

Research

Intensification of Research on Japan's Development Experience and International Cooperation and Its Dissemination

The JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) carries out research activities with two main objectives. The first objective is to conduct analysis of development issues in developing countries and contributing to JICA's operation strategies. The second is to contribute to constructive discussion on the development agenda by sharing research evidence widely and leading international policy dialogue. With these two objectives, JICA-RI conducts research activities that build on the field experiences and know-how it has accumulated as a development assistance organization.

The results of the research activities are published in the form of working papers, books, and academic journals and also widely shared at seminars, symposiums, and international conferences.

● Basic Policy for Research Activities

1. Incorporating a Comprehensive Perspective

JICA-RI will incorporate a comprehensive perspective in its cross-field research and analysis of development issues, encompassing individuals, society, the state, and the market.

2. Integrating Past and Future

JICA-RI will conduct research activities based on the field experiences and analytic results of JICA, as well as those of other development partners worldwide. It will integrate past lessons into the future development activities.

3. Unraveling the East Asian experiences

JICA-RI will analyze the growth experiences of Japan and its Asian neighbors and explore the applicability of these experiences to other regions.

4. Sharing Experiences and Knowledge and Collaborating with the International Community

JICA-RI aims to be a research institute that is open to both Japanese and international partners, including researchers, aid-implementing organizations, governmental bodies, private-sector corporations and NGOs.

● Priority Research Areas

1. Peace and Development

Recognizing the importance of promoting human security against diverse threats such as armed conflicts, large-scale disasters, pandemics and transnational crime, JICA-RI works on identifying more effective approaches to provide assistance. JICA-RI's research analyzes causes and factors underlying global challenges, as well as risk prevention efforts by multiple stakeholders. For example, a research project on bilateral donors' response to humanitarian crisis presented key messages and a research paper at the World Humanitarian Summit held in May 2016. The messages proposed, such as "recognize that crisis

management is not linear" and "putting 'local' at the center," were in line with the gist of the summit and were also part of the joint-declaration issued by a JICA-supported side event. Another example of the wide use of our research outcomes and findings was a think piece on the relationship between human security and human development for the Human Development Report 2016 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The piece was inspired by past and present research on human security, including ongoing work about East Asia. Another research includes a project looking at alternative education provision for those who have had their education disrupted by conflict.

2. Growth and Poverty Reduction

In order to facilitate economic development and rectify internal disparities in developing countries, growth and poverty reduction must be promoted simultaneously. For this reason, JICA-RI mainly performs quantitative analysis to ascertain possible impacts of economic development and poverty on individuals and society and to propose and implement appropriate policy measures. JICA's research activities include analysis of socioeconomic effects utilizing Japan's experience and knowledge of infrastructure projects in developing countries, experimental study of poverty reduction and production expansion for small-scale farmers in Africa, survey of economic impact of overseas remittance in Tajikistan, etc., and study of encouragement of using local currency in Cambodia.

3. Environment and Development/Climate Change

Regional and global environmental deterioration are major threats to human security in developing countries. JICA-RI conducts research in order to contribute to devise policies for evaluating environmental damage, effective means to manage natural resources, and ways to mitigate or adapt to climate change. As a research project on economic evaluation of climate change adaptation measures under uncertainty, JICA-RI performs an evaluation of climate change adaptation measures for irrigation projects by applying multiple climate and social changes to the Mwea irrigation scheme in Kenya as well as by representing possible uncertainties with a combination of various scenarios. In March 2017, intermediate outcomes were reported to the National Institute for Environmental Studies, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, and the World Bank for exchange of views on the evaluation results.

4. Aid Strategies

Based on Japan's experience and knowledge, JICA-RI carries out research activities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global targets, as well as to discover ideal cooperation structures for human security and quality growth. The themes of JICA's research activities are diverse and include the following: features and historical transition of Japan's development cooperation; trends and effects of development

cooperation by G20 emerging economies; social and cultural influences of inclusive business; estimation of infrastructure demand in Asia; improvement in academic performance of early elementary school children in Cambodia; contributions of international volunteers in bringing change to developing countries and shaping a global civil society; and the declining fertility rate in Southeast Asia.

● Outcomes of Research Activities

1. Publications of Research Outcomes

JICA-RI compiled its research outcomes into working papers and released 25 working papers in fiscal 2016.

For example, as part of the Comparative Study on Development Cooperation Strategies: Focusing on G20 Emerging Economies research project, the size of China's foreign assistance was updated in the working paper titled "Estimating China's Foreign Aid II: 2014 Update." This paper was cited in papers for OECD G20 countries as well as in an article on the world's estimated development funds that was published by the Brookings Institute in the United States and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the United Kingdom. Research outcomes have also been shared with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the United Kingdom and other overseas research institutions, drawing extensive attention.

Research outcomes are also compiled as books by JICA-RI. JICA-RI released three books written in English and one in Japanese in fiscal 2016.

In May 2016, a report titled *Chile's Salmon Industry: Policy Challenges in Managing Public Goods* was released. It contains lessons and proposals based on the half-century history of Japan's cooperation in transforming Chile into a major salmon exporter. In November 2016, a book was also published titled *Efficiency, Finance and Varieties of Industrial Policy*, written based on the outcomes of New Perspectives to Industrial Development, the third joint research project with the Columbia University Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) in the United States. By carrying out a study focusing on the role of industrial policies in global sustainable development, JICA-RI endeavors to draw practical lessons for development finance in developing countries.

JICA-RI also published a Japanese book titled *Mathematical Skills for Children in Central America: The 30-Year History of International Cooperation through Textbook Development*, the 16th book in the Project History series and that analyzes and compiles JICA's past international cooperation activities. This book introduces the history of Japan's educational cooperation efforts, from the activity of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in Honduras to the extensive technical cooperation projects.

In addition, most of the outcomes of research projects are widely shared among scholars, as articles of academic journals, books and conference presentations.

2. Collaboration with International Organizations and Research Institutions

For these research activities, JICA-RI promotes joint research with other research and aid organizations in Japan and the world building partnerships and networks.

For example, JICA-RI conducted a joint research activity with the Brookings Institute in the United States in three phases. The fourth phase, "From Summits to Solutions: Innovations to Achieve the Global Goals," was launched in August 2016; JICA-RI is now engaged in research activities to identify necessary measures other than conventional initiatives for the SDGs and to provide new visions and assess problematic points concerning assistance trends. JICA-RI is also working on joint studies with research institutions, including IPD, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and the Global Development Network (GDN), a global network of development researchers [→ see the Case Study below].

Case Study

Joint Research on Innovation with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

The Role of Innovation in Development

In the international community today, science and technology and innovation have drawn more attention than ever before as significant economic growth factors. Since 2015, JICA-RI and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in the United States have implemented a joint research project to verify the potential of new measures for development agendas, such as transfer of innovative technologies to developing countries.

In the first year, a Fab Lab (a public craft center with 3-D printers, etc.) and a smart city were featured, and a case study was conducted with "Innovation and Poverty Reduction" as a theme. The outcomes of the case study were summarized in the report titled "Transformative Innovation for International Development: Operationalizing Innovation Ecosystems and Smart Cities for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction." The findings were also reported at two seminars in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo. At the seminar in Tokyo, in his opening speech JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka mentioned the significance of reporting results, while Mitsubishi Research Institute Chairperson Hiroshi Komiyama delivered a keynote address.

In the second year, under the theme "Contribution of Data Revolution to Achieving the SDGs," JICA-RI is currently investigating how satellite data and data from mobile devices and sensors developed by universities and private companies can be used to promote the SDGs in developing countries. Proposals based on these initiatives will be included in the year-two joint research project report.



JICA Research Institute Director Naohiro Kitano, making a remark, and Daniel F. Runde (left) from CSIS