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JICA Receives Awards for Achievement in South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the GSSD Expo 2012

The fifth Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) 2012 was convened in Vienna, Austria, for five days from November 19 to 23. The events at this Expo included: the United Nations South-South Stakeholders and High-Level Development Cooperation Directors-General Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (November 22), which was jointly led by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as the host organization; six Thematic Solution Forums on South-South and Triangular Cooperation; and mini-forums held by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). More than 1,000 delegates from United Nations (UN) agencies, international organizations, governments of both developed and developing countries, NGOs, the private sector, and others gathered at the event. Giving presentations on their best practices, the participants held lively discussions and an active exchange of ideas toward more effective South-South and triangular cooperation.

At the High-Level Directors-General Meeting on November 22, JICA Senior Special Advisor Hiroshi Kato, in his opening remarks, explained that JICA-RI has been analyzing the triangular cooperation cases, with emphasis on JICA's initiative to explore more effective solutions for

South-South and triangular cooperation. He also stated that the booklets that include part of research findings were available at the venue.

In the second session of the high-level meeting held in the afternoon, where innovative South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and approaches for scaling up were showcased, JICA-RI Research Associate [Shunichiro Honda](#) introduced JICA's "Better Hospital Services Program," as a good example of an innovative triangular cooperation linking Asia and Africa regions. He presented this case with two counterparts of the initiative: Dr. Wimal Karandagoda, Director of Medical Service at Lanka Hospital in Sri Lanka, who first developed and implemented the management change approach—the 5S-KAIZEN-TQM (Total Quality Management); and Dr. Mohamed Ally Mohamed, Director of Health Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Tanzania, who has played the role in the national roll-out of this same approach. This "Better Hospital Services Program" received a Solution Award on the themes of health, youth and women, along with another Solution Award for JICA's triangular initiative to promote sustainable agricultural production in Haiti. These two awarded projects have been taken up in the ongoing JICA-RI research project "[Revisiting the Capacity Development \(CD\) Approach through Comparative Case Analysis](#)," as cases of CD through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Co-hosting the High-Level Directors-General Meeting as well as giving presentations on its efforts for South-South and triangle cooperation at this Expo proved that JICA presented itself as one of the leading partners in this field. With the accumulated achievements, JICA-RI will continue to engage in this critical theme in global development agenda, sharing more outputs from the ongoing research activities related to South-South and triangular cooperation.



Kato JICA Senior Special Advisor at his opening remarks (left)

JICA-RI Researchers Give Presentation at Refugee Policy Conference in Oxford

A conference entitled “Understanding of Global Refugee Policy” was organized to commemorate the 30th anniversary for the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford on December 6 and 7. This meeting aimed to examine and theorize the policy-making processes relating to refugees and forced migration such as internal displacement, the statelessness, human trafficking at the global level. It provided a forum for a critical discussion on the theme of this conference.

The event brought together a wide range of participants including Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill of All Souls College (Oxford), a leading expert on refugee law and asylum, as well as researchers on refugees, UNHCR staff members and NGO activists. Two JICA-RI Research Fellows—[Mari Katayanagi](#) and [Satoru Mikami](#)—gave a presentation on JICA-RI’s research project entitled “Studies on Effective Assistance for Return of Refugees and Internal Displaced Peoples: A Case Study of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

In a panel titled “Return and Restitution” on December 7, Katayanagi and Mikami presented an analysis of the correlation between property restitution and return-revisiting the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia hereafter).

They explained that ethnic cleansing forced nearly half of the population to migrate and become refugees or internally displaced



[Mikami Research Fellow](#)

persons (IDPs) during the armed conflict in Bosnia. Housing problem was one of the main causes to prevent them from returning home; it had two types: The first type was a physical destruction of houses, while the second one was an occupation of houses by IDPs from other areas. Although the physically destroyed houses can be reconstructed with money, the latter needs to vacate those ‘occupants’ out of the houses. This research focusing on the latter, a more complicated case, statistically verifies that the occupancy blocked the refugees and IDPs to return home, and it also analyzes whether the international community’s intervention had a significant impact on enabling return.

In Bosnia, High Representative, who supervises the implementation of the civilian aspects of the peace accord, holds a strong authority to amend, repeal, and impose laws as well as to remove public officials who obstruct the implementation of the peace accords. In fact, the High Representative dismissed nearly 40 public officials by reason of obstructing property restitution and return of refugees and IDPs. This international community’s intervention actually increased the number of ‘return of minorities,’ resulting in the ethnic ratio of returnees closer to that of pre-conflict phase. The analysis also found that the people’s trust in the rule of law was redeemed, judging from the fact that the number of returnees rose not only in the municipalities where intervention of ‘removal’ was enforced but also throughout Bosnia.



[Katayanagi Research Fellow](#)

JICA-RI Researcher Gives Presentation at “Post-2015 Development Agenda” Meeting

“Global Thematic Consultation Meeting: Conflict and Fragility and the Post-2015 Development Agenda” was held in Monrovia, capital of Liberia, from November 29 to 30. Co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), this meeting constituted the second round of four consultations for issues on “conflict and disaster.” The meeting brought together some 80 participants, including officials from governments and international organizations, experts, researchers, and representatives of civil society. From JICA-RI, Research Associate [Ryutaro Murotani](#) gave a presentation on the research outcomes on conflict and peace building at the Institute, as well as JICA’s initiatives in its operations.

Murotani, in his presentation, introduced the content of JICA-RI’s [“Evidence-based Analysis for Post-2015 Development Strategies”](#) that has been implemented, and touched on the relevance of the human security concept as a guiding principle. He also highlighted the importance of objective and subjective horizontal inequalities (HIs) and political institutions, based on the research results from the [“Prevention of Violent Conflicts in Africa.”](#) He lastly referred to the assistance to the livelihood improvement and job-creation efforts that JICA is engaged in, as well as the introduction of evaluation guidelines in conflict-affected countries.



Murotani RA

At this meeting, a number of participants addressed that the conflict is a major obstacle against the MDGs achievement, and that this issue should be incorporated into the framework of the new development agenda.

At the same time, inequality, governance, growth, livelihood improvement, and other issues were raised as challenges to peace, along with many voices from African participants on the significance of human security. The UN Development Group (UNDG) will compile the results of this consultation and submit to the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set up this July as voices of the people around the globe.

JICA-RI also launched the “Evidence-based Analysis for Post-2015 Development Strategies” this August, where the Institute studies the significance of inclusiveness and resilience within the framework of the new development agenda, drawing on a review of the achievement of the MDGs.

Special

Working Paper No.49 Released

JICA-RI released the Working Paper (WP) entitled [“Expansion of Lowland Rice Production and Constraints on a Rice Green Revolution: Evidence from Uganda”](#) in December 2012.

In cooperation with JICA-RI, Yoko Kijima, Associate Professor of Tsukuba University, drawing data on 600 rural households with access to wetlands, examines factors on why the rice yield has been stagnant despite the rice production on the increase in Uganda.

The high population density in upland farm areas has pushed farmers to rice cultivation in wetlands. Albeit proper cultivation practices are applied there, with village fixed effects such as a difficulty to secure stable water supply, this WP analyzes that these effects may act as a factor that hinders the increase of rice yield.