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JICA-RI Hosts a Plenary Session at the Annual GDN Conference in the Philippines

From June 19 to 21, Global Development Network (GDN) held its 14th Annual Global Development Conference at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters in Manila, the Philippines. JICA-RI, as the hub institution for GDN-Japan, organized a plenary session on resilience, and also participated in the parallel session where the finalists of the 2012 Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) gave their presentations.

In addition to the GDN's regional network partners, about 450 participants from the World Bank, ADB, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the UN organizations, NGOs and private sector's think-tanks around the world assembled for the Conference. From JICA-RI, Director [Hiroshi Kato](#), Research Program Division Chief Hironobu Murakami, and Research Officer Akiko Aikawa attended.

The conference this year focused on the overall nexus between **“Inequality, Social Protection and Inclusive Growth.”** At the Opening Plenary, panelists gave presentations from views of each region—Africa, Latin America, and Asia. During the opening ceremony that followed, GDN President Pierre Jacquet, ADB President Takehiko Nakao, and President of the Republic of the Philippines H.E. Benigno Aquino III gave speeches.

The parallel session on the first day, in which Director Kato chaired, featured presentations by the three finalists from India, Uganda, and Bangladesh for the 2012 Japanese Award MIDP. The winners were announced at the award ceremony on the final day, where Kato presented the award certificates to each of them.

Kato also chaired the plenary session, which JICA-RI hosted on the final day, entitled “Toward a More Resilient Society: Perspectives of Asian Young Researchers on Post-2015.”

During the session, four young researchers from Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand presented paper proposals with themes on: the resilience of household to natural disasters; the role of the community in the event of disasters; the local knowledge and community capacity; and the resilience at an individual level. GDN President Pierre Jacquet and Dr. Arjan de Haan of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) also joined the discussion. The four researchers from Asia exchanged opinions about how to define the concept of resilience, and why resilience is important in which contexts, based on their own research proposals. In response to this, Professor Jacquet valued the plenary session that was held at the proposal stage of the research on resilience, an interdisciplinary concept, was an experimental initiative for GDN. At the same time he pointed out the need to analyze the concept of resilience and to recapture its significance.

At the Donor Meeting on 20th, Director Kato introduced JICA-RI's research project, “Case Studies of Resilience in East Asian and Southeast Asian Countries,” and other relevant efforts for research capacity and network building in developing countries.



Plenary Session on June 21.

African Leaders Discuss the Prospects and Challenges for African Development

On June 21-22, the [Africa Emerging Markets Forum](#) was convened in Abidjan, capital of Côte d'Ivoire, which the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the Centennial Group, an American firm conducting research on African development, co-sponsored. The Forum aimed to share effective approaches and exchange proactive opinions on African development with African leaders. The event assembled more than 100 participants including: former heads of states and ministers; heads of governments; ambassadors to Côte d'Ivoire; aid officials; and researchers. From JICA, Senior Special Advisor Kunio Okamura and Research Officer Ippei Tsuruga attended.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte d'Ivoire, stressed that it was essential for Africa to promote investment and trade, facilitate economic structural transformation, develop high value-added industries, and create jobs for maintaining high growth in Africa.

The thematic sessions followed the keynote speech. In the first session chaired by Michel Camdessus, Former Managing Director of IMF and the President, Dr. Theodore Ahlers of the Centennial Group kicked off the discussion by stating, "The African economy could potentially reach USD 17,000 per capita by 2050." Considering possible approaches to achieve such a challenging objective, participants addressed their opinions from different perspectives in each session: demography, inclusion, equity, growth, job creation, and



Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

governance*. Through the consecutive discussions, it was commonly underlined that the African governments should promote inclusive growth patterns through nurturing industries and creating jobs; and collaboration with the private sector while improving market environments.

JICA Senior Special Advisor Kunio Okamura joined as a panel in the session of "Demography, Inclusion and Equity." In light of the relevance to TICAD V, he argued that creation of jobs, development of human resources, and provision of a safety net could be crucial challenges for Africa to achieve the long-term vision.

In relation to JICA-RI, the institute contributed the report entitled "[Development Challenges in Africa Towards 2050](#)", a joint work with the Centennial Group, to the forum as a background paper; and also held a [TICAD V Official Side Event](#) to offer a venue for discussion on African development towards 2050.

*Each seminar was led by Dr. Albert Toikeusse Mabri, Minister of Planning and Development of Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Horst Koehler, former President of Germany, and Dr. Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of Tanzania.



The Hall

JICA-RI Representative Joins the Seminar on Getting to Scale at the Brookings Institution

Since 2011, JICA-RI has engaged in a collaborative research project with the Brookings Institution on the topic of “scaling-up.” The new book, [“Getting to Scale: How to Bring Development Solutions to Millions of Poor People,”](#) which was published this April, is a compilation of the research findings from the project. To mark the publication, the two organizations co-hosted a seminar at the Brookings Institution’s headquarters in Washington, D.C. on June 28.

JICA-RI Senior Research Advisor [Akio Hosono](#), one of the authors and co-editors of the book, took part in a panel discussion as a panelist, along with three others including Brookings Senior Fellow Homi Kharas, who is also an editor and author.

Hosono, during the panel discussion, explained that “New JICA” created under one roof in 2008 led to the further promotion of scaling-up initiatives. The New JICA, strategically applying three aid schemes—grants, technical cooperation and concessional loans—aimed to achieve synergies of the merger: scale-up, spread-out, and speed-up. Moreover, he took up a good example of ‘scale-up’ from the book: “Scaling Up in Education: School for All Initiatives in West Africa,” along with analyzing JICA’s pioneering efforts in scaling-up South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation.

Subsequently, Hosono exchanged opinions with the audience over the partnership model between the public and the private sector, or ‘hybrid model,’ which is one of the focuses of the joint research. He explained that, as an example of a hybrid model initiative in Japan, JICA established a new office, the Private Sector Partnership and Finance Department, referring to its initiatives of collaboration with private sector in support for developing countries. He touched on, as a case of the hybrid model of scaling-up, the production and dissemination of mosquito nets (Olyset Net) in countries, mainly African countries where malaria is prevalent. This project involved: a Japanese private company and a Tanzanian company for innovation and local production; the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in charge of finance to scale-up production; international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); and private companies overseas, including ExxonMobil. Their strategic collaboration enabled the swift, widespread dissemination of highly-effective mosquito nets.

At the end of the seminar, the future prospects for enhancing scaling-up were discussed. Hosono introduced that JICA-RI has launched the series of good practice seminars to promote intra-organizational learning on scaling-up, taking the opportunity of the publication of the book.



JICA-RI Deputy Director Attends Three Conferences in Beijing, China

On June 18, JICA-RI Deputy Director [Naohiro Kitano](#) and Takenori Nasu, Deputy Assistant Director at Operations Strategy Department of JICA, attended the China-DAC (Development Assistance Committee) Study Group Roundtable discussion on “Effective Development Co-operation: Drawing Lessons from Agricultural Development in Africa.” The OECD-DAC and the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) co-hosted the event, where African and Chinese government officials as well as DAC donor representatives discussed agricultural cooperation with Africa.

The event aimed to discuss more effective way of development through enhancing mutual understanding on China’s and some DAC members’ international support for agriculture development, drawing on the findings from the joint study visits that the Study Group organized to Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Deputy Director Kitano chaired the session entitled “Good practices to improve the delivery of international development co-operation,” where participants debated the different approaches among donors, as well as the importance of recipient countries’ choice of donors based on the comparative advantage. Kitano expressed his view, “African participants gave a significant contribution to the discussion, and the ownership of the recipient countries was well emphasized.”

On the following day, Kitano and Nasu participated in the seminar that Tsinghua-Carnegie Center for Global Policy and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly organized. The seminar entitled “Approaches to Development Assistance and Collaboration: Perspectives from China, OECD, and Africa” assembled donor members, university officials and students. Kitano, as one of the speakers, outlined the Japanese government’s commitment to TICAD V and also introduced the KAIZEN approach in Ethiopia as an example of the JICA’s technical cooperation

projects in Africa. He stressed that to share and exchange information and experience between Japan and China at the field level will gain in importance, because China already started its support to the fields such as corridor development that Japan also focuses on.

On June 20, the two JICA representatives also attended the seminar on “North-East Asian Development Cooperation in Post-2015” held in Beijing. It was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) East and North-East Asia (ENEA) Office in cooperation with China Agricultural University.

Given the growing importance of the countries in ENEA that provide over 20 per cent of the world’s ODA and FDI outflow, the seminar aimed: to review the experience and the recent trends in the field of development cooperation among the traditional donors, partner countries and emerging countries; and to further develop strong partnerships in the region. The event brought together donor officials, researchers and experts from North-East Asia.

In the session entitled “Development cooperation trends, actors, policies in North-East Asia,” Kitano gave a speech on JICA’s priority issues on post-2015 development agenda, along with JICA’s experience in promoting South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation. He also served as a panelist in the final session on “Bridging national, regional and global efforts.”



North-East Asian Development Cooperation in Post-2015

JICA-RI Researchers Give Presentations at the 2013 UNU-WIDER Development Conference

On June 24-25, United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) hosted an international conference entitled “L2C: Learning to Compete: Industrial Development and Policy in Africa” in Helsinki, Finland. Based on the research outcomes of a joint project among UNU-WIDER, the Brookings Institution, and the African Development Bank, the conference aimed to



Hosono SRA

debate industrial development and industrial policy in Africa. Eminent academics—Dr. John Page, Professor Dani Rodrik of Harvard University, and Professor John Sutton of the London School of Economics (LSE)—attended alongside researchers and policy makers.

The conference featured a keynote speech on the main theme, as well as panel discussions and parallel thematic sessions. From JICA-RI, Senior Research Advisor [Akio Hosono](#) and Senior Research Fellow [Go Shimada](#) gave each presentation during the parallel sessions.



Shimada Senior
Research Fellow

In the session entitled “Industrial Policy for Africa: Why and How?” Hosono gave a presentation on the theme of “Industrial Strategy and Economic Transformation: Lessons from Outstanding Cases.” He argued that industrial structure up-grading and diversification are essential to achieve economic transformation and sustained growth. He also stressed that continuous accumulation of capabilities and knowledge through ‘learning’ are key factors for the economic transformation.

In the session entitled “Firm Capabilities: Does management matter?” Shimada presented the paper on the theme of “The Economic Implications of Comprehensive Approach to Learning on Industrialization (Policy and Managerial Capability Learning): A Case of Ethiopia.” While pointing out market failures in relation to ‘learning,’ he argued that it is important to adopt a comprehensive approach of learning covering from policy, management to technology, in order to fill the gap.

Review

JICA-RI Representatives Attend ADBI-TTCSP Asia Think Tank Summit

On June 13 and 14, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Think Tanks & Civil Societies Program (TTC-SP) of the University of Pennsylvania organized the first Asia Think Tank Summit in Tokyo. JICA-RI Director [Hiroshi Kato](#), Deputy Director [Naohiro Kitano](#), and other two representatives participated in the event, along with 43 international and regional research organizations mainly based in Asia.

The summit aimed to establish a policy platform with cooperation among the think tanks in Asia to tackle risks in the event of economic, financial crises or political disputes. The event was entitled “The Role of Think Tanks Entering the Asian Century: How to Identify Growth Opportunities and Manage Risk.” The summit, bringing together Asia’s prominent think tanks, contributed to building human networks for participating organization.