

Human Security Empowerment Project holds First Authors' Workshop Online

Last November 17 2020, the “Human Security and Practices of Empowerment in East Asia Project” held its First Authors' Workshop. Adapting to the current limitations brought by the pandemic, the workshop was held online via video conference platform. The purpose of this workshop was to share the authors' research topics, backgrounds, and their respective research plans in consideration of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. This workshop was joined by the project advisors Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony of Nanyang Technological University, Prof. Yoichi Mine of Doshisha University, and Dr. Sachiko Ishikawa of JICA; the participating authors of each human security case studies; and the Project Team members Ms. Ako Muto, Ms. Lisette Robles, Mr. Kaito Takeuchi, and Ms. Chihiro Toya from JICA Ogata Research Institute (JICA Ogata RI). Invited researchers/authors for this project include Dr. Arisman from the Center of South East Asian Studies (Indonesia), Dr. Vu Le Thao Chi of Keio University (Japan), Dr. Jonatan Lassa of Charles Darwin University (Australia), Dr. Surangrut Jumnianpol of Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), Dr. Lourdes Rallonza of Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines), and Dr. Maria Tanyag of Australian National University.



The present Human Security Project advisors, participating researchers, and JICA Ogata RI Project Team members convened via video conference to discuss the research plans for the 8 case studies included in the Empowerment Project. Participants joined from different locations such as Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, Philippines and Japan.

In the first part of the workshop, the authors presented their research plan for the eight human security issues covered in the project namely aging, economic security, environment, food security, forced migration, gender, health, and peace and conflict. The participants engaged in discussions to enrich the conceptual framework and the consideration of the potential research challenges especially in a continuing crisis of a pandemic.

The second part of the workshop focused on the comprehensive feedback and comments from the project advisors. There was an emphasis on looking at the components of Human Security in

order to understand people's vulnerabilities as well as the compounding effect of COVID-19 to their lives. The researchers acknowledged the difficulty of conducting fieldworks and interviews during this time. Nevertheless, they confirmed the necessity to look at the context of people's daily lives as a people-centered concept in Human Security.

The final part of the workshop entails the sharing of logistical details along with useful documents from the JICA Ogata RI project members. Documents included compiled research protocols during COVID-19, relevant links to COVID-19 and Human Security articles and project writing guideline. Authors and the team members confirmed the timeline of the project to prepare for the next step of their research.

Despite the physical distance, the first authors' workshop has been completed successfully giving all participants a better understanding of each of the case studies in the project. This engagement was a promising start for the "Human Security and Practices of Empowerment in East Asia Project" to explore issues in various fields in Human Security during this critical times.