

【Side event of TICAD7】

**Peacebuilding on the Ground:
Restore Lost Bonds between Local Governments and Communities**

On Aug. 30, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hosted a side event on peacebuilding at the Hotel Intercontinental Yokohama Grand.

This event was held to discuss how to build capacities of local governments to provide adequate public services based on the needs of residents and to restore bonds between local governments and their communities in conflict-affected countries.

In opening remarks, Mr. Hiroshi Kato, JICA Senior Vice President, mentioned the significance of securing human's everyday life and dignity from the viewpoint of human security, and asserted that development and prosperity in Africa cannot be achieved without peace and stability. He stated that JICA, as a development agency, had lots of experiences for sustainable peacebuilding.

During the reporting session that followed, rapporteurs from Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and JICA gave accounts of peace building by strengthening the capacity of local governments, with government and residents discussing deeply about the present and future of the communities in which they lived. They also explained how working together to resolve problems helped building mutual trust.

Subsequently, panel discussion was held under the moderation of Ms. Eri Komukai, JICA Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding. Panelists including Dr. Osamu Koike, Professor at Yokohama National University, Mr. Shuya Takahashi, Member of Miyagi Prefectural Assembly, Dr. Samuel Rizk, Head of UNDP Crisis Bureau took the floor to share the lessons from local governance in Japan and other countries and the efforts for reconstruction from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011.

They shared views on the importance of strengthening local government capacities in conflict-affected countries, and of the need for collaboration between local governments and communities both to provide effective services in the wake of conflicts or disasters (no matter where such events take place) and to

achieve sustainable communities.

Finally, in closing remarks, Mr. Itsu Adachi, Director General of Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department of JICA summed up the event by emphasizing that the resilience was built by every practice. He restated that reconstruction process worked as the opportunity to achieve “Build Back Better”, and that trust building between government and residents was crucial for conflict prevention. He concluded by saying that it was necessary to support local governments of conflict-affected countries continuously through combining various approaches.

■ Participants

[Opening Remarks]

Hiroshi Kato, Senior Vice President, JICA

[Rapporteurs]

Ismal Musa Onzu, Chief Administrative Officer, Zombo District, Uganda

Kone Siaka, Deputy Mayor, Abobo City, Cote d'Ivoire

Abba Yusuf, Permanent Secretary, State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Borno State, Nigeria

Yuko Dohi, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding, JICA

[Panelists]

Samuel Rizk, Head of Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions, Crisis Bureau, UNDP

Osamu Koike, Professor, Yokohama National University

Shuya Takahashi, Member of Miyagi Prefectural Assembly

[Moderator]

Eri Komukai, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding, JICA

[Closing Remarks]

Itsu Adachi, Director General, Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department, JICA

■ Photos



■ Related SDGs

