

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 Dr. Ogata Sadako, former JICA President, who led the establishment of JICA Research Institute in 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, climate change, and infectious diseases.

Basic Research Policy

- (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*.

Priority Research Clusters

The Institute conducts research in line with the 5 Ps of the SDGs—Peace, People, Prosperity, Planet, and Partnership.

 Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Support	<p><i>Human security</i> and peacebuilding are the two pillars of this research cluster. It analyzes the enabling as well as the inhibiting factors to sustaining peace and delves into the relationship between protection and empowerment in <i>human security</i>. In this way, it explores effective approaches taken by diverse actors engaged in humanitarian support, sustainable development, and sustaining peace.</p>
 Human Development	<p>With sights set on achieving quality education for all, ensuring access to health services, and empowering people, this research cluster focuses on examination of the impact of studying abroad for low- to middle-income countries, and analysis of the history of Japan's international cooperation in education. In the health crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, studies on various aspects of countries' and communities' responses are ongoing to build resilient Universal Health Coverage (UHC)* and society.</p>
 Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction	<p>Poverty is a fundamental challenge. In addition, it is necessary to achieve <i>quality growth</i> that is both inclusive and resilient. Mindful of the need to achieve growth and poverty reduction at the same time, this research cluster focuses on the systemization of the concept of <i>quality growth</i>, empirical analysis of cooperation in infrastructure and agriculture, and studies on finances that are important to the economy and people's lives. Approaches such as comparative analysis of intervention and nonintervention will be adopted in these studies.</p>
 Global Environment	<p>Amid the growing importance of addressing climate change and environmental issues, this research cluster focuses on actions toward achieving the SDGs as well as climate actions. Research subjects include economic evaluation methods for climate change adaptation projects, environmental impact assessment, and policies and measures on the environment and climate change for ASEAN countries.</p>
 Development Cooperation Strategies	<p>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. Through networking with researchers in other countries, the cluster also ventures into (1) research that contributes to forming future trends in international development cooperation, (2) new subjects such as building peace through sports, and (3) cross-sectoral issues.</p>

*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."

On November 2, 2020, the Institute held the Memorial Symposium for the Late Ogata Sadako. The webinar-style symposium, titled “Embracing Human Security in Meeting Global Challenges in the COVID-19/Post-COVID-19 Era,” was joined by United Nations Secretary General António Guterres with a video message, among other dignitaries. Attended by some 1,200 participants, the symposium discussed the importance of the *human security* concept in response to changing threats amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to develop methods for realizing it.



Achievements in Fiscal 2020

Based on these principles and activities in these clusters, JICA Ogata Research Institute conducted 27 research projects in fiscal 2020 and published part of the outcomes.

Outcomes of research activities

The Institute released eight working papers as well as a policy note on socioeconomic development in Bangladesh.

It also published five books written in Japanese and two in English. These include two Japanese academic books in the series titled “Reconsidering the History of Japan’s Development Cooperation.” They are Volume 1: *Policy History I: Evolution of the Japanese Model of Development Cooperation, 1945–89*; and Volume 5: *Japan’s Cooperation to Infrastructure Development: Its History, Philosophy, and Contribution*. These two books revisit the history of Japan’s development cooperation and demonstrate

the significance of the Japanese approach that is distinct from the international development norms led by Western countries. Another Japanese book, titled *Industrial Skills Development in the Developing World: Knowledge and Skills in the Era of SDGs*, covers the issues related to industrial human resource development, such as skills acquisition and productivity improvement. *SDGs and Japan: Human Security Indicators for Leaving No One Behind*, the English version of a Japanese book published earlier, introduces the Human Security Indicators of Japan to contribute to international discussion on this issue.

The remaining three books are two written in Japanese and one in English in the Project History series, a collection of popular publications that document Japan’s contribution to developing countries from a long-term perspective. The Japanese books are Volume 26, on the construction of a suspension bridge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Volume 27, on non-formal education in Pakistan. The last book is the English version of Volume 25, titled *Peace and Development in Mindanao, Republic of the Philippines—The Long Road to Peace through Trust*.

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

Enhancing knowledge-sharing amid the COVID-19 crisis

The Institute also provided knowledge forums and various other seminars online. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, such events were held on-site. In total, the Institute held 23 online seminars on topics that meet contemporary needs. How international cooperation should function amid the pandemic and *human security* are some of the topics discussed at the events.



Two of the books the Institute published during fiscal 2020