



Research on the Mechanism of Chinese Enterprises “Going Out” to Participate in International Poverty Alleviation: Taking Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines as research subjects¹

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Abstract: Poverty is an important challenge for global sustainable development and an important issue for companies to fulfill their social responsibilities. Under the background of “The Belt and Road” initiative and the China–ASEAN social development and poverty alleviation cooperation strategy, China and Southeast Asian countries have carried out extensive poverty alleviation cooperation. This paper selects Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines, which have close exchanges and cooperation with China and are under serious poverty situation as the research object, analyzes their poverty status and key poverty alleviation fields. And based on domestic and international experience in poverty alleviation, it studies typical mechanisms of Chinese enterprises “going out” to conduct poverty reduction activities, as well as the experience of developed countries and Chinese government and enterprises cooperation in international poverty alleviation, in order to promote the strength of Chinese enterprises and government departments, participate in local poverty alleviation development, and gain long-term and stable outcomes overseas.

Key words: Chinese “Going out” Enterprises; Government–Enterprise Cooperation; Poverty Alleviation Mechanism

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I. Introduction

Poverty eradication is the primary goal of the UN’ s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. By the end of 2013, 10.7% (about 766 million) of the world’ s population is still in extreme poverty [1], working hard to meet basic needs such as survival, education, access to water and sanitation. Among them, about half of the poor people live in low and middle-income countries [2]. Although the poor are distributed all over the world, they have similar characteristics in terms of economic income, nutrient access, living environment, family assets, education level, health and life expectancy. Among the 17 SDGs explicitly proposed by the United Nations, poverty reduction 12 of them is closely related to poverty alleviation [3]. Effected by factors such as colonial history, national development path and internal development environment, some countries in Southeast Asia has quite different level of economic and social development and is one of the regions with high population concentration and uneven economic and social development in the world [4]. With the increasing mutual trust between China and ASEAN and the deepening of bilateral cooperation, Chinese enterprises have increased their non-financial direct investment and foreign contracted projects along the “Belt and Road Initiative” countries, advancing regional interconnection and mutually beneficial cooperation, and improving the level of economic and social development in poor countries and regions and the promoting local poverty alleviation to become important issues for China’ s “going out” enterprises. The first problem to be solved currently is how to base on the characteristics of poverty in Southeast Asia, give full play to the advantages of the government and enterprises, and achieve poverty alleviation according to local conditions. Because the poverty situation in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines is more serious in Southeast Asia, and at the same time, China and East Asia poverty alleviation projects are mainly carried out in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines, the articles takes Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines as examples to study China’ s “going out” enterprises and typical mechanisms of government-enterprise cooperation to participate in poverty alleviation, with the aim to help enterprises to cooperate in the “Belt and Road Initiative” , China-ASEAN social development and poverty alleviation cooperation and contribute to local poverty alleviation.

II. Poverty Status and Key Areas in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines

Southeast Asia is one of the regions in the world where population is highly concentrated with extremely uneven economic and social development. Among them, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines are countries that are in severe poverty and enjoy key investment from China. This paper has carried out specific analysis on the poverty situation and key poverty alleviation areas in these four countries.

i. The current poverty situation in Lao, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines

Laos is one of the countries with the highest poverty rate among ASEAN countries. Poverty is a major obstacle to Laos’ economic development and social progress. In recent years, Laos has achieved remarkable results in poverty alleviation. The incidence rate of poverty has decreased from 46% in 1992 to 6.59% in 2015. However, the problem of poverty remains severe [5]. By 2015, the per capita national income of Laos is less than 2,000 dollars, and the poverty population accounts for about 20%; in 2016, the number of poor households in Laos was 76,318, accounting for 6.56% of the total number of households in the country; the number of poor villages was 1,689, accounting for 17.85% of the total number of villages in Laos; the mortality rate of children under 5 is 6.4%, which is the highest among the ten ASEAN countries [6].

Myanmar’ s total population from 2014 to 2015 is 51.4 million, with a GDP of 56.8 billion dollars and per capita GDP of 1105 dollars. According to statistics from World Bank, the poor population in Myanmar accounts for nearly 37.5% of the total population [6]. The residents of each provinces have a certain poverty incidence rate, and the incidence rate of poverty in some ethnic minority states is even higher. The majority of the population in Myanmar lives in rural areas, and nearly 70% of the poor live in rural areas.

Social inequality prevails in Philippines with the greatest impact on indigenous peoples, fishermen, women and the informal sectors. By 2016, Philippines still has 21.6% of its



population living below the poverty line. The indigenous population accounts for about 15% of the total population and enjoys about 17% of the total land area. The struggle for land is the main cause of instability in the indigenous areas. In 2013, the Gender Inequality Index of Philippines was 0.418 points [7], reflecting serious gender inequalities in labor market participation, political representation and access to health care. In 2015, the incidence rate of poverty among farmers, fishermen, children, self-employed people and women in Philippines was 21.6% higher than that of the general population [8].

In Cambodia, about 22.9% of people lived below the national poverty line in 2009. With the development of clothing, construction, tourism and agriculture, the proportion of the poor in 2012 fell to 18%, and the proportion in 2016 fell to 14%. However, Cambodians living in rural areas, especially in the highlands and mountains, do not fully enjoy the benefits of economic development. Two-thirds among the country's 1.6 million rural households face seasonal food shortages each year, and the rice alone accounts for 30% of total household expenditure. From 2014 to 2016, the proportion of undernourished people was 15.3%. Although the growth of per capita GDP has contributed to the reduce the number of the extremely poor, the decline rate is not at the same pace as the economic growth rate. The proportion of non-poor but economically insecure households has been increasing, which has aggravated the inequality gap [9].

ii. Key fields of poverty alleviation in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines

For a long time, countries have made poverty alleviation as the top priority of government work, and the measures taken by different countries are not the same (see Table 1). On the whole, as agricultural countries, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines have regarded agricultural poverty as a major problem, mainly starting from upgrading infrastructure, agricultural technology, public services, and farmland productivity. The four countries all recognize the potential of education for poverty alleviation. As the poverty causes of four countries all include, the low level of education, the surplus of ordinary labor, and the difficulty of employment, leading to weak economic growth, and confirming the great potential of education for poverty alleviation. Thus, promoting education level and improving education

system are the key areas for the state to implement education poverty alleviation. Based on the advantages of natural resources, Laos, Cambodia and Philippines continue to develop tourism, encourage and promote the development of tourism, to drive local economic growth. The government of Laos expects that foreign tourists will increase to 5.2 million, and tourism revenue will reach 910 million dollars [10]; in the first half of 2017 alone, Cambodia has received 2.66 million international tourists, with an increase of 12.8%.

Table 1 Summary of the causes of poverty and in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines

Southeast Asian Countries	Poverty Causes	Key Fields of Poverty Alleviation
Laos	Lacking natural resources Lots of minority ethnics and low education levels Extensive religious influence Industry and service industry have a low proportion of development with backward agriculture	Enhancing economic development Encouraging tourism development Improving education Eradicating hunger Promoting agricultural technology improvement[11]
Myanmar	Domestic political turmoil serious corruption problem Large agricultural population and low productivity Low utilization of natural resources	Enhancing agricultural development Public service Improving education system[12]
Cambodia	Low education population, and difficult to find work slow agricultural development Lacking health and sanitary conditions	Diversification economic development Enhancing tourism development Enhancing agricultural development Strengthen infrastructure construction Promoting private business and employment[13]
Philippines	frequent natural disasters continuous regional armed conflicts lacking motivation for economic growth caused by unemployment and semi-unemployment	Promoting capability to deal with natural disasters Promoting employment Enhancing agricultural productivity Promoting economic diversification[14]



III. Analysis of the Mechanism of Chinese Enterprises Participating in Poverty Alleviation in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines

i. Corporate Social Responsibility and Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation is an important issue for enterprises to fulfill their social responsibilities. Enterprises fulfill their responsibilities to poor employees, provide jobs, skill training, necessary social security and welfare for poor employees, which is conducive to improve the human resource competitiveness of poor employees, compete for higher-level job opportunities, increase income, and effectively improve the life of the poor; Enterprises pay attention to the supply chain social responsibility, integrate small and medium-sized enterprises in poverty-stricken areas into the supply chain, and promote the development of partnerships in the supply chain, which is not only conducive to the establishment of a strong, stable and competitive supply chain with strong anti-risk ability for enterprises themselves, but also can drive the development of upstream and downstream industries in the industrial chain and promote economic development in poverty-stricken areas. At the same time, poverty alleviation is also an endogenous requirement for corporate development. For example, corporate participation in poverty alleviation is the need for enterprises to expand their markets. In fact, poor groups are also consumers with value consciousness. Enterprises can contribute to poverty alleviation by providing products and services to the poor and creating markets around the needs of the poor. Enterprises absorb local employment and enhance the employability of poor people, which can increase the stock of human capital and reduce the cost of employment.

China's social responsibility in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines has a direct or indirect impact on accelerating local economic, social and environmental development. Enterprises respond to the government to conduct or cooperate in poverty alleviation projects, carry out socially responsible investment related to poverty alleviation, directly employ poor employees, increase the income of poor employees, promote the industry development in poverty-stricken areas, and carry out public welfare donations, or cooperate with NGOs to carry out poverty alleviation projects, which has a direct effect on local poverty alleviation. Paying taxes in accordance with the law, providing low-cost products and

services, improving employees' vocational skills, improving the upstream and downstream social responsibility of the supply chain, providing technical or human assistance, and improving poverty alleviation concept in poverty-stricken areas can have indirect poverty alleviation effects.

ii. The mechanism for companies to participate in poverty alleviation

1. The poverty reduction mechanism connotation

The structure of social mechanism can be divided into three parts: subject, body and object. These three parts together constitute a complete operation system of social mechanisms. The subject refers to the power of all parties involved in the mechanism, which is the founder and user of the mechanism, and is dominant in the history of the development of social mechanisms. Body refers to the principle system consisted by nature, structure, function, and movement of the mechanism. The object refers to targets in the mechanism, that is, the relationship between people [15].

The subject of the poverty alleviation mechanism includes the United Nations, international financial institutions, OECD countries, countries, NGOs, enterprises, individuals, and academic institutions. The object of the poverty alleviation mechanism is the specific poverty alleviation demand or target. The macro level refers to the international or national poverty alleviation goal. For example, the Millennium Development Goals clearly define the poverty alleviation goal. The micro level refers to the local specific poverty alleviation demand of the enterprise. The body of macro poverty alleviation mechanism includes existing international poverty alleviation mechanisms, such as the UN mechanism, the international financial mechanism, the bilateral assistance international mechanism, and other regional mechanisms. The micro level includes the poverty alleviation strategy formulated by the enterprise itself.

In summary, the poverty alleviation mechanism can be divided into macro and micro poverty alleviation mechanisms. The macro poverty alleviation mechanism includes the international poverty alleviation mechanism and the national poverty alleviation mechanism. And the



micro poverty alleviation mechanism is a poverty alleviation mechanism for enterprises to implement the poverty alleviation activities as subjects. Specifically, the field of corporate poverty alleviation mechanism is more focused, generally the poverty alleviation demand of the place where the enterprise locates; the subject of the enterprise poverty alleviation mechanism is the enterprise itself, and the enterprise will also cooperate with the government and international institutions in poverty alleviation.

Table 3.1 Macro and micro poverty alleviation mechanisms

Type	Field	Participating Subjects	Implementation Process
Macro Mechanism	International poverty alleviation goals (such as SDG) National poverty alleviation goals	Countries, international agencies, NGOs, enterprises, individuals, academic institutions, etc.	Different forms of assistance, including multilateral mechanisms, bilateral mechanisms, etc.
Micro Mechanism	Poverty alleviation needs in the communities where companies are located	Enterprises	Specific poverty corporate alleviation activities targeting at local businesses Poverty alleviation activity management

i. Categories of corporate poverty alleviation mechanisms

The implementation process of the poverty alleviation mechanism is the specific poverty alleviation activities of enterprises for the local area, including the independent poverty alleviation and cooperation poverty alleviation, that is, the independent mechanism and cooperation mechanism. The independent mechanism is the mechanism for enterprises to independently carry out poverty alleviation activities. It is divided into the internal poverty alleviation mechanism of production and management activities in the enterprise and the poverty alleviation mechanism for enterprises to carry out special social projects. The internal poverty alleviation mechanism for enterprises to independently carry out production and operation activities include carrying out inclusive business, providing high-quality but

low-cost products, technological innovation, and tax paying. Poverty alleviation mechanism for enterprises to carry out special social projects includes social impact investment and poverty alleviation-related public welfare projects. The cooperation mechanism is cooperation to carry out poverty alleviation projects between enterprises and development agencies, between governments and civil society organizations.

ii. The way that Chinese companies independently conduct poverty alleviation in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines

The mechanisms for enterprises to independently carry out poverty alleviation activities include the carrying out inclusive business, providing high-quality but low-cost products, implementing environmental protection, accelerating technological and management innovation, and the poverty reduction effects of enterprise production and management activities that create fiscal revenues for local enterprises, as well as conducting special poverty alleviation activities such as investment with social effects and poverty alleviation projects.

The China-Myanmar natural gas pipeline provides natural gas for Myanmar’s Kyaukpyu. The residents of the urban area and surrounding villages in Kyaukpyu enjoy low electricity prices and sufficient electricity supply, which enhances the local poor’s access to reliable electricity and helps them improve their living standards. Cambodia’s Sustainable Green Fuel Enterprise (SGFE) innovates clean energy development, recycling natural waste such as coconut shells into charcoal briquettes to replace traditional charcoal, greatly protecting local forest resources and helping green poverty alleviation. Longping Hi-Tech conducts a “integration of breeding and cultivating” research in Philippines, leading experts from both China and Philippines to cultivate local species in Philippines. The yield of hybrid rice is nearly 30% higher than that of local traditional rice, significantly improving local agricultural productivity.

Poverty alleviation activities include disaster relief and disaster recovery, vulnerable groups assistance, basic education development support, and other charitable activities that are



consistent with the actual conditions and public needs of local communities, which are committed to providing strong support for poverty alleviation. For example, Wanbao Mining actively participates in flood control and disaster relief in Myanmar, and urgently launches rescue measures to minimize losses caused by floods; M's Pig, Cambodia's largest agricultural production company, cultivates high-tech pig breeding skills for supply chain farmers, providing all necessary The pig breeding equipment, breeding grounds, technical and vaccination training required for breeding, as well as crisis response measures, which improves the maturity and quality of livestock, helps small farmers in the supply chain to participate in market competition and increase profits. The local drinking water project conducted by SINOHYDRO BUREAU 14CO.LTD in Laos solves the drinking water safety problems of 245 households, 1,225 people, teachers and students from a rural school.

iii. Chinese enterprise limitations in poverty alleviation activities in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines

China's "going out" enterprises have carried out poverty alleviation activities in Southeast Asian countries such as Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines through production and management activities, special poverty alleviation projects or partnership mechanism, and have achieved certain results in achieving enterprise development and promoting poverty alleviation. However, it also faces many difficulties and challenges: First, the planning and implementation of poverty reduction projects are not professional enough. The poverty alleviation activities are still at the level of charity and lack integration with their own core businesses; The second is lacking in-depth understanding of local community needs, cultural differences. It is difficult to establish close ties with local communities and integrate into local communities. Third, China's "going out" enterprises have insufficient awareness and ability to spread poverty alleviation, which leads investment is not in accordance with influence of enterprises. The fourth is the poverty alleviation cooperation link with the Chinese government is insufficient, and there is no awareness of the importance of exchanges and cooperation with relevant institutions of the Chinese government. Fifth, enterprises do not have enough knowledge of the poverty alleviation policies of the countries in which they operate, and it is difficult to obtain widespread local support. Some of these

problems require the enterprises themselves manage to improve, and some require the relevant government agencies in China to exert their strengths to support and help.

IV. Analysis of the main ways of government-enterprise cooperation to carry out international poverty alleviation

National government agencies are one of the important subjects for enterprises to participate in international poverty alleviation through partnership. Leveraging the advantages of both sides through government and enterprise cooperation, can enhance the government effectiveness in international poverty alleviation, and at the same time promote enterprises to reduce international operational risks and enhance corporate responsibility image and competitive advantage. The governments of developed countries have some mature methods in cooperation with enterprises to carry out international poverty reduction for reference.

i. The main ways that governments and enterprises in developed countries collaborate to carry out international poverty alleviation

The governments of developed countries rely on specialized official assistance agencies to carry out international poverty alleviation activities and attach great importance to the assessment of poverty alleviation effects. The USAID and the UK DIFD have established assistance targets for poverty alleviation [16], while JICA in Japan has focused on combining investment and aid. Regardless of the assistance target, the "going out" enterprises in the country have become an important subject of international poverty alleviation cooperation among governments of developed countries. The official assistance agencies of the US, UK and Japan have formed a relatively mature form of foreign aid cooperation through various means of "going out" cooperation with domestic enterprises.

First, carrying out PPP project cooperation and guiding the private sector to carry out in-depth cooperation with official assistance agencies. In Japan, the PPP model has become an important way for JICA and Japanese enterprises to operate internationally. When conducting independent international operations, limited government aid budgets and project



practice experience often make it difficult to meet capital and technology needs such as infrastructure development in many recipient countries. By jointly developing PPP projects that are conducive to the economic development of recipient countries and the quality of life of residents, and continuously summarizing the operational experience of the same type of PPP projects, the Japanese government and enterprises have jointly negotiated and formulated a more scientific and rational PPP policy to ensure more deeply involvement of enterprises in the scientific research in the early stage of the project, project establishment and other stages and more participation of government in the construction management operation process in the middle and later stages of the project, thereby reducing the investment risk of enterprises and enhancing the international assistance and poverty alleviation effect [17].

Second, supporting “going out” enterprises to carry out technology research development or transformation technology. Developed countries support the enterprises by technological R&D and transformation, and introduce technologies suitable for recipient countries to the local areas to improve the backwardness of local agriculture, medical care, infrastructure and other technologies. DIFD uses the aid funds to support the “going out” enterprises of its country for agricultural technology research, and introduce high-yield wheat species resistant to diseases, insects and climate change to recipient countries, stimulating the economic growth of recipient countries, promoting the employment of local residents and improving living standards at the same time [18].

Third, the establishment of specialized financial institutions provides funds and insurance support for “going out” responsible enterprises. JICA is financing through the establishment of private sector investment financing funds like PSIF, JICA social bonds, etc. The funds are mainly used to improve projects like infrastructure, poverty alleviation and climate change in recipient countries, and provide preferential and long-term projects with preferential conditions for the implementation [17]. The UK Export Credit Guarantee Agency undertakes the functions of providing insurance and financing support for British enterprises in overseas trade and investment activities. Its “political risk” and “remittance restriction

insurance” for enterprises actively participating in international operations and poverty alleviation activities can share operational risks.

Fourth, establishing a global or regional partnership and cooperation platform to encourage “going out” enterprises to join. USAID has established the Global Development Alliance (GDAs) organization, actively promoting government agencies, enterprises, industry associations to respond to the SDG initiative and give full play to the skills, assets, technologies and resources of the public and private sectors to bridge the gaps of technology and information. After the establishment of GDAs, USAID assistance is more efficient, and the aid field is deeper. Its partner enterprises can also understand local poverty alleviation needs in a timely manner, helping local people to get rid of poverty and achieve more effective international development at the same time.

Fifth, conducting industry or regional cooperation forums or special exhibitions. JICA has established a special exhibition called “Changing Our World: Sustainable Development Goals” to deepen the understanding of recipient countries on Japanese enterprises, especially on SMEs. JICA promotes and shares the successful practices of Japanese enterprises and industry organizations in assisting developing countries with participants including the officials of recipient countries, delivering signals that domestic companies are actively responding to the SDG initiative and creating a responsible international image for domestic companies. [17].

Sixth, in the special rescue activities, actively guiding domestic enterprises to participate. Disasters will cause the country to face tremendous pressure in emergency assistance and infrastructure reconstruction, and the risk of returning to poverty will increase. DFID provides access to domestic enterprises in disaster relief activities, allowing them to provide disaster relief materials including medicines, blankets and vehicles, which timely has implemented disaster assistance, reduced public and private property losses caused by disasters, and established a good international reputation for domestic enterprises. [18].



ii. The main ways that governments and enterprises in China collaborate to carry out poverty alleviation in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and the Philippines

In recent years, China's assistance cooperation to Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines mainly includes the construction of complete sets of projects, the providing materials and equipment, sending experts for technical assistance, dispatching medical teams and volunteers, implementing debt relief, and conducting humanitarian assistance [19]. The Chinese government also encourages more and more Chinese "going out" companies to fulfill responsibility and promote local poverty alleviation.

First, the government aid projects are implemented by Chinese "going out" enterprises. The Chinese government poverty alleviation work is mainly in the form of assistance construction of transportation, energy, and people's livelihood projects to help recipient countries gradually embark on the road of self-reliance and economic independent development. The specific implementation of related projects is usually carried out by government departments through bid inviting, and the successful bidders are responsible to implement. The Chinese Drug Rehabilitation Center Assistance Project is the first complete set of projects of the Chinese government assistance to Philippines, which is implemented by the China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co. Ltd. After the project is completed, it will become the most advanced and humane care and rehabilitation center in Philippines, which will be conducive to fight against drugs in Philippines and even help economic and social development.

Second, the poverty alleviation public welfare is regarded as the political responsibility of "going out" state-owned enterprises. Under the advocacy of the Chinese government, when state-owned enterprises operate overseas, they also share certain political responsibilities for the government. Chinese "going out" enterprises, especially state-owned enterprises, in addition to carrying out projects related to business operations, usually respond to government requests for poverty alleviation projects, actively funding or establishing charitable funds, helping local area get access to highways and electricity and building schools and hospitals, which provides strong support for local sustainable

development and poverty alleviation.

Third, holding the China-ASEAN Social Development and Poverty Alleviation Forum and sharing the experience of corporate poverty alleviation. By September 2018, the China State Council Poverty Alleviation Office has hosted the 12th China-ASEAN Social Development and Poverty Alleviation Forum, which aims to provide an exchange platform of policies and experiences on social development and poverty alleviation for policy makers, theoretical researchers and development practitioners in ASEAN countries and China. After years of exploration, the Chinese government and enterprises have formed relatively mature domestic experience in poverty alleviation. The sharing of poverty alleviation experience will enhance the confidence of Southeast Asian countries in Chinese enterprises to help reduce poverty in local areas, and be conducive to smooth the channels for Chinese enterprises to enter the Southeast Asian market.

Fourth, establishing a demonstration site for poverty alleviation cooperation in Southeast Asia and working with enterprises to explore ways to reduce poverty. China set up a special fund for poverty alleviation cooperation in East Asia and established an East Asia poverty alleviation cooperation demonstration site. The Guangxi Foreign Investment Poverty Project Management Center, as the specific implementation unit of the project in Laos, has selected two villages in Laos as pilot projects. The project mainly includes five parts: rural infrastructure construction, public services, farmer livelihood improvement, capacity building and technical assistance. The government departments, Chinese enterprises, and local enterprises jointly build and operate the project to overcome the poverty alleviation problems caused by factors such as geography and culture, ensuring the smooth development of the project. Through project construction, the improvement of local production and living conditions can be accelerated, forming a diversified income-increasing channel for the community, especially for the poor population, and providing demonstrations and samples for poverty alleviation and improvement of people's livelihood in East Asian countries [20]. Through points to expand to strips, the Chinese government and enterprises are jointly exploring ways to reduce poverty in different countries and regions in Southeast Asia and



expand poverty alleviation effects.

V. Conclusion and Suggestion

At present, there are still serious poverty problems in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines. China’s “going out” enterprises actively fulfill their social responsibilities, expand the poverty alleviation effect of production and operation activities through conducting inclusive business, providing high-quality and low-cost products, and creating local fiscal revenues for local areas, or carry out special projects such as social impact investment and poverty alleviation to help these four countries of Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines to reduce poverty and get rid of poverty. Governments are important players in corporate poverty alleviation partnerships. By conducting PPP projects, technical cooperation, financial support, and building cooperation and exchange platforms, government and enterprises poverty alleviation cooperation can be promoted, which can take advantage of both sides to effectively improve poverty problem and establish a responsible international image and reputation for their own governments and “going out” companies. Based on the above analysis, the paper proposes the following suggestions.

Chinese “going out” enterprises should improve poverty alleviation from the following aspects: First, combining with local poverty alleviation needs, striving to be the local responsibility fulfillment model and promoting local social responsibility development. Second, assessing the poverty alleviation needs of the country or community in which it operates, and selecting the appropriate type of poverty alleviation project based on the characteristics of the enterprise own business and the development stage. Third, developing a systematic project implementation plan and conducting project management in accordance with the PDCA process. Fourth, cooperating with international agencies, government agencies, and social organizations to expand poverty alleviation effects. Drawing on the above methods, combining with local poverty reduction key areas and enterprise own competitiveness, the following targeted poverty alleviation projects and activities can be carried out: Chinese language empowerment projects, applicable agricultural cooperation projects, labor skills upgrading, supply chain poverty alleviation projects, ecological poverty alleviation projects,

infrastructure poverty alleviation projects, poverty-stricken population entrepreneurship projects, and affordable products and services for the poor.

Government departments should make a comprehensive plan in the following aspects to support enterprises to better participate in international poverty alleviation work. First, guiding enterprises to assess the poverty alleviation needs and policies of the countries or communities in which they operate, and encouraging enterprises to combine their business characteristics and development stages to explore poverty alleviation activities that are in line with its own business and local poverty alleviation needs. Second, providing “going out” enterprises, especially “going out” SMEs, necessary financial support, operational insurance and technical guidance, so that more companies have the willingness and ability to participate in international operations to promote local poverty alleviation. Third, guiding or urging the “going out” enterprises to abide by the laws and regulations and social responsibility rules in the place where they operate, avoiding legal risk and responsibility lacking risk. While ensuring stable operation, promoting the deepening development of local social responsibility and sustainable development concepts. Fourth, guiding enterprises to carry out foreign aid or taking short-term benefits and long-term benefits into account during conducting poverty alleviation activities. In short term, visible benefits will be brought to the local people through localized employment and providing high-quality and low-cost products. In long term, endogenous and exogenous power for local people are provided through poverty infrastructure construction and other methods. Fifth, guiding or urging enterprises to strengthen poverty alleviation quality monitoring and evaluation, which can not only ensure that poverty alleviation policies, funds, and measures are implemented, but also quantify poverty alleviation performance to facilitate the spread of poverty alleviate effects. Sixth, with the help of the China-ASEAN Social Development and Poverty Alleviation Forum, and a broader platform can be opened up, which will increase the publicity effect of international responsibility and poverty alleviation and create a responsible international image for enterprises in our country.



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