Research

Co-Creating Practical Knowledge for Peace and Development

JICA Research Institute has changed its name to JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development (abbreviated as JICA Ogata Research Institute) as of April 1, 2020. Inheriting the philosophy of the late Dr. Sadako Ogata, who led the establishment of JICA Research Institute in October 2008, the new institute conducts policy-oriented and field-based research on the challenges faced by developing countries and aspires to gain intellectual presence in the international community.

The institute synthesizes and shares Japanese development experience as well as knowledge and expertise accumulated in Japan as a development partner. It also conducts research and dissemination, giving due consideration to today's challenges and threats, such as the post-COVID-19 world, the changing international order, the transition to an information-based society, and climate change. By doing so, the institute aims to become a leading research hub for development and international cooperation.

Basic Principles of Research Activities

(1) Conduct research of international academic standard and actively disseminate its results;
(2) Bridge research and practice by analyzing and synthesizing information and data from the field; and
(3) Contribute to the realization of human security.

Building on the above principles, the institute will undertake research such as strategic promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and emerging development challenges, to respond to the changing priorities of the international community. The institute will also promote the JICA Development Studies Program and actively share Japan's own development experiences, while strengthening its functions for human resources development and research exchange.

Priority Research Areas

In April 2019, the institute reorganized its research clusters to include a new cluster titled "Human Development." The five new clusters correspond to the 5 Ps—Peace, People, Prosperity, Planet, and Partnership—of the SDGs. In April 2020, the "Peace and Development" cluster was renamed the "Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Support" cluster.

1. Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Support
This cluster analyzes the enabling as well as inhibiting factors to sustaining peace in conflict-affected societies. It also delves into the relationship between protection and empowerment in human security. These research activities are aimed at exploring effective approaches through comparative studies of initiatives taken by diverse actors engaged in humanitarian support, sustainable development, and sustaining peace.

2. Human Development
Quality education for all, ensured access to health services, and empowerment of people are the three main pillars of the human development challenges. The cluster's research in the education sector focuses on examining the impact of studying abroad for low- to middle-income countries as well as on analyzing and sharing the history of Japan's international cooperation in education. Research in the health sector includes conducting comparative and practical studies on responses to COVID-19 and studying approaches to promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC).*

3. Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction
This research cluster systemizes the concept of quality growth and analyzes the socioeconomic effects of infrastructure projects, one of Japan's major categories of assistance for developing countries. It also conducts empirical analyses on the financial sector in Asia as well as agricultural sector assistance that contributes to growth and poverty reduction in African countries. To demonstrate the effectiveness of development policies and initiatives, the cluster conducts evidence-based analysis, for example comparing intervention and non-intervention.

4. Global Environment
This research cluster considers how to address the environment and climate change in developing countries. The areas of research include economic evaluation methods for adaptation to climate change and methods for environmental impact assessment in project development, as well as policy issues on the environment and climate change for ASEAN countries to help achieve the SDGs.

5. Development Cooperation Strategies
This research cluster conducts research that guides future directions for JICA's programs and strategies. Specifically, it recaps the history of Japan's development and development cooperation and explores their characteristics. Other specific areas include (1) networking with researchers in developing countries, (2) research that will help to lead future trends in international development cooperation, and (3) cross-sectoral issues. The cluster also plans to venture into new subjects such as building peace through sports.

Achievements in Fiscal 2019

Based on these principles and activities in these clusters, JICA Ogata Research Institute conducted 29 research projects in fiscal 2019 and published part of the outcomes.

*UHC is defined as "ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship."

1. Outcomes of Research Activities

The institute released 20 working papers in fiscal 2019. It also published a policy note on the improvement of urban air pollution in Asia. In addition, the institute produced five background papers for the research project "Japan's Development Cooperation: A Historical Perspective."

Research outcomes are also compiled as books by the institute. It released six books written in English and three in Japanese in fiscal 2019.

Among these six English books is *From Divided Pasts to Cohesive Futures: Reflections on Africa*, a product of the research project "Ethnic Diversity and Economic Instability in Africa." Through an examination of the continent's histories, this book attempts to understand the present situation with regard to social divisions and to reflect on how societies in Africa could work toward a society with enhanced trust.

The three Japanese books include *Japan's International Cooperation in Education: History and Prospects*, a collection of studies on this subject at the institute. The other two titles focus on (1) ethnic harmony and post-conflict reconstruction through assistance in agriculture in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and (2) peacebuilding in Mindanao, the Philippines. They were published as the 24th and 25th books in the Project History series, which documents Japan's contribution to developing countries from a long-term perspective.

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

2. Collaboration with International Organizations and Research Institutions

JICA Ogata Research Institute promotes joint research with

The Fourth Knowledge Forum

other research and aid organizations in Japan and the world building partnerships and networks **[➡ see the case study below]**.

One such collaborative research project is with the Brookings Institute in the United States. Both institutes jointly conducted research on "leave no one behind," a central theme of the SDGs. The findings of this joint research were published in the book *Leave No One Behind: Time for Specifics on the Sustainable Development Goals*. To celebrate the publication, the institute held a seminar in New York and Washington, D.C., in October 2019, where participants discussed how the world should transform itself to achieve the SDGs.

The institute also organized a seminar to commemorate the publication of *The Quality of Growth in Africa* in August 2019, the outcome book of the joint research of the same title between the institute and the Initiative for Policy Dialogue of Columbia University in the U.S. The seminar was held on the occasion of the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7).

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

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Think20 (T20) Japan 2019

Working together to formulate policy recommendations for G20

JICA president Shinichi Kitaoka giving a keynote speech at the T20 Summit

Think20 (T20) is one of the G20 engagement groups formed according to their agendas and functions. Every year, T20 sets up about 10 task forces, which bring together think tanks from various countries to discuss policy issues and come up with policy recommendations for the G20 countries.

The T20 Summit (T20 Japan), held in Tokyo in May 2019, was aimed at offering intellectual input for the G20 Osaka Summit in June.

The then JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) served as joint chair of two task forces: "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)" and "Cooperation with Africa." It presented a set of policy recommendations designed to advance the T20 Japan vision "Seeking a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Society." JICA-RI also contributed to the T20 official side event by, for example, jointly organizing a panel discussion that involved researchers from various countries with an ambition to achieving the SDGs.