

# Research — The JICA Research Institute Provides Feedback on Development Work and Input into the World's Development Agendas



Of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

The JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) carries out research activities with the main objectives of: conducting analysis of development issues in developing countries and contributing to JICA's operation strategies; and strengthening the transmission of information to Japan and abroad and leading the development assistance agenda; while utilizing the wealth of experience and know-how it has accumulated as a development assistance organization.

The results of this research are published in the form of working papers, policy briefs, books, and are released broadly through websites and other means.

## Basic Policy for Research Activities and Priority Research Domains

The international community has been grappling with the problems facing developing countries—including poverty, armed conflict and environmental degradation—but solutions to many of the most basic problems remain elusive. To promote value-added research aimed at producing policy recommendations, JICA-RI has laid down four basic policies and four key research areas.

### Basic Policies

#### 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 studies based on the past experiences and analytic results of development aid organizations worldwide, including JICA, and make them available for use in future aid activities.

#### 3. Sharing Experiences in Japan and East Asia

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

#### 4. Sharing Information with the International Development 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.

### Key Research Domains

#### 1. Peace and Development

JICA-RI conducts comparative analysis of past experiences to uncover ways to effectively prevent and manage armed conflict, and promote post-conflict peacebuilding. It also

analyses past experiences in regional and international efforts to resolve difficult cross-border problems that cannot be handled by individual countries, such as infectious diseases, transnational crime and environmental degradation.

#### 2. Growth and Poverty Reduction

Japan and its East Asian neighbors are considered economic development success stories, having realized growth and reduced poverty. JICA-RI studies these cases from the multifaceted perspectives of individuals, state, market and society, and conducts comparative analysis with economic development in African countries.

#### 3. Environment and Development/Climate Change

Regional and global environmental deterioration are major threats to human security in developing countries. JICA-RI promotes the formulation of measures to promote environmental conservation and adapt to environmental change caused by climate change using the latest knowledge in natural sciences, and experience and data gained from JICA's field operations.

#### 4. Assistance Strategies

Utilizing Japan's experience and knowledge, JICA-RI makes recommendations on the roles and functions of international cooperation while conducting research on the modalities of assistance based on principles such as the "capacity development" approach aimed at enhancing the capabilities of people, South-South cooperation, organizations and society across diverse domains, and the concepts of "human security" and "dynamic development that benefits all people."

### Research Activities in Collaboration with Other Research Institutions around the World

An overview of these research projects can be found on the JICA-RI website\* along with preliminary findings in the form of working papers. Seventeen working papers in English were

released in fiscal 2011.

Policy briefs are also published in series, which summarize in a concise manner the political and practical implications drawn from the research findings detailed in the working papers. These policy briefs are intended to offer suggestions for the formulation of policies and the consideration of the directions of assistance.

In fiscal 2011, two books by JICA-RI were published by internationally prestigious publishers: *Catalyzing Development: A New Vision for Aid* (Brookings Institution), published in June, presents the results of joint research activities by JICA, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Brookings Institution's Wolfensohn Center for Development. In March 2012, *Good Growth and Governance in Africa* (Oxford University Press) was published, reporting on the results of joint research conducted by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), a U.S. think tank led by Columbia University Professor Joseph Stiglitz, with the cooperation of JICA.

The results of these research activities have been announced at many international research seminars, academic gatherings and other events. In November 2011, JICA-RI held a side event at the Busan High Level Forum (➡ see Case Study) to present the

results of research about triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation. In addition, JICA-RI co-hosted the East Asia consultation meeting to discuss the contents of the United Nations Development Programme's human development report for fiscal 2012 and 2013. Furthermore, JICA RI prepared a background paper for the World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development.

In conducting research activities, JICA-RI attaches importance to network-oriented research based on partnerships with not only local but also international research organizations and assistance agencies. JICA-RI carries out joint research with the researchers of overseas institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Harvard University in the United States, Oxford University in the United Kingdom, IPD and the Brookings Institution.

In addition to disseminating such information internationally, JICA-RI has also carried out research as the Project History Series, which analyzes Japan's contribution to the development of developing countries from a long-term perspective, and published the research findings in three volumes in Japanese.

\*JICA Research Institute website: <http://jica-ri.jica.go.jp/>

## Case Study

### The Pre- /Main-High Level Forum 4 Conference in Busan, Korea

#### Sharing JICA's Knowledge on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

**The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) took place in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011 from November 29 to December 1, attended by more than 3,000 participants from 156 countries and organizations. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, and other dignitaries discussed issues involving development aid policies**

When the high level forum was inaugurated in 2003, countries and international agencies that were members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Development Assistance Committee (DAC) played leading roles. Today, the forum is also attended by various parties including private-sector companies and emerging countries.

JICA RI was represented at the pre- and main events by Director Akio Hosono and two others.

The pre- event, co-hosted by the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and Korea Association of International Development Cooperation (KAIDEC), focused on the theme of international initiatives concerning the aid effectiveness.

At the pre- event the topics discussed are mainly the major themes of HLF-4, including a conceptual debate about the shift from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, and topics such as development aid methods at emerging donors versus traditional donors, capacity development, and measures to build systems.

At this event, JICA RI Director Hosono gave a presentation on JICA's South-South and triangular cooperation conducted for the past 40 years.

Garnering the most attention was the successful case study of JICA's triangular cooperation, which U.S. Secretary of State Clinton mentioned in her keynote address at the opening ceremony. JICA extended technical and financial assistance to Brazil to

implement a project to transform the country's barren savanna into one of the world's largest agricultural regions. Today, with Japan's cooperation, Brazil is extending aid to Mozambique for growing crops.

In addition, JICA RI Director Hosono spoke on the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation at HLF-4 sessions for specific themes and at a side event held by JICA.



Akio Hosono, Director of JICA Research Institute