Abstract

There have been a number of achievements in China’s foreign aid over its 70-year history. Some scholars argue that, unlike OECD countries whose multilateral assistance accounts for a large part of their total volume of aid, China offers mainly bilateral aid. However, since resuming its legal seat in the UN, China has become steadily more involved in multilateral assistance, joining most of the major international organizations and working closely with them. In the new millennium, China has formulated many initiatives and offered creative approaches while promoting its multilateral assistance. While China is playing an effective role in the field of international assistance, in facing the new international aid landscape, China needs to improve its approach to multilateral assistance. To achieve this goal, China should increase its multilateral assistance contributions, play a greater role in agenda setting, enhance cooperation with other countries, and promote studies and academic exchanges with regard to multilateral assistance.

Keywords: development architecture, multilateral assistance, multilateral cooperation

1. Introduction

If multilateral assistance is perceived to have started with the establishment of the World Bank in 1944, it now has seven decades of history and experience to draw from. During this time, multilateral assistance has played a significant role in addressing international development challenges. International development assistance institutions and regimes have long been governed by normative frameworks designed mainly by OECD countries. However, in the new millennium, international development assistance architecture has stepped into a transitional period and is experiencing profound changes. With fast economic development, some developing countries—particularly emerging donors such as China, Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa (known as BRICS)—have become important players and are exerting increasingly vital influence over the international development arena.

China has been hailed as a leader among these emerging donors, with a silent revolution that is happening in development assistance (Woods 2008, pp. 1205–1221). Both OECD and recipient countries have strong hopes that China will engage in greater multilateral assistance (Zhang 2012). Starting from the 1950s, China has had fluctuating levels of participation in multilateral assistance which, to some degree, have corresponded to its overall foreign policy. According to statistics in the White Paper published by the Chinese State Council, from 2010 to 2012, China allocated a total of 89.34 billion yuan (US$14.11 billion) in foreign assistance for developing countries under the framework of South-South cooperation (Information Office of the State Council 2014). China’s foreign assistance itself is now also in a transitional stage, in which growing multilateral interaction with OECD
countries has been put on the agenda (Kitano 2014, pp. 301–317). This raises questions about how China should comply with the rules and standards set by traditional donors in a changing donor landscape (Zhang 2012). Therefore, the assistance architecture of the future might turn out to be a synthesis of established and new approaches (Paulo and Reisen 2010, pp. 535–552).

In this transitional stage, China is also facing the great task of adjusting its own foreign assistance architecture in many ways—among which, increasing multilateral assistance is likely to be indispensable.

2. Different Definitions of Multilateral Assistance

The Chinese government and OECD countries have different understandings of multilateral assistance. According to the OECD, multilateral assistance represents core contributions from official (government) sources to multilateral agencies, where it is then used to fund the multilateral agencies’ own programs (OECD 2011). Therefore, multilateral assistance comprises a two-way flow of resources—namely, inflow of resources from specific countries to multilateral agencies and outflow of resources from multilateral agencies to receivers. Multilateral agencies may also receive funds from other sources, such as the general public or from other private donors (OECD 2011).

OECD refers to multilateral assistance as a measure of official development aid (ODA). ODA comprises official contributions of specific countries to multilateral organizations whose governing boards have the unqualified right to allocate aid as they see fit within the rules and regulations of the organizations. This kind of contribution is termed a core contribution. There are also non-core contributions—namely, the resources provided to ODA-eligible multilateral organizations over which the donor country retains a certain degree of control on deciding how the funds are handled. For example, the donor country may have a say on the flow of its donation to a specific receiver, project, region, or sector. This kind of contribution is technically considered to be part of bilateral ODA, even though it is channeled through a multilateral organization (OECD 2015).

In brief, the OECD maintains that, if a contribution is to be classified as multilateral, it must be made to an institution that:

· conducts all or part of its activities in favor of development;
· is an international agency, institution, or organization whose members are governments or a fund managed autonomously by such an agency; and
· pools contributions so that they lose their identity and become an integral part of its financial assets (OECD 2011).

Chinese government and scholars define multilateral assistance somewhat differently. The Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China tends to classify multilateral aid as China’s donations (including funds and materials) to multilateral organizations, technical aid organized by multilateral organizations, and technical training of personnel from many countries at one time (Xiong 2010, pp. 49–63). Academically, Chinese scholars define China’s multilateral assistance as China’s official contribution of funds (such as assessments), materials provided to multilateral organizations (especially multilateral development organizations), equity financing (through financial organizations, for example), technical cooperation arranged by multilateral organizations, and humanitarian aid (Xiong 2010, pp. 49–63).

Compared with the OECD definition, the Chinese government and scholars define multilateral assistance in a much broader sense. In recent years, in addition to increased donations and active participation in multilateral organizations, China has been conducting multilateral assistance in a manner that is more like multilateral development cooperation, adopting flexible approaches by launching new initiatives, setting various funds, and establishing cooperation frameworks with developing countries.
3. Current Trends in International Multilateral Assistance

Until now, the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members have been the most outstanding contributors to multilateral aid. In 2013, they channeled US$59 billion to and through multilateral organizations, comprising approximately 41% of their total gross official development assistance, with net multilateral assistance (core contributions) accounting for 28% of total ODA. Non-DAC countries have been increasing their multilateral spending, which is estimated to have totaled US$1.2 billion in 2013, representing a small part of their total concessional development finance (OECD 2015). Of course, there are sharp differences among DAC members in the amount of contributions provided to multilateral organizations. For example, in 2013, the United Kingdom became the largest provider of core funding (Figure 1), while Italy provides as much as 70% of its total ODA in the form of multilateral assistance.

Although there are as many as 210 multilateral assistance organizations, core contributions mainly flow to six institutions—namely, the EU, the UN system, the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Global Fund. In 2013, over 60% of these flows went to the EU, the World Bank Group and UN funds and programs (OECD 2015). In recent years, contributions flowing to the EU and GF have increased dramatically, while those flowing to the UN system have been decreasing.

As these statistics show, it is also very apparent that multilateral assistance is mainly allocated to fields of social infrastructure and services, economic infrastructure and services, and the productive sector. Moreover, it can be easily found that, during the period of 2006 to 2012, the allocation to social infrastructure and services as well as economic infrastructure and services has been steadily increasing. An average of 20% of all multilateral assistance from 2006 to 2012 was allocated to health, compared to 12% for bilateral aid (Biscay, Harris, Reynolds and Anderson 2015). The largest share of multilateral assistance went to the least developed countries (LCDs). According to statistics, 45% of US$19.5 billion in 2013 outflowed to LCDs.

Nonetheless, there appears to be a slowing-down and leveling-off of multilateral ODA. In the past decade, multilateral ODA has risen from US$27 billion to US$38 billion, accounting for close to one-third of gross ODA (OECD 2015). Since 2007, however, the multilateral share of ODA has leveled off at 28% from a high of 32%.
in 2001. Along with the slow-down in overall growth of gross ODA, multilateral aid has also seen a deceleration in its annual growth rate—from 9% in 2008 to 5% in 2010, and down to only 1% in 2011 (OECD 2015). Meanwhile, governments are increasingly under pressure from legislative bodies and civil society to scrutinize and even limit multilateral aid. While the reasons for this are many, decisions on what, where, and how this finance is delivered often slip out of the control of national policymakers, thereby appearing to be too far removed from governments' accountability and oversight processes.

4. Evolution of China’s Multilateral Aid

For many decades, China’s foreign aid has been mainly channeled through bilateral mechanisms. Since the 1980s, with China’s opening-up and reform policy, China began to become more involved in multilateral aid. However, from 1980s to 1990s, China was much more a multilateral assistance recipient than a provider. Later, China started to offer contributions to international organizations.

Scholars have analyzed the development of China’s multilateral assistance over the past 70 years. Some argued that China’s multilateral assistance has gone through five stages, namely, a beginning period starting with China’s first donation to the International Red Cross in 1952, an immature period from 1971 to 1978, an adjustment period from 1978 to 1982, further development from 1982 to 2004, and a period of more active participation from 2004 up until now (Xiong 2010, pp. 49–63). Other scholars simply argue that China experienced a period of separation from the multilateral system, a period of involvement, and a period of deep engagement in the multilateral system (Ye 2013, pp. 45–62).

As mentioned in the above section, China’s multilateral assistance complies with China’s multilateral diplomacy. From 1949 to 1970, China maintained a policy of opposing the multilateral system dominated by the hegemonic countries, while at the same time, strengthening multilateral activities with developing countries for political support to regain its legal seat in the UN. The real changes of China’s multilateral diplomacy occurred after the People’s Republic of China was permitted to resume its seat in the UN in 1971. After that, China joined more and more international organizations. Based on these experiences, this paper argues that China’s multilateral assistance is composed of four periods.

4.1 Selectively Joining Some International Organizations and Payment of Membership Assessments (1971–1978)

In the 1970s, China joined the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other bodies. During this period, for ideological reasons, China offered multilateral assistance beyond its own capability without accepting multilateral aid.

4.2 Recipient and Donor of Multilateral Assistance (1978–2004)

With the policy of opening up and reform, China also adopted a policy towards multilateral assistance that differed from its previous approach. Firstly, China joined an increasing number of multilateral organizations through payment of its membership assessments. China not only joined almost all of the UN development systems, it also joined global financial institutions such as the World Bank and regional financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank. Moreover, from 1979, China began to take full advantage of multilateral organizations to access the technology and resources needed for its domestic development in fields of infrastructure, education, social welfare, medical care, gender equality, rural development, and so on. Therefore,
during this period, China played the role of both contributor and receiver.

4.3 Shift from Multilateral Assistance Recipient to Multilateral Donor (2005–2012)

The year 2005 marked a turning point for China’s multilateral aid. On September 15, 2005, President Hu Jintao delivered a speech titled “Promote Universal Development to Achieve Common Prosperity” at the High-Level Meeting on Financing for Development at the 60th Session of the United Nations, announcing China’s five new principles for foreign aid. He placed great emphasis on strengthening the role of the UN in promoting international cooperation on development. He stated that,

The United Nations should make development a principal task, improve institutional set-up to enhance its functions and give full play to its advantages in guiding consensus-building, rule-making and participation stimulating. It should step up cooperation and coordination with the WTO, the World Bank, the IMF and other international and regional organizations, form a synergy by pooling the resources and provide needed assistance and support to the creation of a sound international environment for the development of all countries, developing countries in particular (Hu 2005). ²

Although still emphasizing common development, China also placed greater stress on the exchange of development experiences. Starting from 2005, China began to reduce its acceptance of financial resources from multilateral organizations, except for technical knowledge and management experience. Instead, with some international multilateral organizations stopping or reducing aid to China, the latter began to increase its contributions to multilateral organizations.

4.4 Latest Developments in Multilateral Assistance (2013–today)

Another milestone for China’s multilateral aid was reached in 2014. For the first time ever in its history, China—together with Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa—decided to establish a BRICS multilateral development bank. The decision was taken at the Sixth Summit Meeting in Brazil on July 14, 2014 with an initial fund of US$ 100 billion. ³ On July 21st, 2015, the BRICS Development Bank was established with Shanghai as its headquarters. On Oct. 23, 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping advocated the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). On December 25th, 2015, the AIIB was established with a fund of USD100 billion. The establishment of these two banks demonstrated that China had begun taking a leading role in some regional development institutions.

5. China’s Involvement in the Main Multilateral Organizations

Multilateral organizations are “international institutions with governmental membership. They include organizations to which donors’ contributions may be reported, either in whole or in part, as multilateral ODA as well as organizations that serve only as channels for bilateral ODA” (OECD 2011).

There are currently about 210 multilateral organizations that are involved in providing multilateral assistance. These organizations can be categorized into three types. The first type includes organizations under the UN system, such as UNDP, WFP, WHO, and so on. These organizations provide free technical aid through grants. The second type includes global and regional financial institutions (although some institutions are also under the UN system), such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, and so on. These institutions mainly provide financial support for some countries through concessional loans. The third type includes regional multilateral institutions such as the European Union or the African Union,
which can help the development of specific countries through grants, technical support and projects. Besides providing large amounts of aid for development, multilateral organizations are also involved in humanitarian aid when disasters occur.

China works with multilateral organizations at four different levels. The first level is the UN system. China has joined almost all of the UN system organizations and maintains a very close relationship with them (see Table 1). The second level comprises global and regional financial organizations such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (see Table 2). The third level consists of some regional multilateral organizations such as the African Union. The last level is made up of the organizations and mechanisms advocated and launched by China (see Table 2).

### 6. China’s Contributions to Multilateral Assistance

According to OECD, a country’s core contributions are regarded as multilateral assistance that may be disbursed...
in the form of financing or capital. The next section provides an overview of China’s methods of multilateral assistance. To some degree, these differ from those of more traditional ways.

6.1 Membership Assessments, Equity Financing and Voluntary Donations

In recent years, multilateral organizations have been playing ever more important roles in tackling global issues. China has rendered support to and taken part in the development assistance programs sponsored by multilateral organizations by way of assessments, voluntary donations, equity financing, etc.

As one example, let’s consider China’s role as a multilateral donor to the UN. When China resumed its UN seat in 1971, it agreed to pay its membership assessment comprising 4% of the total UN budget, which was, at the time, far beyond China’s capacity. Instead, until 1978, China contributed a voluntary donation of about 40,000 dollars and 16.20 million RMB (Xiong 2010, pp. 49–63). The assessment then rose to 5.5% until 1979. China’s assessment dropped considerably to 0.72% in 1995. But since the new millennium, China’s assessment has again been rising quickly. Between 2013–2015, China’s assessment made it the sixth-largest country, ranking after the USA, Japan, Germany, UK and France with an average rate of 5% (US$300 million) every year.

Two-thirds of the UN’s expenditure comes from voluntary donations. From 2010 to 2012, China contributed a total of 1.76 billion yuan to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This also included support for other developing countries in the form of poverty reduction, food security, trade development, crisis prevention and reconstruction, population development, maternal and child health care, disease prevention and control, education and environmental protection (Information Office of the State Council 2014).

6.2 Contribution of Food and Materials

The World Food Program provided food aid to China from 1979 until 2005, when China accomplished food self-sufficiency. Therefore, the WFP ceased its 26-year food aid program to China. In that same year, China started to contribute food aid and became the third-largest food contributor (Xiong 2010, pp. 49–63).

6.3 Contribution to Humanitarian Aid

China’s humanitarian aid has a long history. In recent years, China has become more active in humanitarian aid in both bilateral and multilateral ways. With globalization and integration, many global crises, as well as natural disasters, have arisen and, as a result, the world is facing growing humanitarian challenges. China, with its increasing role in the world arena, is engaging more actively in humanitarian aid. As mentioned above, the WFP ended food support to China in 2005; in the same year, China provided US$1 million to the WFP to support humanitarian institutions, and dispatched staff to undertake work in tsunami-hit areas. It was regarded as a milestone for China’s multilateral assistance by the WFP.

6.4 Exchange of Experience in Terms of Development Aid with Multilateral Organizations

With its enhanced ability to participate in global affairs, China has shown its capacity to support assistance programs initiated by multilateral development organizations and has exchanged experiences and explored practical
cooperation in an increasingly open-minded manner. China has sent delegations to participate in conferences and dialogues on international development and cooperation, such as the UN High-Level Meeting on Financing for Development, UN High-Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, UN Development Cooperation Forum, High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, and WTO Global Review on Aid for Trade. This has been undertaken to strengthen its communications and exchanges with multilateral organizations in capacity building, training and infrastructure construction that give full play to the advantages of all participants. In 1981, China worked with the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) to implement the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) program in China, and it has trained more than 6,000 technicians from other developing countries over more than 20 years. Since 1996, China has cooperated with UNFAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) by sending Chinese agricultural experts to developing countries. By the end of 2009, China had sent more than 700 agricultural experts and technicians to Africa, the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific area (Information Office of the State Council).

China continues to engage in cooperation on training programs targeted at other developing countries with the UNDP, the UNICEF, the FAO, the UNIDO, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the World Bank, and the IMF. From 2010 to 2012, together with the above-mentioned organizations, China held about 50 training sessions on themes such as agriculture, trade development, disaster prevention and relief, finance, industrial development and social and public management (Information Office of the State Council 2014).

Besides the training programs, through the FAO, from 2009–2012, China dispatched 235 experts to Mongolia, Nigeria, Uganda and six other countries to provide technical guidance to improve local agricultural production. From 2011 to 2012, China worked closely with the WHO and dispatched 15 experts to Namibia, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Pakistan to help control the spread of poliomyelitis. In 2012, China set up an educational trust fund under UNESCO to provide teacher training for eight African countries (Information Office of the State Council 2014).

6.5 Supporting Development Financing of Regional Financial Institutions

China strengthened cooperation with regional financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the West African Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank to channel more capital into the fields of infrastructure, environmental protection, education and health care in developing countries. By 2012, China had donated a total of US$ 1.3 billion to these regional financial institutions. Apart from China’s investment of US$20 million to establish the Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund in the Asian Development Bank in 2005, China donated another 20 million U.S. dollars to this Fund in 2012 to help with poverty reduction and development programs in developing countries. By the end of 2012, China had contributed a total of US$110 million to the Asian Development Fund of the Asian Development Bank. Furthermore, China supported the capacity building of these financial institutions through technical cooperation funds set up in the African Development Bank, the West African Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank (Information Office of the State Council 2014).

7. Challenges Facing China’s Multilateral Assistance and Possible Solutions

As shown above, China’s multilateral assistance has realized some considerable achievements in recent years, but there are still challenges that must be tackled in the near future.
The Volume of China’s Net Total Multilateral Assistance is still Small

Since 2013, China has been more active in multilateral organizations and has been increasing its share of multilateral aid. Compared with DAC countries and the amount of its own bilateral aid, however, this multilateral assistance remains small and does not match the growth of its own gross GDP.

As mentioned in the above study, the average multilateral assistance of DAC countries accounts for about 28% of their total aid. According to studies by Chinese scholars, China’s multilateral assistance only accounted for 3.41% of its total contributions in 2007, while the UNESC estimated it as being only 2% in 2009. In some countries, the share of multilateral assistance is more than 50%, with Italian multilateral assistance comprising as much as 70% of its total. According to Kitano’s study, China’s bilateral net foreign aid was closer to the net ODA of Japan and France in 2014, while its multilateral foreign aid was much smaller in comparison to the top five DAC members, and smaller than the level for South Korea in 2014 (Kitano 2014, pp. 301–317). Meanwhile, China’s multilateral assistance also had some ups and downs in recent years. For example, in 2014, the share of bilateral foreign aid, which accounted for 93% of its total aid, was much larger than that of previous years due to a 6-percentage point decrease in multilateral foreign aid. Figure 2 shows the large gap between China’s bilateral aid and multilateral aid.

As Figure 2 shows, China’s multilateral assistance accounted for 13% of its total aid in 2013, while in 2014, it dropped sharply to 7%. Therefore, under current circumstances, the author suggests that China should increase its multilateral assistance in the coming years.

China Lacks Efficient Management Systems for Multilateral Assistance

When cooperating with multilateral organizations, China places the responsibility for multilateral assistance under the management of specialized departments. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture coordinates with FAO, the China Economic and Technology Exchange Center under the Ministry of Commerce coordinates with UNDP, and the Ministry of Finance oversees cooperation with the World Bank. Table 3 shows some of the important departments involved in multilateral assistance, and the amount of multilateral assistance channeled through each department. As Table 3, clearly shows, in recent years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs mobilized the greatest por-
tion of China’s multilateral aid, accounting for as much as 72% of total multilateral assistance in 2014. To some degree, this also shows the diplomatic orientation of China’s multilateral aid. Some other important departments are the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, and the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

It is apparent that China is mainly allocating multilateral assistance towards the fields of technological cooperation, medical care, agriculture, education, and personnel training, which also corresponds to those of its bilateral aid.

However, this kind of management has its own flaws. Each department has its own vested interests, and it is hard for the departments to cooperate with each other, leading to the potential for waste of resources. China needs an independent department to manage its foreign aid to reap its full benefits.

7.3 China’s Lack of Capacity for Agenda-setting and Institutional Contributions

Agenda-setting is the capability to influence or even determine the topic for public discussion and debate. Originally, China was separated from most multilateral development institutions (which here refers to international organizations, along with some rules, regulations and norms). As a consequence, China has not had much influence within these organizations. In more recent years, China has put forward quite a lot of new concepts that are very beneficial to international development, such as win-win, mutual benefit, common development, harmonious development, coordinative and creative development, and shared development. However, there is still a long way to go before these concepts are likely to be accepted by the international community. Fortunately, on Feb 10, 2017, for the first time in history, the concept of “Building the Community of Common Destiny of Mankind”—proposed by China—was written into a UN resolution. The UN Human Rights Council Resolution 2344 was written on March 23 and passed by the UNSC on March 17. In the resolution, the UN calls for further efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation, including through the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (the Belt and Road) Initiative. However, China needs to work closely and actively to promote these new concepts, if such approaches and initiatives seek to be accepted and put into practice.

8. Conclusion

To sum up, international development architecture is undergoing a transition while, at the same time, China’s foreign aid is also in a critical period of transition. The general trend is that multilateral assistance is playing in-

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**Table 3 China’s Government Departments Involved in Multilateral Assistance 2010–2014, US$ million.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>OFA</th>
<th>MOF</th>
<th>PBC</th>
<th>MOC</th>
<th>MOA</th>
<th>NHFPC</th>
<th>MOHRSS</th>
<th>MOE</th>
<th>MEP</th>
<th>SFA</th>
<th>MIIT</th>
<th>MPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,288</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,199</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; MOF: Ministry of Finance; PBC: People’s Bank of China; MOC: Ministry of Commerce; MOA: Ministry of Agriculture; NHFPC: National Health and Family Planning Commission; MOHRSS: Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security; MOE: Ministry of Education; MEP: Ministry of Environmental Protection; SFA: State Forestry Administration; MITT: Ministry of Industry and Information Technology; MPS: Ministry of Public Security. Sources: Edited by the author based on the statistics by Naohiro Kitano. See Kitano (2016).
creasingly important roles and can enhance aid transparency, aid efficiency and so on. Traditional donors tend to have a large share of multilateral assistance within their total ODA. Although China has been more active in this field in recent years, multilateral aid comprises only a small proportion of multilateral assistance compared to DAC countries, as well as its own bilateral aid. Therefore, in order to enlarge its influence, to create a more positive image and to shoulder proper international responsibility, China needs to work closely with multilateral organizations to promote win-win cooperation.

Notes
1 Professor Xiong Hou has completed a detailed statistical study of China membership of these international organizations and the timing of their assessments. See Xiong Hou (2010) "Zhongguo Duobianyuanzhu Linian Yu Shijian" ["Ideas and Practice of China’s Multilateral Aid"], Waijiao Pinglun, [Foreign Affairs Review], No. 5, pp. 49–62.
3 The concept of a BRICS development bank can be traced back as early as 2012, when five countries talked about establishing a development bank of their own. In 2013, at the Fifth Summit Meeting of the BRICS, the leaders agreed to establish the bank in order to reduce their dependence on the dollar and Euro.
4 As there are no official statistics of the Chinese government, there are only estimations about China’s multilateral aid. Scholars and official government data may differ sharply from each other.

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