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**COMPETITION BETWEEN THE DAC AND NON-DAC DONORS  
IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH:  
CASE OF JAPAN AND CHINA IN KENYA**

Over the last decades the global power has been shifting rapidly from West to East and from North to South with a direct impact on the international development cooperation system. In many developing countries across the globe the 'traditional' donors – members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee – be it the United States, the EU member states or Japan – are facing an increasingly strong competition from the various non-DAC, 'emerging' donors, especially, China. Certain representatives of the latter group have abandoned some of the classical foreign aid practices, such as policy conditionality (demanding liberalisation, privatisation, democratisation etc.) but instead promote a model based on low or no conditionality and respect for sovereignty of their development cooperation partners. This helps them challenge successfully the traditional donors' positions.

Drawing on the assumption that development assistance is a tool of foreign policy, this presentation aims to reconceptualise the donor-recipient aid dynamics by focusing on the competition between the DAC and non-DAC donors in the Global South – with the example of Japan and China in Kenya (2005 – 2018). It argues that Japan and China's pursuit of their foreign policy goals through development cooperation in Kenya has resulted in a competition of development projects and a correspondent increase in Kenya's bargaining power towards its partners.

Even though Japan had a head start on China in its development cooperation with Kenya, because of Tokyo's lackadaisical attitude the PRC has managed to surpass its neighbour to become Kenya's leading creditor. However, since Kenya is of high strategic importance to both Asian donors, Japan – due to an increased competition from China – has been trying to adjust its policy towards this East African country by allocating it more aid.