

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 two main objectives while utilizing the wealth of experience and know-how it has accumulated as a development assistance organization. The first objective is: conducting analysis of development issues in developing countries and contributing to JICA's operation strategies. The second is strengthening the transmission of information to Japan and abroad and leading the development assistance agenda.

The results of this research are published in the form of working papers, policy briefs and 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 established the following 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 these studies 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.

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. Research is 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 benefit all people."

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

Detailed information in research projects and research outcomes is available on the JICA-RI website*. Below are some examples.

In fiscal 2012, JICA-RI released 16 working papers that present findings about its research projects.

In addition, a book titled *Climate Change Mitigation and International Development Cooperation* was published. This book is the second publication by JICA-RI on climate change, following its previous book entitled *Climate Change Adaptation and International Development* that was published in fiscal 2011.

Various conference volumes were released in fiscal 2012 to provide information at international events about the outcomes of research projects.

In June, JICA-RI prepared *Cerrado Agriculture: A Model of Sustainable and Inclusive Development* for distribution at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) [[see the Case Study](#)].

In November, JICA-RI released *Scaling Up South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, a publication that analyzes case studies of these two forms of cooperation with emphasis on JICA activities. This book was distributed at the United Nations Global South-South Development Expo, held in Vienna, Austria, from November 19 to 23.

In addition to these international activities, JICA-RI performed research projects that involve analysis from a long-term perspective of Japan's contributions to progress in developing countries. The results of this research are published in Japanese-language publications.

In fiscal 2012, JICA-RI published *The Miracle of the*

Development in the Cerrado, the Barren Land of Brazil in July 2012, and *History of the Fight with Chagas Disease* in March 2013. Currently, work is under way to publish a book on the *Cerrado* in English geared toward professional readership based on the revised contents of the original publication in Japanese.

Also in March 2013, JICA-RI released *How the World and Japan Confront Major Disasters Together – Disasters and International Cooperation*. This book (in Japanese) examines the Great East Japan Earthquake two years afterward from the standpoint of international cooperation for recovery assistance and disaster prevention measures.

For these research activities, JICA-RI places importance on networked research that uses partnerships with research and aid organizations in Japan and other countries. Overseas joint research partners include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international institutions, Columbia University in the United States, the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom, The Brookings Institution and other organizations. In addition, JICA-RI is sharing ideas concerning development issues with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.

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

Case Study

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Held in Brazil

JICA-RI Hosts Special Event on *Cerrado* Agricultural Development at Rio+20

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from June 20 to 22, 2012. This event took place 20 years after this city hosted the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in 1992 and 10 years after the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. At Rio+20, participants discussed accomplishments of activities worldwide and issues associated with environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Akio Hosono, who was then the director of JICA-RI, Visiting Senior Advisor Yutaka Hongo and Go Shimada, who was then division chief of the Research Program Division, represented JICA-RI at Rio+20. On the final day, JICA and the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) jointly held a side event titled Lessons for Sustainable Development and Contribution to the World: Agricultural Development in the *Cerrado*. About 100 people including representatives of the Brazilian government attended the event and there was a lively question-and-answer session.

In his welcoming remarks, H.E. Masahiko Horie, Ambassador for Global Environmental Affairs, talked about JICA's book concerning the project history of the *Cerrado* agricultural development project as a valuable example of Japanese ODA. He said that he hopes to see English and Portuguese editions of the book published in the future.

At this event, there was input from people

directly involved with the *Cerrado* development. Participants discussed future approaches for development assistance, focusing on the central theme of sustainable development and environmental considerations.

At the first session of the event, there was a presentation by Dr. Carlos Magno Campos de Rocha, General Director of EMBRAPA (Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency) Fisheries and Aquaculture (former Director-General of EMBRAPA) about the role of the Japan-Brazil Cooperation Program for Agricultural Development (PRODECER) in the *Cerrado* agricultural development. Following that, Dr. Emiliano Pereira Botelho, president of Campo (Company of Agricultural Promotion), talked about the reasons for the success of PRODECER and its contributions to higher food production and the reduction in regional disparities through the creation of value chains in Brazil.

At the second session, Dr. Edson Sano,

head of the Remote Sensing Center (IBAMA) and Dr. Koji Asano, chief advisor for the Jalapao Region Ecological Corridor Project, each gave a presentation about the *Cerrado* development and environmental conservation activities. They explained how suitable environmental protection measures were incorporated in the *Cerrado* development. For example, satellite images were used for an illegal logging surveillance system and regional ecosystems were protected by establishing ecological corridors.



Individuals involved with the *Cerrado* Agricultural Development seminar