

Research

Intensification of Research on Japan's Development Experience and International Cooperation and Its Dissemination

The JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) carries out research activities based on the following two main objectives and utilizing the ample field experiences and know-how that JICA has as a development cooperation agency. The first objective is to conduct analysis of development issues in developing countries and contribute to JICA's operation strategies. The second is to intensify the dissemination of JICA-RI's research outcomes in Japan and overseas and lead international policy dialogue.

The results of the research activities are disseminated through various channels, such as publication of working papers and books, organization of seminars and symposia, and presentation at international conferences.

● 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 research activities based on the field experiences and analytic results of JICA, as well as those of other development partners worldwide. It will integrate past lessons into the future development cooperation activities.

3. Unraveling the East Asian Experiences

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

4. Disseminating Research Results Worldwide through Open Activities

JICA-RI will disseminate research processes and research results to other domestic and international research institutions, aid agencies, governmental organizations, private enterprises, and NGOs.

● Priority Research Areas

1. Peace and Development

JICA-RI conducts comparative analysis of past experiences to uncover ways to promptly and effectively prevent and manage diversified threats, including armed conflicts, and promote sustainable peace.

2. Growth and Poverty Reduction

Japan and its Asian neighbors are highly evaluated in international society as success stories that realized economic growth and reduced poverty. JICA-RI studies these cases from the multifaceted perspectives of individuals, the state, markets, and society, and conducts comparative analysis with economic development in African countries.

3. Environment and Development/Climate Change

Regional and global environmental deterioration is a major risk to human security in developing countries. JICA-RI

conducts research that can contribute to the ways to promote environment management policies and to adapt to and mitigate climate change based on the knowledge of natural science and experience and data gained from JICA's cooperation activities.

4. Aid Strategies

JICA-RI proposes what development cooperation should be by researching Japan's experience and knowledge with principles such as the capacity-development approach, aimed at enhancing multilevel capabilities covering individuals, institutions, and societies, and the concepts of human security and quality growth.

● Achievement in Fiscal 2017

Based on these policies and activities in these areas, JICA-RI conducted 28 research projects in fiscal 2017 and published the outcomes.

1. Outcomes of Research Activities

JICA-RI compiles its research outcomes into working papers and publishes them for those engaged in development assistance around the world. JICA-RI released 20 working papers in fiscal 2017.



Books released in fiscal 2017

As an example of contributing to JICA's programs, JICA-RI examined how technical extension regarding rice production in a technical cooperation project in eastern Uganda had improved productivity and compiled the findings into Working Paper No.161: "Long-Term and Spillover Effects of Rice Production Training in Uganda."

Research outcomes are also compiled as books by JICA-RI. JICA-RI released four books written in English and four in Japanese in fiscal 2017.

One of these English books is *Economic and Social Development of Bangladesh: Miracle and Challenges*, a culmination of the research project titled Empirical Study on Risk and Poverty in Bangladesh. Using quantitative techniques and supported by abundant microdata, this book conducts a detailed and multidimensional analysis of the background to the structural transformation of Bangladesh, a country Japan has provided with a wide range of development assistance since 1973, just two years after its independence.

The four Japanese books focus respectively on solid waste management in Bangladesh, the Eastern Seaboard Development Program in Thailand, reconstruction from the devastation by Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, and the construction of the Delhi Metro in India. They were published as the 17th to 20th books in the Project History series, which analyzes 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 [→ see the Case Study below].

2. Collaboration with International Organizations and Research Institutions

For these research activities, JICA-RI promotes joint research



The joint seminar by JICA-RI and CSIS was attended by representatives from international organizations, developing countries, and the private sector, as well as researchers.

with other research and aid organizations in Japan and the world building partnerships and networks.

One such research organization is the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in the United States, with which JICA-RI has been conducting joint research for two years. In September 2017, JICA-RI and CSIS held a seminar to launch the report on the outcomes of the second year of the joint research, titled "Harnessing the Data Revolution to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: Enabling Frogs to Leap." The participants discussed how the data revolution can contribute to the SDGs and how developing countries can utilize data technologies to achieve leapfrog development.

JICA-RI is also working on joint studies with research institutions, including Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), the Brookings Institute in the United States, and the Global Development Network (GDN), a global network of development researchers.

→ For details on these and other studies and publications, visit the website of JICA-Research Institute: <https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/index.html>.

Studying and Analyzing Infrastructure Projects and Sharing the Findings

Estimating Infrastructure Demand and Shedding Light on the Association between Infrastructure Development and Women's Empowerment



Panelists at the seminar "Bridging the Infrastructure Gap in Asia" on the sidelines of the ADB's 50th Annual Meeting

In May 2017, JICA-RI presented some of the interim outcomes of its research project titled "Research on Demand Estimate on Infrastructure in Asia" at a side event of the 50th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Yokohama. The presentation stressed the importance of estimating not only economic infrastructure but also social infrastructure, including hospitals and schools and infrastructure for disaster risk reduction. The participants then discussed the state of affairs surrounding infrastructure development in different countries as well as policy issues for coping with increasing infrastructure demand.

Separately, JICA-RI also focuses on the

association between infrastructure and gender equality. For example, JICA-RI has analyzed what impact the Delhi Metro in India, the construction of which was financed by Japanese ODA Loans, has had on women's empowerment. The analysis suggests that the introduction of women-only cars and security cameras as well as awareness-raising campaigns have helped to expand the scope in which women can travel both safely and freely, which in turn has contributed to greater labor participation by women.

The findings of the analysis were also presented at a World Bank workshop (ieConnect for Impact Workshop) and a meeting of the Japan Evaluation Society.