

Human Security Research Project holds 2nd Advisors Meeting and Cluster Seminar in August 2022

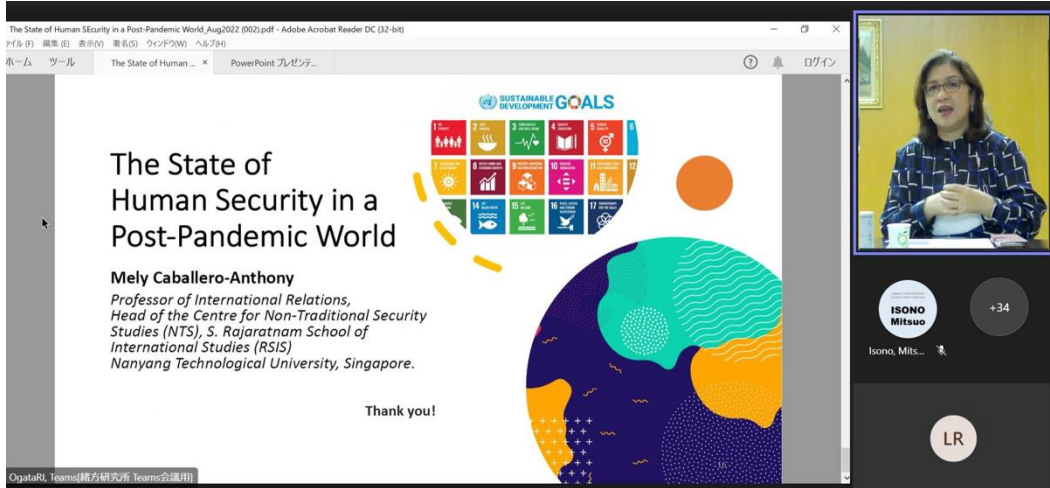
More than a year and a half of online meetings, the project advisors of JICA's "Human Security and Practices of Empowerment in East Asia" research project held its first face-to-face meeting last August 8, 2022, in Tokyo. JICA Ogata Research Institute welcomed the project advisors Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony of Nanyang Technological University, Prof. Yoichi Mine of Doshisha University, and Prof. Sachiko Ishikawa of Ritsumeikan University, to review the case study contributions in this project, and discuss the general direction of the research's final output. This meeting was a productive opportunity to meet the other project members for the first time and catch up with the other colleagues who hadn't met in a long time due to the pandemic. The Advisors were supported by the project management members Dr. Ako Muto, Dr. Lisette Robles, Mr. Kaito Takeuchi, and Ms. Chihiro Toya from the research institute.

Following this meeting, the Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Support Cluster organized an online seminar entitled "The State of Human Security in a Post-Pandemic World," held on August 9, 2022, and attended by approximately 25 participants from different JICA offices. The online seminar examines how a post-pandemic world should be understood from the perspective of human security through a dialogue with Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony and our JICA colleagues in the research and operations offices.

Prof. Caballero-Anthony presented how diverse communities and populations were impacted by the pandemic and illuminated the prospects of the post-pandemic world from the human security perspectives in Southeast Asia. She emphasized the impact of COVID-19 on achieving the SDGs goals of addressing poverty, economic well-being, and food security. In addition, she illustrated how access to vaccines and therapeutics in some countries had become a new highlight during the pandemic as many developing countries struggle to recover their public health and economic condition, citing some examples from the ASEAN countries. At the end of her presentation, she stated that COVID-19 had shown the importance of human security as one of the policy approaches to tackle future threats and increase the well-being of all people so that everyone can live safely and in dignity.

Complementing this presentation, Dr. Ako Muto (Executive Senior Research Fellow, JICA Ogata RI) shared JICA's past research on human security practices and cooperation, with reference to JICA Ogata RI's 2022 Human Security Report, and focusing on health and the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Mitsuo Isono (Visiting Fellow, JICA Ogata RI) shared JICA's efforts and his experience in supporting partner countries through prevention, precaution, and treatment. The discussion session was an active exchange between the experts and participants, sharing their points of view regarding the pandemic and human security. For instance, post-covid recovery could be attained if the nations have shared interests and the same priority towards threats. In addition, the empowerment topic is also echoed in the discussion.

This joint project advisors meeting and seminar reflect that the on-site and online gathering has their merits in ensuring the successful implementation and dissemination of the research projects.



Photos from the Cluster Seminar: (Top) Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony' presentation. (Down, L-R): Ms. Ako Muto, Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony, and Dr. Lisette Robles. (From MS Teams, Nov. 9, 2022)