

The reviews in *Internationales Asienforum* try to give a brief evaluation of recent German publications.

KLAUS BODEMER: Erfolgskontrolle der deutschen Entwicklungshilfe - improvisiert oder systematisch? (Transfines, Studien zur Politik und Gesellschaft des Auslandes, Band 3)  
Meisenheim am Glan: Anton Hain, 1979. 274 pages, DM 52.-

The author of this study on the evaluation of German development policy has analysed in his doctoral thesis<sup>1</sup> the ideology and methodology of German development aid. Some years ago he was asked by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation to analyse the evaluation reports prepared within the Ministry of Economic Cooperation. As a result of these studies K. Bodemer has now published observations and critical comments on evaluation procedures applied in the planning and implementation of development cooperation, with special consideration of the contribution of evaluation results to improving the planning and implementation of projects.

The author distinguishes three phases. During the first phase of the institutionalization of development cooperation within a separate ministry, evaluation was based on improvisation. Since 1969 development cooperation of the ruling social-liberal political parties was enriched by working out new methods of evaluation with special reference to procedures adopted by the World Bank and other national and international donor agencies. From the beginning, these activities led to the conclusion that the orientation of projects to developing targets was limited to efficiently defining development targets, a problem which has not yet been solved. Additionally, the author has established that evaluation experiences have not been converted into improved project implementation. This is explained by the fact that evaluation was perceived less as an instrument of control and monitoring than as a means of legitimation for the executive agencies.

K. Bodemer's study ends with some proposals for improving evaluation methods in German development aid. The recommendations emphasize institutional changes based on the results of an analysis of past processes; the criteria of judgement arise mainly from the political understanding of development policy. This view is an excellent complement to the numerous economic studies on development policy. The study should also be recommended on another account: for the first time facts and reports not accessible to the public have been utilised. Finally, another advantage of K. Bodemer's analysis is that it is, on the

one hand, not restricted to projects in selected countries and areas and, on the other hand, deals explicitly with the problems of development cooperation with various countries.

Criticism may be made of the fact that the author underrates the increasing difficulties that multidimensional and open targets create for the basic-needs-strategy. It would be helpful if the author were to analyse the consequences of the connection between evaluation and development administration more precisely. Such a study would lead to further recommendations on improvements necessary in the implementation of development aid which have been intensively discussed in recent years in the Federal Republic of Germany. Finally, the institutionalization of monitoring of the evaluation processes and techniques should be analysed with the purpose of developing and adopting increasingly effective evaluation methods within development policy. It would be beneficial if K. Bodemer would direct his attention in future to these questions. He can undoubtedly contribute important insights and experiences from the point of view of political science.

Footnote:

- 1) Klaus Bodemer: Entwicklungshilfe - Politik für wen? Ideologie und Vergabepraxis der deutschen Entwicklungshilfe in der ersten Dekade. München: Weltforum Verlag, 1974.

Karl Wolfgang Menck