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 accumulated through its development cooperation. 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 help to shape the trend of development cooperation.

The results of the research activities are disseminated through various channels, such as publication of books, working papers, and policy notes that identify policy recommendations; organization of knowledge forums,* seminars, and symposia; and presentations 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 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, development cooperation agencies, governmental organizations, private enterprises, and NGOs.

Priority Research Areas

1. Peace and Development

From the perspective of realizing human security and sustaining peace in the face of imminent threats, JICA-RI attempts to analyze the factors behind these crises in a more systematic way and explores effective approaches to address them through comparative studies of initiatives taken by diverse actors engaged in humanitarian responses, sustainable development, and sustaining peace.

2. Growth and Poverty Reduction

Infrastructure plays an important role in the process of development and constitutes a key area of Japan's development cooperation. With this in mind, JICA-RI analyzes the socioeconomic impacts of infrastructure projects on developing countries. It also studies the financial situation of developing countries—including such aspects as dollarization and remittances—as it can have a significant impact on each nation's domestic economy and people's lives. In addition, JICA-RI conducts empirical analyses of development interventions for rice production and small-scale horticulture farmers in Africa to promote further development and poverty reduction in African countries.

3. Environment and Development/Climate Change

JICA-RI studies how developing countries are addressing environmental problems and climate change. It aims to provide a blueprint for JICA's future environmental cooperation by utilizing the latest knowledge and methodologies in natural sciences as well as JICA's own experiences and data accumulated through its development cooperation activities.

4. Aid Strategies

JICA-RI conducts research aimed at helping to shape new global development trends and addressing cross-sectoral challenges. It also studies the history of Japan's development cooperation and analyzes development cooperation by emerging economies, including China. Japan's experiences in both its own development and development cooperation for other counties are also reviewed.

Furthermore, JICA-RI conducts research that systematically reviews the concept of "quality growth" and aims to form a theoretical basis for Japan to lead the international discussions on this topic.

Achievements in Fiscal 2018

Based on these policies and activities in these areas, JICA-RI conducted 27 research projects in fiscal 2018 and published the outcomes.

1. Outcomes of Research Activities

JICA-RI released 20 working papers in fiscal 2018. For example, its research project "Obtaining a Second Chance: Education During and After Conflict" produced four case studies on Rwanda, Uganda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Timor-Leste.

JICA-RI also published five policy notes that focus on (1) disability and education; (2) emerging donors; (3) human security; (4) maternal and child health; and (5) a rice green revolution in Sub-Saharan Africa, an initiative taken by the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD).

Research outcomes are also compiled as books by JICA-RI. JICA-RI released seven books written in English and five in Japanese in fiscal 2018.

These seven English books include *Human Security Norms*

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*A regular forum where a wide range of various parties interested in international development have discussions in a free and open-minded manner and thus promote the interaction of knowledge between academic research and practice in development cooperation.

in East Asia and *Human Security and Cross-Border Cooperation in East Asia*, each of which has put together a series of studies as part of the research project "Human Security in Practice: East Asian Experiences." The former reveals how the concept of human security has been embraced, criticized, modified, and diffused in East Asian countries (ASEAN Plus China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea). The latter reviews 10 case studies on threats to human security in the region and discusses how to put the concept into practice [➡ **see the case study below**].

The five Japanese books include three titles that focus on (1) solid waste management in the Pacific, (2) Japanese emigrants' contribution to Paraguay's economic development, and (3) peacebuilding in Sudan through sports. They were published as the 21st to 23rd books in the Project History series, which analyze Japan's contribution to developing countries from a long-term perspective. The other two books are a compilation of interdisciplinary studies on Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and a work on the internationalization of higher education and the ODA participation of Japanese universities.

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.

The joint seminar with the Brookings Institute of the United States

One such research organization is the Brookings Institute in the United States, with which JICA-RI conducted a two-year joint research titled "From Summits to Solutions: Innovations in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals." In December 2018, JICA-RI and the Brookings Institute held a seminar to launch the final outcome work of the same title to discuss how the world should change itself to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

JICA-RI has also been working on joint studies with research institutions, including the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) of Columbia University, as well as 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

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Research Project "Human Security in Practice: East Asian Experiences"

What does human security mean in a local context?

The research project gave rise to a network of researchers from 11 countries.

The concept and practice of human security have been discussed since its introduction in *Human Development Report 1994* of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This research project, launched in 2013, involves researchers from eight of the ASEAN members—Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam—as well as from China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. It analyzed how the concept of human security is understood in the context of each of these countries and how they address such threats to human security.

The project found that threats to human security are defined broadly in the region to encompass not only armed conflicts but also natural disasters and infectious diseases etc. It also found that human security is considered compatible with national security. To put human security into practice, the research project stressed the importance of (1) preventing threats, (2) promoting cooperation in the international community, and (3) building confidence in advance during normal times.

Such research outcomes were widely disseminated in the form of two academic books and through international academic meetings and symposia.