Hot Issue

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka visited UN Headquarters in New York

From March 6 to 8, JICA President Akihiko Tanaka visited New York City on his first trip to UN Headquarters since taking office.

Review

Three Working Papers Newly Released

JICA-RI released new working papers with the three themes: impact of forest coffee certification on forest conservation, conflict analysis in virtual states, and the effects of two financial crises on Indonesia.

Review

Timor-Leste Hosts International Conference on Post-2015 Development Agenda


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JICA and SOAS Held a Joint Workshop on Inclusive Development in Africa

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JICA President Tanaka Attends an Advisory Panel at UNDP

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As a member of the Human Development Report Office Advisory Panel since May 2012, Tanaka attended a Panel meeting held at the headquarters of the UN Development Program (UNDP) on March 6 and 7. The Panel includes some of the most knowledgeable development professionals in the world. The meeting provided an important opportunity for the members to discuss and debate the concepts and structures of next year’s Human Development Report, as well as to provide suggestions for the Report’s direction and contents. The next edition of the Human Development Report is scheduled to be released around March 2014.

President Tanaka and Professor Stiglitz Hold TICAD Special Seminar at UN Headquarters

On March 8, a special TICAD seminar was convened at UN Headquarters to have a broad discussion on the growth and agendas in Africa for the upcoming Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) that will be held in Yokohama, Japan, in June. This event was co-organized by JICA, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, UNDP, the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA), and the African Union (AU).

This seminar brought together about 100 participants including African ambassadors to the UN and others, as well as Ambassador Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations; Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator; Maged Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General/Special Advisor on Africa of UN-OSAA; Ambassador Tete António, Permanent Observer of the African Union; and Professor Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University.

In his keynote speech, Tanaka noted that the challenges facing Africa today are transnational armed groups that threaten peace and stability and inadequate infrastructure. He also pointed out, “We need to contribute to inclusive growth in Africa, and we must keep in mind the goal of achieving human security. We must seek solutions involved in development and learn through collaborative work.”
Three Working Papers Newly Released

**Working Paper No. 55**
In their “Impact of a Shade Coffee Certification Program on Forest Conservation: A Case Study from a Wild Coffee Forest in Ethiopia,” authors examine the impact of the shade coffee certification program on forest conservation. The study, carried out at the Belete-Gera Regional Forest Priority Area in Ethiopia, gauged the change of the forest area with remote sensing data. The authors found that forest under the coffee certification were less likely to be deforested than forests without forest coffee. The study results suggest that the shade coffee certification program had a positive effect on forest protection, decreasing the probability of deforestation.
(Ryo Takahashi and Yasuyuki Todo)

**Working Paper No. 56**
In his “Conflict Analysis in Virtual States (CAVS): A New Experimental Method Based on the Extensive Use of Multi-Agent Simulation (MAS) and Geographical Information System (GIS),” an author introduces CAVS, a fresh approach that can observe and analyze simulated dynamics of civil conflicts. CAVS conducts controlled pseudo-experiments concerning civil conflicts in the virtual environment that approximates empirical reality. This approach is made possible by two computer-based methods: multi-agent simulation (MAS) and geographical information (GIS). With the integrative use of these two methods, CAVS has huge potential, especially for policy application for civil conflicts.
(Takuto Sakamoto)

**Working Paper No. 57**
The global financial crisis in 2008 caused major economic problems in many countries. Although it also affected Indonesia, the impact was relatively limited compared with other countries in the same region, including Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. In his “A Tale of Two Crises: Indonesia’s Political Economy,” an author raises a question to ask why the effects of the 2008 global financial crisis, which was much larger than the 1998 crisis in terms of magnitude, were relatively limited in Indonesia. The author finds that there are at least four major differences between the two crises, such as the origin of the crisis, the exchange rate regime, policy responses and the national political economy. The paper argues that Indonesia survived the 2008 global financial crisis mainly thanks to its good policy and the structure of trade.
(Muhammad Chatib Basri)
Timor-Leste Hosts International Conference on Post-2015 Development Agenda

The government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste organized an International Conference on the Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “Development for All: Stop Conflict, Build States and Eradicate Poverty” in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste, for three days from February 26 to 28.

The international conference aimed to reach a broad consensus on how the specific development challenges faced by fragile and conflict-affected states should shape the Post-2015 global development framework. This plenary meeting centered on issues of conflict and fragility in fragile and conflict-affected countries and of natural disasters and climate change in Pacific island countries.

The event brought together government and civil society representatives from the g7+ group of fragile states, Pacific island countries, and the group of Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP), a total of 48 countries attending. From the host country, Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Finance Minister Emilia Pires and other government officials attended the event. Research Associate (RA) Ryutaro Murotani from JICA-RI also joined the conference.

Murotani took part in the breakout session “Peace-Building through Human Security and Personal Safety.” In the session, he pointed out that, in order to focus on the people who face severe crises including poverty and to deal with downside risks such as natural disasters and conflicts, “human security” could work as a guiding principle for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The participants of this session discussed the various threats to peace and security—poverty, natural disaster and conflict—and agreed that although security is multifaceted and prioritizing them is difficult, security for people is essential; therefore, the validity of “human security” was confirmed. The participants mentioned this concept in many occasions during the conference.

On the final day of the event, all the participants adopted the Dili Consensus, where they agreed that for the development of all countries including fragile states, it is important to enhance the efforts in major four areas that are not adequately treated in the MDGs: inclusive economic growth, state effectiveness, peace and justice, and climate change and environmental management.
JICA and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, organized a joint workshop entitled “Institutional Foundation of Inclusive Development in Africa” in London, UK on February 15 and 16. From JICA-RI, Director Akio Hosono joined the event.

The first workshop that was convened last year was the first attempt to explore how institutions and their structures and dynamics have affected the diversity and similarity in the course of development process in Asian and African countries. JICA highlighted eight interrelated research areas (see the list below). The workshop this year aimed to discuss the research findings in the eight study areas and policy proposals based on them.

Hosono gave a presentation on “Resilience and Inclusive Development” in the second session on 15th. In his presentation, Hosono pointed out, “Those who live in high risk zones, because they don’t have other options due to poverty, are much more exposed to risks than others. Enhancing resilience is, therefore, essential for the poor not to be excluded from social system.” Then he listed three aspects that are crucial to disaster risk management in developing countries: (1) prevention and reduction of risk with use of the reconstruction design of the Great East Japan Earthquake; (2) tackle for the changes of risk over time, considering the effects of climate change, urbanization and others; and (3) the importance of capacity development in governments, particularly local governments, as well as in communities and citizens. Furthermore, as examples of disaster prevention measures in developing countries, he introduced JICA’s BOSAI and TAISHIN projects in Latin America, noting that programs of urban redevelopment with land readjustment can be an effective approach to address urban poverty, slums and disaster prevention.

During the concluding session, Professor Machiko Nissanke of SOAS and Hosono as moderators, overviewed the policy recommendations for accelerating inclusive development in Africa, based on the presentation of Kimiaki Jin, Chief Representative of JICA UK Office.

Eight interrelated research themes: