



Foreign Development Assistance of the Czech Republic and the Need for Public Supervision

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Helping the poor belongs to the basic principles of the human civilisation. The globalised world requires a global generosity





The paper discuss the efficiency of the development assistance

Why do African countries remain as poor as they were despite huge development support that have flown there for decades?





Some experts blame bureaucracy and collaboration with non-democratic regimes.

Other experts say we should go on with the respect to the informal or indigenous institutions in the society of countries to be developed





The official aims of development assistance of the Czech Republic should

Government of the Czech Republic 2004

- help fight with the poverty
- help launch sustainable development
 - support democracy
 - help to establish legal principles
- increase to 0.33 % of czech GDP in 2015 (from this year 0,1% GDP)





The official areas of czech development assistance

- eight priority countries
 - the selection reflect historic relations
 - the respect of the priorities of the developing countries
- areas where the Czech Republic has especially strong capacities





The critical points of Czech assistance

- development assistance remain fragmented (the lack of central organisation that would co-ordinate)
- often supporting giant projects with risky side social and environmental effects
- many project not intended for the poor population (game reserve in Maroco, hospital for paying in Zambia)
- many do support czech export rather than the poor people
- some projects support the entity that presented them rather to provide help to poor population



Giant constructions support

- airport construction in Indonesia
- extraction and processing of minerals in Jamaica and Bosna
 - oil and gas extraction in Cameroon
 - giant chicken farm in Mongolia
 - nuclear energetic power plant





Support to export companies

- ZPS Prefix engineering company for example has received more than 17 million CZK from the Czech development support for projects in Vietnam, China, and Namibia in 2003. The projects have included mainly shoemaking training centres for Czech-made machines, through which Czech money paradoxically helped train the workforce in the global shoemaking country No. 1.





Support to the czech experts

- clinic in Zambia which provide care predominantly to not poor paying patients
- pointless export of nature products by czech biologists in Socotra island, Yemen
- promoting czech technology without consultations, Torres del Paine National Park, Chile

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Support to Vietnam

- why Vietnam ?
- there are several much poorer countries in the same region, which are also more acceptable by their size (Laos, Cambodia)
- project of a Vietnam-Czech Friendship Hospital for scandalous attitude to not meeting the deadlines for equipment supplies
- rather the financing of leisure tours of Vietnamese officers to the Czech Republic





Need for public supervision

- the Development Centre at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a competence of supervision to the Czech Development Assistance
- Independent public supervision would be highly useful for many Czech (but not only Czech) projects
 - journalists
 - nongovernmental organisations.





Development Watch

▪ <http://www.developmentwatch.net/>, <http://www.dw.hornimlyn.cz>.



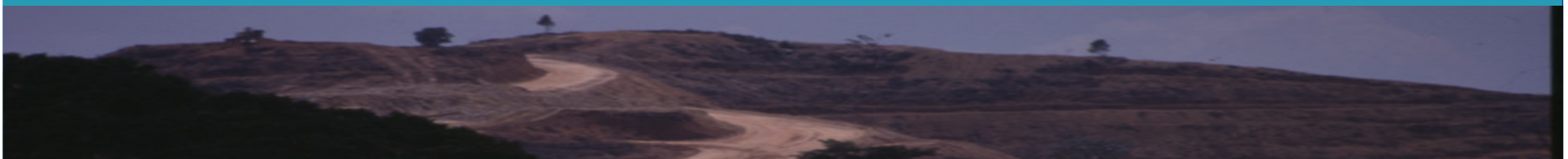
- established in 2004 internationally and in CZ
- wishes to monitor the czech development assistance projects
 - to concentrate and publish troublesome projects
 - to concentrate and publish exemplary projects
- evaluators do not participate in the development support





Development Watch Criteria

1. Social aspects (respect to the local culture and involvement of local authorities)
2. Human rights aspects (support of democracy and decentralisation)
3. Environmental aspects (preservation of natural values and establishment of nature-friendly technologies),
4. Economical aspects (co-financing from other resources and priority of local and regional self-sufficiency)
5. Organisational aspects (securing of continuation and transparent financing)





Thank you for your attention