



President Sadako Ogata of JICA giving a keynote speech at the Wilton Park Conference, UK (November 2007). At the conference discussion took place on conflict prevention and development cooperation in Africa.

Research

Towards Improving JICA's Research Function

From the Institute for International Cooperation (research sector) to the JICA Research Institute

In accordance with the integration of JICA and JBIC, a new research center (the JICA Research Institute) is to be established to integrate the research functions of both former organizations.

There are two main objectives in establishing the JICA Research Institute. One is to contribute to the policy-oriented research related to development issues in developing countries and to the new JICA aid strategy. The second is to conduct empirical research that takes into consideration Japan's experience in development cooperation.

In the past, the Institute for International Cooperation of JICA was responsible for research functions. Its main objective, however, was limited to producing practical reference materials for JICA-related personnel for improving the quality of the projects they work on. In contrast, the new JICA Research Institute will extend its research activities to cover development issues in developing countries and development aid policy. Moreover, the new institute intends to promote empirical policy-related research based on solid academic foundations.

The research of the JICA Research Institute, for the time being, will encompass the four areas of: (1) peace and development; (2) growth and poverty reduction; (3) environment and development; and (4) aid strategy.

Activities in FY2007 – Studies and Research in the Run-up to the Establishment of the JICA Research Institute

In FY2007, the following research activities were conducted in consideration of the new JICA Research Institute.

One example of efforts conducted in the area of “peace and development” is a conference at Wilton Park, which was held in November 2007. The conference was jointly hosted by JICA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where nearly 70 individuals – including researchers, donors, multilateral organization-related personnel, African researchers, and African government-related personnel – gathered together outside London to hold discussions on conflict prevention and development cooperation in Africa.

In the area of “growth and poverty reduction,” JICA organized a study group to look into the economic growth experience in Asia and African development (continued into FY2008). The group came up with policy recommendations related to economic growth in Asia and African countries and its report

was distributed widely to the participants of TICAD IV in May 2008.

In regards to the area of “aid strategy,” JICA conducted a study on Effective Technical Cooperation for Capacity Development (continued into FY2008). Capacity development (CD) has become a key topic for discussion in various international fora, and this study was aimed at contributing to the discussion in international fora by presenting empirical evidence related to effective technical cooperation for CD. The study was an international collaborative effort led by JICA, and was conducted with the participation of seven donors and 11 developing countries: it served as input for discussion at the September 2008 Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra.

Activities in FY2007

In FY2007, conventional forms of research were also conducted with the purpose of creating practical reference materials and training texts for JICA-related personnel.

For instance, case studies were conducted on JICA projects from a CD perspective (Project for Strengthening District Health Services in the Morogoro Region, Tanzania, Community Disaster Prevention, etc.). In addition, a Study on the Methods for Capacity Assessment was conducted to supplement CD case studies (continued into FY2008).

Research was also conducted in such areas as “adaptation to climate change,” “the role of assistance for decentralization in Africa,” and “the role of mid- to long-term assistance for fragile states.” Also, the Project Management Handbook and Looking at Countries Using Indicators were produced for training of JICA-related personnel.