

# Research

## The JICA Research Institute Links Research and Practice in Development Work and Contributes to the World's Development Agendas

The JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) carries out research activities with two main objectives. The first objective is: conducting analysis of development issues in developing countries and contributing to JICA's operation strategies. The second is contributing to constructive discussion on the development agenda by sharing research evidence widely and leading international policy dialogue. With these two objectives, JICA-RI conducts studies that build on the operational experiences and know-how it has accumulated as a development assistance organization.

The results of the researches are published in the form of working papers, policy briefs and books, released broadly through websites and other means, and shared in international conferences and seminars as well.

### ● Basic Policy for Research Activities

#### 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 Domains of Research Activities

#### 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 conducts research to devise policies for evaluating environmental damage, effective means to manage natural resources, and ways to mitigate or adapt to climate change.

#### 4. Aid Strategies

JICA-RI pursues rigorous academic analysis of the effectiveness of various approaches to international development assistance, utilizing Japan's experience and knowledge. Research is based on principles such as the "capacity development" approach aimed at enhancing multilevel capabilities covering individuals, organizations, governments, and society, and the concepts of "human security" and "dynamic development that benefit all people."

### ● Outcomes of Research Activities

Based on the policies and domains, JICA conducted 20 research projects in fiscal 2014 and published the outcomes.

#### 1. Publications of Research Outcomes

JICA-RI compiles its research outcomes into working papers and publishes them for those engaged in development assistance around the world. In fiscal 2014, JICA-RI released 25 working papers that present findings of the research projects.

For example, JICA-RI released four working papers as part of the outcomes of the research project "Comparative Study on Development Cooperation Strategy: Focusing on G20 Emerging Economies." One of the four papers is "Estimating China's Foreign Aid 2001–2013." This paper attracted considerable interest because there are limited disclosed figures or research data on the amount of China's aid, despite the growing presence of China's foreign aid. Separately, the research results in seven ASEAN member countries, along with China and the Republic of Korea, on how the concept of human security is perceived in their respective countries were published as nine working papers, under the research project "Human Security in Practice: East Asian Experiences," a joint undertaking between JICA-RI and the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS).

Research outcomes are also compiled as publications by JICA-RI. JICA-RI released six English-language publications and three in Japanese in fiscal 2014.

Among them, the publications released by professional publishers include *Confronting Land and Property Problems for Peace* from Routledge, which discusses land issues in conflict areas; and *Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance* from Cornell University Press, which has compiled the outcomes of the research project titled "The Second East Asian Miracle? Political Economy of Asian Responses to the 1997–98 and 2008–09 Crises."

The books released from JICA-RI in fiscal 2014 include *Perspectives on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, which

was presented at the 15th annual conference of the Global Development Network held in Accra, Ghana, in June 2014; and *Growth Is Dead, Long Live Growth: The Quality of Economic Growth and Why It Matters*, a collaborative work among JICA-RI, the French Development Agency (AFD), and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the United Kingdom. It was presented in Paris in January 2015.

In addition, three books were released in Japanese in fiscal 2014. They are *Mori wa Kiete Shimaunoka? — Echiopia Saigo no Genseirin Hozen ni Idonda Hitobito no Kiroku* [Will the forests disappear? — A record of people who challenged themselves to conserve the last primeval forests in Ethiopia]; *Inochi no Mizu wo Banguradeshu ni — Hiso ga Kureta Okurimono* [Water of life for Bangladesh — A gift given by arsenic]; and *Punonpen no Kiseki — Sekai wo Odorokaseta Kanbojia no Suido Kaikaku* [A miracle in Phnom Penh — Cambodia's water supply reforms that amazed the world]. These books are published in the series "Project History," which aims at analyzing Japan's contribution to developing countries from a long-term perspective.

In addition, most of the outcomes of research projects are widely shared among scholars, as articles of academic journals, books and conference presentations.

## 2. Collaboration with International Organizations and Research Institutions

For these research activities, JICA-RI promotes joint research with other research and aid organizations in Japan and the world building partnerships and networks.

For example, JICA-RI and the German Development Institute (DIE) have maintained a collaborative relationship since 2011, by exchanging researchers and organizing joint seminars. In September 2014, two participants from JICA-RI made presentations at a public seminar entitled "Beyond Aid and the future of development cooperation," which DIE organized in Germany. In March 2015, JICA-RI and DIE co-organized a symposium in Japan on aid strategies for emerging economies. In this way, the two institutions have been deepening collaborative ties.

In addition, JICA-RI works with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other multilateral donors, as well as the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). It also conducts joint research with researchers at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the United Kingdom, as well as the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) at Columbia University, and the Brookings Institution, both in the United States.

### Case Study

#### "Japan and the Developing World" Symposium

## Researchers in Japan and from Other Countries Reviewed Japan's Development Assistance

On November 20, 2014, JICA-RI held an open symposium titled "Japan and the Developing World: Sixty Years of Japan's Foreign Aid and the Post-2015 Agenda."

### Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Japan's ODA

The symposium was organized in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). With only months to go before the 2015 deadline to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), discussions on the post-2015 framework for international development had reached a final stage. JICA-RI had been conducting a research project aimed at reevaluating Japan's ODA in commemoration of its 60th anniversary.

Featuring academics and practitioners from Japan and abroad who have been leading the international debate on development assistance, the symposium aimed to critically review the 60-year history of Japan's ODA and, based on the lessons drawn, discuss how Japan

and the international community should proceed with international cooperation in the future. Twenty-seven keynote speakers and panelists — ranging from researchers and Japanese government officials to representatives of the private sector, NGOs, developing countries, and international organizations—participated in the symposium. Some 200 people attended.

### Building on Partnerships with Various Actors

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka gave the opening remarks, which were followed by keynote addresses by distinguished speakers: Kimihiro Ishikane, Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); Vo Hong Phuc, Former Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam; and Cyril Muller, Vice President, World Bank Group. The keynote addresses referred to the achievements and characteristics

of Japan's ODA, as well as the opportunities and challenges in international cooperation for the future.

The keynote addresses were followed by three sessions: "Overview and Political Economy of Japan's Foreign Aid," "Asian Development Assistance Models," and "Japan, MDIs (Multilateral Development Institutions), and the Future of Global Governance in Development Finance." The panelists in these sessions discussed, among other topics, (i) the historical background, characteristics, and issues concerning Japan's ODA; (ii) the characteristics of ODA provided by Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea based on their own experiences of development; and (iii) the history of Japan's relationships with international organizations and what such partnerships should be like in the future.

The last session, titled "The Future of ODA and the Post-2015 Agenda," was joined by representatives from NGOs, private companies, and foundations to discuss the future of international cooperation. Some of the aspects stressed in the session included (i) the importance of building new partnerships based on the advantages and complementarities of each actor when the development actors are becoming more diverse; (ii) building a bottom-up system involving civil society; (iii) innovations in technology; (iv) humanitarian and idealistic perspectives; and (iv) partnerships with the private sector.



Opening session