

# Determinants of Ownership in Aid to China

Professor Marie Söderberg  
The European Institute of  
Japanese Studies

# Chinese perspective

- Supersensitive to outside involvement in internal affairs
- Stays in charge of its own development process
- Centralised system
- Capable bureaucracy competing for projects
- Low dependency on aid

# Japanese perspectives

- Interested in a stable and open China
- ODA helps bilateral political relations
- Size of the budget leads to access to Chinese leadership
- Promoting economic development and commercial interests

# Japanese perspectives

- Criticism from domestic opinion groups has led to a more assertive policy
- Type of aid ( loans, grants, technical cooperation) leads to different projects with different ownership
- Loan aid -Tianjin waste water plant
- Grant aid, technical cooperation –  
Sino-Japan Friendship Centre

# Swedish perspectives

- China's size matters
- Domestic Swedish constituencies are important
- Swedish ODA small size but leads to - window of opportunity for communication
- Mainly technical cooperation (but also export credits) –Airpolution in Quingdao

# Determinants of ownership

- Japanese and Swedish Country Assistant Plans are onesided documents
- Poverty reduction not a big issue
- China clever to learn new technologies – but transferring this knowledge to institutional reform and policy action difficult
- Chinese ownership to such objectives not evident