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Hot Issue

Policy Recommendations on Prevention of Violent Conflict in Africa Released

JICA-RI research team conducted a perception survey targeting seven sub-Saharan African countries and a case study of ten sub-Saharan countries, and have summarized these outcomes in a Policy Brief.

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A JICA-RI Visiting Fellow conducting an interview in Africa (left)



Special

Two New Researchers from Asia Joined JICA-RI

This April, JICA-RI welcomed [Dr. Lamichhane](#) and [Dr. Dartanto](#), Research Associates from Nepal and Indonesia. The two new research fellows have gained their doctorates in Japan.

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Preview

A History of an Agricultural Development Cooperation in the Cerrado

A long-term program of agricultural development of the Cerrado in Brazil became a great success. The book on the history of this large-scale program will be published in June as the fifth publication of the "Project History" series of JICA-RI.

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Policy Recommendations on Prevention of Violent Conflict in Africa Released

The objective of the Policy Briefs (PBs) is to provide policy recommendations based on the outcome of JICA-RI research projects. This PB presents the recommendations on the research project, “[Prevention of Violent Conflict in Africa: the Roles of Development Cooperation.](#)”

The research team, led by Visiting Research Fellow [Yoichi Mine](#) (Professor, Doshisha University) and Research Fellow [Mari Katayanagi](#), has worked on the Africa Project along with a number of researchers from Japan and other countries.

They conducted a perception survey targeting seven sub-Saharan African countries and a case study of ten sub-Saharan countries, and have summarized these outcomes in the PB.

In Africa, some countries are still burdened with the risk factors of conflict or the danger of recurrence of conflicts, even though violent conflicts in general have been on the decline. There is a shared recognition among aid agencies that development aid to those countries has to be planned carefully so as not to encourage a recurrence or fresh outbreak of a conflict. For that the mechanism of conflicts should be understood, but it is complicated and not easy to unravel.

Based on this background, the team shed light on two factors that may lead to violent conflicts: structure and process. “Structure” in this context denotes a socio-economic one, such as income and assets, economic opportunities, education and health, which is specifically referred to as “horizontal inequalities” (HIs). The concept of HIs is what Professor Frances Stewart of Oxford’s Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE) advocates.

The problem that many multi-ethnic African countries have faced is that ethnic relations are not necessarily uniform within a country: One ethnic group that stays in the center of the government may receive preferential treatment, while other groups placed at a disadvantage perceive an inequality with no or little socioeconomic benefits.

“Process,” on the other hand, includes factors that trigger conflicts, such as the effects of political leadership or ongoing conflicts in their neighboring countries. Furthermore, in African countries where single-party regimes dominated until the 1980s, political institutions such as electoral systems, coalitions, presidential government and decentralization have not necessarily taken root. These changes in political institutions are regarded as part of the “process” leading to a conflict.

The research since 2008 has verified that the subjective perceptions of inequality held by an identity can be different from objective status of the same group. Statistical analysis has also showed an interesting result that groups that hold a prominent position politically may perceive their economic position higher than it actually is. All these findings have been incorporated in the form of the Policy Brief.

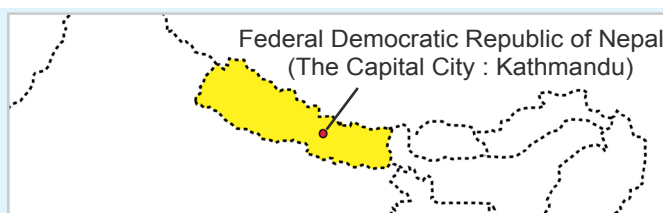
A book based on the outcomes of this research project is in preparation, and a seminar on it is to be held in Tokyo on July 26.

*For the details of Policy Brief No. 8, please visit our [website](#).

Two New Researchers from Asia Joined JICA-RI

This April, JICA-RI welcomed Research Associates from Nepal and Indonesia. The two new research fellows have gained their doctorates in Japan.

Kamal Lamichhane *From Nepal*



Dr. Lamichhane is from Nepal, where he was born with visual impairments in a small village about 170 km away from Kathmandu, the capital. Due to the unawareness in his surroundings that a child with visual impairments could be educated, he had to wait until he turned twelve to obtain a chance for schooling.

It was in 2002 when he first visited Japan. He made a presentation at the international conference on people with disabilities held in Osaka to mark the final year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. While he was in Japan, he was impressed with the barrier-free environment. Since there weren't any academic institutions in Nepal where he could study disability issues, he chose Japan to pursue his study in this field focusing on education.

Arriving in Japan with double disabilities of blindness and lack of knowledge of Japanese, Dr. Lamichhane first entered the University of Tsukuba to receive his master's degree on special education for children with disabilities in 2005. Then in 2007 he moved to the University of Tokyo to do comprehensive research in disability studies as a PhD student, gaining his PhD in 2010. He is the first visually-impaired Nepalese to receive a doctorate.

In his PhD program, he conducted an empirical research on more than 400 people with hearing, physical, and visual impairments to look at how education can make persons with disabilities economically independent and socially included. According to this research, the estimated rate of returns to the investment in education for persons with disabilities is 19% to 33 %, three times higher

than those for persons without disabilities in developing countries stated in the World Bank report in 2004. This research was the first attempt of its kind in a developing country.

Dr. Lamichhane, using these results as the evidence to reaffirm the need of educating persons with disabilities, wants to create a society where people enjoy living with human diversities. This has become one of his life works.



Dr. Kamal Lamichhane(left) and Dr.Teguh Dartanto(right)
at JICA Research Institute

After obtaining the Doctorate, he did joint research with Prof. Yasuyuki Sawada at the Graduate School of Economics at the University of Tokyo under the postdoctoral fellowship of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Society (JSPS) for two years from April 2010.

According to Dr. Lamichhane, he joined JICA-RI

Teguh Dartanto *From Indonesia*



Dr. Dartanto finished his undergraduate study in August 2002 at the Department of Economics, the University of Indonesia on the theme of “the Impact of Fiscal Decentralization on Regional Disparity and Economic Growth in Indonesia.”

This thesis simulated the future impact of implementation of fiscal decentralization that was started in 2001 in Indonesia. His professor at the time advised him to carry on with this research after his graduation, and also to stay at the university as a research/teaching assistant. He became a member of the Institute for Economic and Social Research (LPEM FEUI), a research organization attached to the Faculty of Economics, the University of Indonesia.

When Dr. Dartanto was a research assistant, he joined a research project in a field of decentralization with the support from the former JBIC. This was a joint research between LPEM FEUI and the public economics study group led by Professor Asanuma of Hitotsubashi University. Later, he was also involved with a research for supporting the writing of Indonesia's poverty reduction strategy. This last research and his childhood experiences had influenced much on his interest in poverty and development researches. He grew up in a poor rural village, where there was no electricity until his second year at the elementary

because he thought it was one of the best international research organizations for him to continue his work at on disability, poverty, and education. Finally Dr. Lamichhane says that he is thrilled to be able to continue research on disability and poverty, and to learn international cooperation together with his colleagues at JICA-RI.

school and no telephone services until 2001.

Dr. Dartanto's first visit to Japan was in 2005. With a scholarship from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology in Japan, as well as the recommendation of a Hitotsubashi University professor he met in Indonesia, he pursued a postgraduate degree in economics at Hitotsubashi University. He took the university entrance exam in Japanese. Since all the classes were taught in Japanese, he made an awful lot of effort to pursue his study. Later, he decided to do his doctorate at Nagoya University, where he concentrated on poverty and development economics as his research theme.

Dr. Dartanto's subject of research, “Intra- and Inter-generation Poverty Dynamics in Indonesia: Finding out Determinants and Policy Options to Move Household out of Poverty” is a topic that has not been well researched yet. Since it is difficult for governments of developing countries to measure the short-term impact of their reduction policies, Dr. Dartanto stresses the importance of research using long-term panel data for working out effective poverty reduction interventions to cut off the cycle of inherited poverty in households.

*About twenty research fellows and research associates are working at JICA-RI.
For the profiles of these researchers, please visit [our website](#).

A History of an Agricultural Development Cooperation in the Cerrado, Brazil Contributed to Global Food Security

A long-term program of agricultural development in the Cerrado, a vast tropical savanna in the midwestern part of Brazil, had been implemented with Japanese cooperation, and became a great success. The book on the history of this large-scale program will be published shortly as the fifth publication of the “Project History” series of JICA-RI.

This Japan-Brazil joint program dates back to the early 1970's: there was a need for the development in the Cerrado in Brazil, while Japan had to secure an import source for soybeans. In the Cerrado region, which people thought was unsuited for farming, Japan had extended cooperation to its Brazilian counterparts by providing them with technical and financial assistance for about two decades starting in the late 1970's.

JICA-RI Director [Akio Hosono](#), one of the two authors of this book, explains the significance of the book: “The barren land of Cerrado has been transformed into a fertile land, and this has been called “Brazil's green revolution.” Given the magnitude of the achievement, I felt that we needed to bring to the knowledge of the readers in both Japan and around the world how it was made possible. For example, what factors attributed to this big change? And what aspects of cooperation made it successful in the Cerrado agricultural development over the long period? With no previous comprehensive studies around, we had to gather information and

data steadily. We benefited a lot from interviews with many Brazilians and Japanese who participated in this monumental joint venture.”

Mr. Yutaka Hongo is the other author of this book. A JICA Visiting Senior Advisor nicknamed the “walking encyclopedia of Cerrado,” he has been involved with this program for more than twenty years since 1974. He remarks: “This has been a large-scaled joint public-private program between Japan and Brazil. As there were many institutions concerned on both sides, I made every effort in facilitating negotiations not just in Brazil but between Japan and Brazil.” He adds: “This is the largest ODA project in the history of agriculture development, and I feel rewarded that I was part of this exercise that may have changed the global food situation.”

A large number of people from both the public and private sectors in Japan and Brazil contributed to this program, fulfilling their roles. Mr. Hongo stresses, “We must not forget the importance of the role of ODA in this program, and also of many Japanese-Brazilians who went through a lot of hardships in bringing the program to success.”

This book is written for a wide audience. The authors hope it will be read not only by those involved in international cooperation but also by those who have general interest in global issues, and particularly by young people.



JICA-RI Director Akio Hosono in soy bean field at the Cerrado