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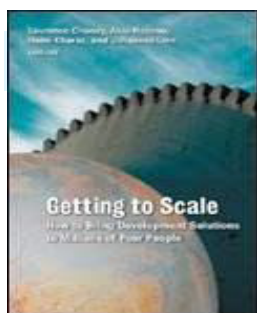
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JICA-RI Held a Public Seminar on Economy in Myanmar and the Role of JICA

On March 27, JICA-RI organized a public seminar entitled “The Potentials of Myanmar’s Economy and the Role of JICA,” inviting a number of researchers who were involved in the book “Myanmar Keizai no Atarashii Hikari (New Light for Economy in Myanmar),” published by Keiso Shobo on September 2012.

After former JICA-RI Director [Akio Hosono](#)’s opening remarks, Professor Emeritus Konosuke Odaka of Hitotsubashi University and Hosei University, gave the keynote speech entitled “The Economy of Myanmar: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.”

In his presentation, Prof. Odaka explained the background of the book, “In 2000, JICA Project ‘Myanmar-Japan Cooperation Programme for Structural Adjustment of the Myanmar Economy’ started. Then, deteriorating political situation halted the program for a while. In 2008, however, some research members of the 2000 program joined JICA research project ‘Issues and Challenges for Economic Development in Myanmar,’ outcomes of which led to the publication of this book.”

Panel discussion followed the keynote speech. Senior Research Fellow Toshihiro Kudo of the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), gave a presentation entitled “Myanmar’s Growth Strategy in a New International Environment.” Mr. Kudo stated that the two-year reform since the birth of the current regime in March 2011 could be divided into three stages: 1) reforms related to politics and international relations; 2) economic reforms; and 3) administrative reforms. He explained key events of each stage; during the first-stage, a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of political prisoners took place, along with the improvement of Myanmar’s ties with the international community; at the second stage, the government implemented policies on the development of all industries with an emphasis on agriculture; and now entered the third stage,

where the government especially has sought to end corruption.

In the next presentation, Yoshio Wada, Deputy Director General of JICA’s Southeast Asia and Pacific Department, introduced examples of Japan’s current economic cooperation with Myanmar: support for minority-populated areas; infrastructure development in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone; fostering of human resources in business at the Myanmar-Japan Center for Human Resources Development; and assistance to modernize the financial system. He stressed the need for repair of power plants as well as for emergency countermeasures to supply power since electricity is essential to Myanmar’s economic development.

The seminar also brought together those who had been involved in the writing of the book. Haruyuki Shimada, Advisor in JICA’s South Asia Department, is one of them. Recalling those times when researchers were not allowed even to enter the Central Bank, he realized the time has changed, contrasting the current situation that JICA is cooperating in many ways with Myanmar’s Central Bank as a counterpart organization in support of modernizing the financial system.



JICA-RI Held a Seminar on “Industrial Policy towards African Development”

In preparation for the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) to be held in Yokohama in June 2013, JICA-RI organized an open seminar entitled “Industrial Policy towards African Development” on March 22, 2013.

This seminar was convened with an aim of extensively discussing industrial policy and the role of development assistance in Africa. Dr. John Page, former chief economist for Africa at the World Bank and currently Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, attended the event, along with Japanese specialists in the field of industrial policy in Africa.

In his keynote speech on “Industrial Policy for Africa: Why, What and How?” Dr. Page stressed the importance of structural change as a challenge of African industrial policy. He showcased specific plans for industrial policy in Africa: creating export markets through industrial agglomerations; firms’ capacity building by strengthening the policies and institutions to attract direct foreign investment. Further, he made suggestions, such as drawing on the industrial policies from Asian countries that succeeded in economic growth.



Dr. Page

In the panel discussion, moderated by JICA-RI Research Fellow [Go Shimada](#), Professor Keijiro Otsuka and Professor Tetsushi Sonobe of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), and JICA-RI former Director [Akio Hosono](#) (currently Senior Research Advisor) discussed the potentials of industrial policy and the role of development assistance in Africa.

First, Professor Otsuka introduced concrete measures on how to reinforce business capabilities and industrial cluster support that Dr. Page referred to. He stressed the importance of learning from abroad or the knowledge transfer through professional training.

Management training, Prof. Otsuka said, is a significant learning opportunity for entrepreneurs to improve management practices and business performances.



Prof. Otsuka

Professor Sonobe went on to introduce case studies on training for micro and small enterprises in several African countries, along with the findings of the training. He presented cases of training programs for metal work enterprises in Ghana and Kenya. The studies compared the gross sales and the gross profits of metal work enterprises before and after the six-month training program. Prof. Sonobe found that those enterprises that participated in the training benefited from it.



Prof. Sonobe

The final presenter Hosono introduced, as examples of industrial strategy and economic transformation, a few successful cases—the automobile industry in Thailand, known as “Detroit of Asia”; and agriculture for production of soybean, known as “the miracle of the Cerrado” in Brazil. Hosono stressed that management staff’s accumulation of knowledge and their skill development by learning, infrastructure construction and technological innovation, and government’s close ties with the private sector are key factors to achieve economic development in Africa.



Dr. Hosono

JICA-RI Working Papers Newly Released

Brookings Institution Releases a New Publication

Four Working Papers Newly Released

The Determinants of Technology Adoption: The Case of the Rice Sector in Tanzania No. 58

Yuko Nakano and Kei Kajisa

The paper, using household data in rice cultivation area, investigates the strategies for increasing rice productivity in Tanzania, the largest rice producing country in East Africa. Authors find that credit enhances the adoption of a set of new technologies, such as high-yielding Modern Varieties (MVs) and chemical fertilizers.

How Access to Irrigation Influences Poverty and Livelihoods: A Case Study from Sri Lanka No. 59

Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Takeshi Aida, Ryuji Kasahara, Yasuyuki Sawada, and Deeptha Wijerathna

Combining dataset based on households in southern Sri Lanka with natural experimental setting, authors conduct quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of the irrigation infrastructure investment on improving villagers' livelihood. The paper finds that irrigation access has a positive effect on income through livelihood choices.

A Fresh Look at Capacity Development from Insiders' Perspectives: A Case Study of an Urban Redevelopment Project in Medellín, Colombia No. 60 Mine Sato

This paper attempts to explore what donor community can learn about CD by tracing the endogenous and long-running CD process from insiders' (such as beneficiaries) perspectives. Using an urban redevelopment project called MIB in Medellín City in Colombia, the author points out: CD process can be far longer than what donors have assumed; and documentation of previous projects under donors' auspices greatly help local specialists conceive new ideas.

Extensification and Intensification Process of Rainfed Lowland Rice Farming in Mozambique No. 61

Kei Kajisa and Ellen Payongayong

Drawing on household-level data, the paper attempts to identify the potential of and constraints on rice production increase in rainfed lowland, 90 per cent of the rice area in Mozambique. Finding only 41 per cent of the cultivable lowland is used for rice, authors indicate that the potential in land extensification and the labor intensification in lowland contribute to the increase of rice production.

Brookings Institution Releases a New Publication of Collaborative Study on Scaling up

Brookings Institution Press released a book entitled *Getting to Scale: How to Bring Development Solution to Millions of Poor People*.

This volume, introducing successful cases of poverty reduction with strategic and systematic application of scaling up approaches, explores multi-faceted approaches for wider and more sustained impacts.

From JICA-RI, Director Hiroshi Kato, Senior Research Advisor Akio Hosono (editing and writing) and Research Associate Shunichiro Honda contribute to the book.

GDN Hosted Post-2015 MDG Consultation in India

On March 19, Global Development Network (GDN)*1 hosted a High-Level Meeting entitled “Beyond the MDGs: What Development Framework after 2015? Post-MDG Consultation Meeting” in New Delhi, India. JICA Vice President Hiroto Arakawa and JICA-RI Advisor Kazuhiko Ueno attended, together with a great number of development professionals working in government, academia, and aid organization around the world.

Arakawa chaired a session on the themes of health, water, sanitation, and sustainability. He stressed, “MDGs, launched in the wake of 9/11, have come this far thanks to the financial backing of donors like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Post-2015, however, hasn’t had this kind of momentum yet. Thus setting simple and clear goals is essential to formulate the framework of goals with political mobilization.”

Arakawa also attended the open symposium as a panelist, alongside MIT Professor Abhijit Banerjee and other members of the High-Level Panel. He pointed out the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences as well as the importance of South-South Cooperation towards Post-2015 development agenda.

*1 GDN is a network of policy/research organizations and researchers from developing and developed countries. It was established in 1997 by World Bank initiative. It aims to share development knowledge among researchers and policy makers from developing and developed countries to bridge the gap between research and practical activities. GDN-Japan, one of the GDN’s regional network partners, is a hub institution that JICA-RI hosts.

JICA-RI and UNDP Held a Joint Consultation for the UNDP Human Development Report 2014

JICA-RI, as did last year, convened a joint East Asia Consultation Meeting with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tokyo on March 25 to support the preparation of UNDP’s Human Development Report (HDR) 2014.

More than 30 specialists and experts from East Asian countries in total joined the consultation; the distinguished participants included: Khalid Malik, Director of the UNDP Human Development Report Office; Akiko Yuge, Director and Special Advisor to the Administrator from the UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo; Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of South Korea; Chalongsob Sussangkarn, former Finance Minister of Thailand; and Rizal Ramli, former Finance Minister of Indonesia. JICA President Akihiko Tanaka also attended, along with former

Director [Akio Hosono](#) (currently Senior Research Advisor), Senior Special Adviser [Hiroshi Kato](#) (currently Director), Deputy Director [Naohiro Kitano](#), and former Research Program Division Director [Go Shimada](#) (currently Research Fellow) from JICA-RI.

Since its first publication in 1990, HDR has taken up a variety of the latest development issues and international trends each year. The meeting aimed at discussing the possible themes, directions, and important focal points of each theme for the 2014 Report.

With this opportunity, JICA-RI will continue to share its knowledge and experience on human development and other development themes with relevant countries in East Asia and the ASEAN region.