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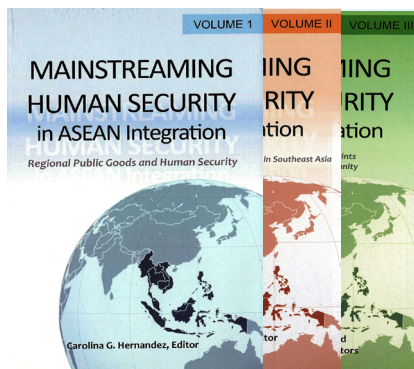
Okabe Research Fellow(left), Furukawa Senior Research Fellow(right)



Review

Does the CCT Program in Brazil Contribute to the Empowerment of Women?

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Review

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ASEAN-ISIS and JICA-RI have jointly advanced a project entitled "Mainstreaming Human Security in ASEAN Integration" since August 2008.

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Special

JICA-RI Has Released more than 50 Working Papers since its Foundation

WP No.50 on General Budget Support (GBS) and No.51 on impact of the Lehman Shock are introduced in Hot Issue.

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Two Working Papers Released in January

JICA-RI introduces academic papers on research findings of ongoing or completed research as Working Paper (WP) with the aim of triggering active debate. The following two WPs are released this January.

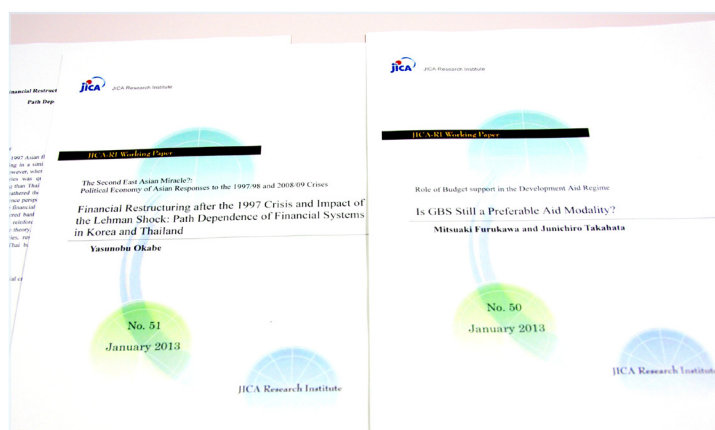
In **WP No.50**, “Is GBS Still a Preferable Aid Modality?” **Senior Research Fellow Mitsuaki Furukawa** and Junichiro Takahata, full-time lecturer of Dokkyo University (then JICA-RI Research Associate), attempt to assess the efficiency of General Budget Support (GBS) in developing countries, by using panel data from 109 countries on government revenue, expenditure, and social indicators for the ten-year period from 1997 to 2006. This paper is part of the JICA-RI research project entitled “Role of Budget Support in the Development Aid Regime.”

This WP, with focus on the health sector, verifies whether any difference in budget allocation for developing countries exists between non-earmarked domestic tax revenue and GBS. It also studies an impact of the introduction of GBS that affects development.

The paper suggests that the complementarity between GBS and projects/programs centering on human and institutional capacity development should be seriously considered, since the introduction of GBS alone has limited impact on the achievement of development effect.

In **WP No. 51**, **Research Fellow Yasunobu Okabe** presents his research findings entitled “Financial Restructuring after the 1997 Crisis and Impact of the Lehman Shock: Path Dependence of Financial Systems in Korea and Thailand.” As one of the studies presented for research project “The Second East Asian Miracle?: Political Economy of Asian Responses to the 1997/98 and 2008/09 Crises,” this WP compares the financial restructuring implemented in South Korea and Thailand after the 1997 Asian financial crisis. The study addresses the paradoxical outcome; although South Korea had performed better than Thailand in the financial restructuring, the country was for some reason more vulnerable to the 2008 Lehman shock.

The author sheds light on the different historical paths of the formation and change of the respective financial systems from a perspective of path dependence. The severe economic crises actually helped reinforce the institutional legacies in the two states, resulting in aggressive foreign borrowing by Korean banks, and timid borrowing by Thai banks. These differences, the paper argues, explain their contrasting vulnerability to the Lehman shock.



* For the details of Working Papers, please visit JICA-RI website

Does the CCT Program in Brazil Contribute to the Empowerment of Women?

On January 10, JICA-RI convened an open seminar on Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program of Brazil. Associate Professor Yumi Garcia dos Santos from the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil led a discussion about the impact of CCT on the empowerment of women, using a case study of the Brazilian government's CCT program "Bolsa Familia Programa (BFP)." With regard to this theme, the Institute held an open seminar on CCT in developing countries in September 2012.

In his opening remarks, JICA-RI Director Akio Hosono stated that amid a global interest in CCT growing yearly, BFP marks the tenth anniversary since its implementation and is a model for an international poverty eradication program along with "Oportunidades" in Mexico and "Chile Solidario" in Chile.

Garcia, a guest speaker, raised a question on the prevailing theory that "BFP contributes to the empowerment of women," using her field work conducted in poverty-stricken areas of São Paulo.

Brazil's BFP is the government's main framework for poverty eradication measures and particularly aims to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. More than 90 percent of recipients of BFP are women. Garcia values the program because those women who receive a regular amount of money can run their households without completely relying

on their male partners, which ameliorates the subordinated situation.

In Brazilian society, however, it is still considered ideal that those Brazilian female recipients assume their traditional roles—as mothers and caretakers for the elderly. Therefore, even if the women want to get a job, some husbands request them to continue to receive BFP as a full-time housewife. This reality, Garcia pointed out, shows some aspects of the program hamper women's participation in the labor market. In light of these circumstances, she emphasized that not only can the program interfere with women's independence as individuals, it also results in their losing the opportunity to earn the minimum wage, which is at least four times as much as the highest amount of BFP.

Garcia stressed that Brazil's BFP is an important social policy supporting the impoverished, but that at the same time, the government needs to create an environment that enables women to participate in the labor market. She further stated that she will pursue her further research that compares the effects of BFP between urban and rural areas.



Ms. Garcia



Findings of ASEAN-ISIS and JICA-RI Joint Research Project Released as Books

Amid ASEAN's drive to build a community for regional integration in 2015, the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS), a network of private research organizations among the ASEAN member states, and JICA-RI have jointly advanced a project entitled "*Mainstreaming Human Security in ASEAN Integration*" since August 2008. This joint project aims to examine the blueprints for the formation of the community on the three pillars—political-security, economy, and society/culture—from a human security perspective, and also to elicit suggestions necessary for the realization of people-centered ASEAN.

In the course of globalization, the flow of goods and capital as well as that of people has accelerated across borders, along with the cases where economic activities in one country have an impact on people's lives in nearby countries. Under these circumstances, policy proposals to governments from civil society including NGOs have been required from the viewpoint of integrating those people who are left behind in regional integration even among

ASEAN member states, together with those exposed to impending threats over borders.

In 2012 the findings of this research project were compiled into three volumes in English by the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS) Philippines. The three volumes focus on the following respective themes.

Vol. 1: *Regional Public Goods and Human Security* assesses efforts on transnational development challenges—health, maritime security and crimes, and environment.

Vol. 2: *Lessons Learned from MDGs Implementation in Southeast Asia* focuses on each country's efforts toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and introduces the insights for the process of mainstreaming human security in ASEAN integration.

Vol. 3: *Human Security and the Blueprints for Realizing the ASEAN Community* covers initial assessments of how the diverse issues have been tackled including economic disparities within ASEAN.

JICA-RI Has Released more than 50 Working Papers since its Foundation

The Institute has released more than 50 Working Papers (WPs) since its foundation. WP No.50 on General Budget Support (GBS) and No.51 on impact of the Lehman Shock are introduced in Hot Issue. Several research papers based on WPs have been also introduced in international academic journals including *World Development* as below.

Jin Sato et al. "Emerging Donors' from a Recipient Perspective: An Institutional Analysis of Foreign Aid in Cambodia," *World Development*, Volume 39, Issue 12, December 2011, Pages 2091-2104 (WP. No.2)

Masahiro Shoji et al. "Social Capital Formation

and Credit Access: Evidence from Sri Lanka," *World Development*, Vol. 40, Issue 12, December 2012, Pages 2522-2536 (WP. No.3)

Futoshi Yamauchi et al. "Are Schooling and Roads Complementary? Evidence from Income Dynamics in Rural Indonesia," *World Development*, Vol.39, Issue 12, December 2011, Pages 2232-2244 (WP .No.10)

Atsushi Hanatani et al. "Linking Resource Users' Perceptions and Collective Action in Commons Management - An Examination of Water Supply Systems in Southern Senegal," *Water Policy*, Vol. 14, No 1 Pages 127-147 © IWA Publishing 2012 (WP. No.24)