June 14, 2016
JICA Ogata Research Institute

Code of Conduct for Researchers at JICA-RI

JICA-RI is engaged in academic research based on its experience of on-the-ground projects in developing countries. This takes advantage of its strengths and characteristics as a research institute located within a development assistance implementing agency. In order to contribute to international development through such research, to further improve the quality of JICA's projects, and to contribute to the realization of a more prosperous human society, researchers must fulfill their accountability to society, consciously participate in building and maintaining sound relationships between science, society, and policy makers and decision makers, and at the same time, they are expected to strictly regulate their own behavior.

In response to this, JICA-RI has established the following Code of Conduct for all who conduct research activities at JICA-RI, in accordance with the Science Council of Japan's "Code of Conduct for Scientists - Revised Edition" (January 25, 2013).

I. Responsibilities of Researchers

(Basic Responsibilities of Researchers)

1 Researchers have a responsibility to ensure the quality of the expertise and technology they produce, and to contribute to the health and welfare of humankind, the safety and security of society, and the sustainability of the global environment by utilizing their expertise, technology, and experience correctly.

(Researcher's Attitude)

2 Researchers should always judge and act with honesty and integrity, strive to maintain and improve their own specialized knowledge, abilities, and skills, and make their best efforts to scientifically demonstrate the accuracy and validity of the knowledge produced by scientific research.

(Researchers in Society)

3 Researchers should be aware that the autonomy of science is based on the trust and confidence of society, understand the relationship between science, technology, society, and the natural environment from a broad perspective, and act appropriately when conducting their research.

(Research that meets social expectations)

4. Researchers have a responsibility to respond to the expectations of society in the elucidation of truth and the achievement of various tasks. In the development of the research environment and the use of funds provided for conducting research, researchers should always be aware of the existence of such broad societal expectations.

(Description and Disclosure)

5 Researchers should openly and proactively explain the significance and role of the research they are involved in, evaluate the potential impact of that

research on people, society, and the environment, and the changes it may cause, and disclose the results in a neutral and objective manner, while striving to establish a constructive dialogue with society.

(Ambivalence in the use of scientific research)

6 Researchers should recognize that the results of their research may be misused for destructive acts against the researcher's own intentions and select appropriate means and methods acceptable to society when conducting the research and publishing the results.

II. Fair Research

(Research Activities)

7 In the process of drafting, planning, applying, conducting, and reporting their own research, researchers must act with integrity and in accordance with the purpose of this Code. Researchers must publish the results of their research in papers and other publications to gain recognition of their achievements and to assume responsibility in accordance with the roles they have played. Researchers shall ensure that research and survey data are recorded, preserved, and handled in strict confidence, and shall not engage in or be complicit in fraudulent acts such as falsification, falsification, or plagiarism.

(Improvement of the research environment and thorough education and enlightenment)

8 Researchers should be aware that it is their important responsibility to establish and maintain a fair environment that enables them to conduct responsible research and prevent misconduct, and they should work continuously to improve the quality of the research environment in the research community and their own organizations, as well as to educate and enlighten the public about the prevention of misconduct. In order to achieve these goals researchers should strive to gain the understanding and cooperation of society.

(Consideration for research subjects, etc.)

9 Researchers will respect the personalities, human rights, and well-being of research collaborators. They will treat animals and other subjects with the utmost seriousness.

(Relationships with others)

10 Researchers will appropriately criticize the achievements of others, while at the same time humbly listening to criticism of their own research and exchanging opinions in a sincere manner. They will fairly evaluate the intellectual and other achievements of others and respect their honor and intellectual property rights. They will actively participate in the evaluation of others in the research community, especially in their own area of expertise.

III. Science in Society

(Dialogue with)

11 Researchers will actively participate in dialogue and exchange with the public for better mutual understanding between society and the research community. In addition, in order to solve various social problems and realize welfare, researchers will endeavor to provide effective scientific advice to policy

makers and decision makers for policy formation. In doing so, they aim to provide advice based on consensus, and when there are differences of opinion, explain them clearly.

(Scientific Advice)

12 Researchers shall conduct research activities with the aim of contributing to the public welfare and shall provide fair advice based on objective and scientific evidence. In doing so, they should be aware of the importance and responsibility of the impact of their statements on public opinion and policy formation and should not abuse their authority. They should also do their utmost to ensure the quality of the scientific advice they give, and at the same time, clearly explain the uncertainties and diversity of views regarding scientific findings.

(Scientific advice to policy makers and decision makers)

13 When providing scientific advice to policy makers and decision makers, researchers recognize that scientific findings should be fully respected in the policy making process but are not always the sole basis for policy decisions. When policy decisions are made that differ from the advice of the research community, researchers should request policy makers and decision makers to explain their decisions to society, if necessary.

IV. Compliance with Laws and Regulations, etc.

(Compliance with laws and regulations)

14 Researchers should comply with laws, regulations, and relevant rules in conducting research, using research funds, and so forth.

(Elimination of discrimination)

15 In their research, education, and academic activities, researchers should not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, gender, status, ideology or creed, or religion, but shall deal impartially with individuals based on the scientific method and respect their freedom and individuality.

(Conflict of Interest)

16 In their own research, reviews, evaluations, judgments, and scientific advice, researchers should be fully aware of conflicts of interest between individuals and organizations, or between different organizations, and will respond appropriately with due regard for public interest.

(Use of research funds)

17 Researchers should recognize that the source of funds for research activities such as competitive grants is taxpayers' money, and should not only comply with laws, regulations, and related rules, but also fulfill their accountability to society by using the funds fairly, efficiently, and effectively. They will not engage in or be complicit in misconduct, such as using funds for purposes other than those for which they were intended, embezzling funds, or making false reports on how funds are being used.

(End)