalists and bloggers alike – expressed doubts about Russia playing any role. An Agence France-Presse report stated that “*even* Moscow sent an airplane carrying search and rescue teams for quake-devastated Haiti” (emphasis added), reflecting the incredulity that was common in many reports. Yet not only did Russia send an airplane, within two days it had already sent three cargo planes carrying mobile hospitals and medical personnel and search-and-rescue personnel and equipment, and eventually also assisted the U.S. by making one of its cargo planes – one of the world’s largest – available to transport a mobile air traffic control tower from the U.S. to Haiti.

Within three days, RIA Novosti, the Russian state-owned news agency, had issued online a series of photographs showing uniformed members of Russia’s emergency services rescuing Haitians from beneath the earthquake rubble and tenderly administering first aid and providing water (the story in the photos above is more complex, as the photos were taken by a U.N. photographer, who was also the one who discovered this Haitian man in distress and had called over a passing Russian medical team to help). Russia clearly wanted to demonstrate that it has a role to play in the global response to humanitarian crises, both by its presence on the ground and through its presence in media imagery.

KEY PARTNERS

- Former Soviet Republics, esp. in the Eurasian Economic Community (EvrAzES)
- Eurasian Development Bank
- Recent financing to Tadjikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua and Nauru
- Recent humanitarian aid to Haiti, China, Kosovo, Gaza, N. Korea



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Oiliacai na tEiracai Ma Nua

Who are Russia's key partners in international development cooperation and assistance? Just a few representative examples:

- Former Soviet republics, especially the members of the Eurasian Economic Community (EvrAzES) which include Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, and observer states Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia. (SEE SLIDE FOLLOWING OF EVRAZES WEBSITE)
- In 2006, Russia and Kazakhstan together established the Eurasian Development Bank, whose members now also include Armenia, Tadjikistan and Belarus. (SEE SLIDE FOLLOWING OF EURASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANKWEBSITE)
- Russia has recently provided financing to Tadjikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua and Nauru
- Besides Haiti, Russia has recently provided humanitarian aid to China, Kosovo, Gaza, and N. Korea.



ЕВРАЗИЙСКОЕ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ СООБЩЕСТВО



Беларусь



Казахстан



Кыргызстан



Россия



Таджикистан



Узбекистан



Армения



Молдова



Украина

ЕврАзЭС

ЕврАзЭС

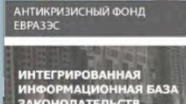
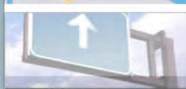
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Евразийский банк развития

Хороший банк знает и свои рынки, и глобальный
финансовый рынок. ЕАБР призван содействовать
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интеграции своих государств-участников. Используя
наши глобальные возможности и знание евразийских
рынков, мы инвестируем в будущее региона.

<http://www.eabr.org/>

STAKEHOLDERS?

- Private Sector: Not.
- Academics in universities and think tanks: Ready, but no support
- NGOs: Ready, even sophisticated, but no recognition



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Oiliacai na tEileann Mhúad

Who are the 'stakeholders' in Russia's re-emergence as a donor? There seem to be very few who recognize themselves as stakeholders, aside from a small circle of ministry people who are "in the loop"

- Private sector: Businesses have not yet grasped the implications of what, for example, "tied aid" could mean for them.
- Academics in universities and think tanks seem to have the best grasp of the implications – but there is inadequate government funding for the work they are doing, and insufficient external grant funding so far.
(SEE SLIDE FOLLOWING OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE WEBSITE)
- 3. Some NGOs are starting to get it, but again – there is no government recognition of the role of NGOs, no concept of project aid that could be delegated to NGOs.
(SEE SLIDE FOLLOWING OF EURASIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION WEBSITE)



Государственный Университет - Высшая Школа Экономики
ИНСТИТУТ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ
И МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА
International Organisations Research Institute (IORI)



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About Institute

International Organisations Research Institute (IORI) was set up in 2005. Within the framework of its projects the Institute studies the role of the international institutions and regimes, regional organisations and alliances in governing the global economic, social and political processes. It focuses on the G8 and its role in performing the functions of collective governance and reconciling domestic and international pressures, the modes and tools of G8 - international multilateral institutions (WTO, World Bank, OECD) interaction in the emerging multi-level governance system.

The Institute established the G8 Research Team, which in close coordination with the [G8 Information Center of the University of Toronto](#) carried out and released the [Gleneagles Compliance Report 2005 for Russia](#) in 2006. The report can be found on the HSE and UoT G8 Information center web-sites respectively: <http://www.iori.hse.ru/g8>; <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/hse/hse-findings.html>.

The Institute research aims to assist effective participation of the Russian Organisations, agencies, research structures and other stakeholders in the international multilateral institutions, enhance the role and quality of their contribution towards effective multilateral governance.

The Institute periodical **"International Organisations Research Journal"** highlights the main analytical outcomes of the **IORI research projects as well as** activities of international Organisations and alliances, namely European Commission, Group of Eight, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Bank, United Nations and UNESCO.

5 up 5

<http://www.iori.hse.ru/english/about.shtm>

International Organisations Research

G8

G20

OECD

EU

WTO

IMF

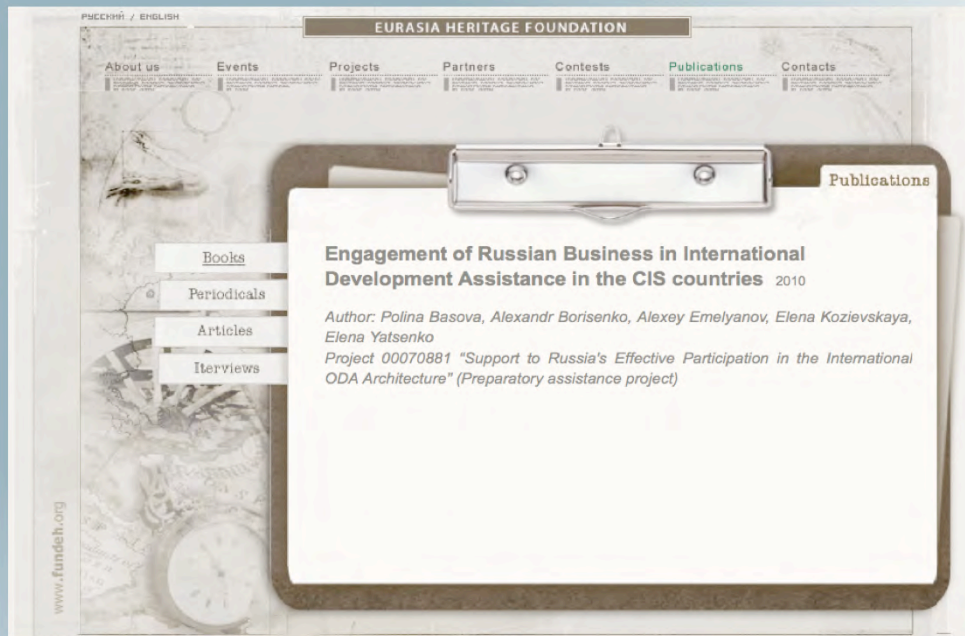
BRICS

G8 Information Center U of T

G20 Information Center U of T

The International Organisations Research Institute has excellent, well-trained personnel; they have a G8 research team; they have an externally-funded project called the Research Centre for International Cooperation and Development (see slide on the DAC, above); and they have a very good journal, the *International Organisations Research Journal*, which publishes in English as well as in Russian, and which ravenously translates key articles into Russian, thus playing an important role in disseminating information to Russian publics.

Key institute personnel are currently being trained at the IDS Sussex in development education – something that will be significantly empowering for them.



<http://www.fundeh.org/eng/publications/books/172/>

The Eurasia Heritage Foundation is one of the most well-informed and active Russian NGOs in the area of international development cooperation; with a primary focus on CIS countries, the foundation has taken the lead in investigating the possibilities for Russian business in development.

OBSERVATIONS

- Public awareness is very low
- Interviewees said it does not make sense for Russia to actively inform about its activities:
 - Too early
 - Probable negative reaction
 - Uncharacteristic of the Russian government
- There cannot be a clear message while there is no clear mandate or strategy – and there isn't
- Russia as a *recruited* donor: 'donor expansion'?



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Oiliacai na tEileann Ma Nead

Some overall observations:

- Awareness of Russia's involvement as an aid donor is unquestionably very low across all regions, across all demographics.
- In spite of the World Bank's zeal in organizing a conference to drum up enthusiasm for strategic communication about Russia's aid programme, almost without exception, everyone I interviewed said it does not make sense for the Russian government to pursue an active campaign of informing the public about its aid programme – but that had various nuances:
 1. Some said it is too early because nothing is really happening yet
 2. Some said it is not a good idea to make the programme too public because Russians will probably react negatively and say that there are still problems inside Russia that need to be addressed; the Russian pop. generally reacts negatively to Russia sending aid abroad EXCEPT for emergency relief – then Russians tend to be proud of Russia's role, and those kinds of activities do get covered in the media.
 3. Some said that the Russian government never bothers to publicly campaign for support for its activities – it just does them, and (maybe) informs the public about it later.
- There cannot be a clear message while there is no clear mandate or strategy – and there isn't; there is still fragmentation within the Russian government about aid
- These factors lead me to think of Russia less as an *emerging* donor, but more as *recruited* donor. I am tempted to think of this as "donor expansion" in a sense somewhat analogous

Thank you!

Questions / comments are welcome



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Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad