

Given that expert-counterpart training is the most expensive form of technical assistance, costing roughly US\$200,000 per advisor yearly, it is not surprising that the almost limitless ways in which things can go wrong has caused many to question TC's cost effectiveness.

To balance the picture, some more positive evaluations should be noted amid all these criticisms. Cassen's 1986 study cautioned the development community not to overlook the achievements of technical cooperation over the past four decades. He points out that a significant portion of traditional TC — that of science-based technologies (e.g., meteorology, the agricultural research which produced the green revolution) — is beyond reproach. He contrasts success in those areas with "institutional and capacity-building assistance...[which] involves large numbers of people... [and whose] outcome is influenced by social and cultural practices...[and is] therefore less likely to produce unambiguous success."⁴⁰ But even in the latter areas, he adds, "the achievements of TC should not be overlooked in an excess of critical zeal."⁴¹

Cassen argues that "a vast creation of institutional and human capabilities throughout the Third World" has developed through technical cooperation.⁴² The DAC Principles agree, stating that TC "has had major beneficial impacts, such as the training of large numbers...and the strengthening of many institutions."⁴³ These statements should remind us that the quantitative accomplishments of TC, in terms of numbers of trained manpower, have been considerable and that, while the effort to create sustainable institutions has yielded disappointing results, the fault

40. Cassen, R. *op. cit.*, pp. 181, 184.

41. *Ibid.*, p. 184.

42. *Ibid.*, p. 183.

43. OECD Development Assistance Committee, *op. cit.*, p. 4.