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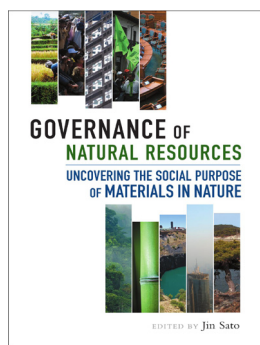


Review

Book Based on JICA-RI Project on Governance of Natural Resources is Released

The book *Governance of Natural Resources: Uncovering the Social Purpose of Materials in Nature* was published by United Nations University Press in August 2013.

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Review

JICA Project “School for All” in Burkina-Faso is Introduced at Asian Meeting of Econometric Society

During August 2-4, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow joined the annual Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society, which is one of the most prestigious international economic societies worldwide, held at the National University of Singapore.

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On August 1-2, the conference was co-organized by the Asia Foundation (TAF) and the Korea Development Institute (KDI) in Hoi An, Vietnam.

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JICA-RI and the Asia Foundation Host a Joint Seminar on “Subnational Conflicts in Asia”

On July 16, JICA-RI and the Asia Foundation (TAF) co-hosted a public seminar, the first joint event after the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two this April. It aimed to stimulate exchanges of opinions based on a TAF's recently-published study “The Contested Corners of Asia: Subnational Conflict and International Development Assistance.”

Thomas Parks, Regional Director for Governance and Conflict of TAF, introduced their study report. The study aimed to examine the characteristics of subnational conflicts in Asia and to facilitate the effectiveness of aid in conflict-affected regions. Because the majority of the conflicts in Asia have taken place not in fragile states but in stable middle-income countries, he stressed that new approaches should be adopted to address this type of conflicts. Steven Rood, Country Representative of Philippines and Pacific Island Nations, and Regional Advisor for Local Governance of TAF, introduced the case of Mindanao in the Philippines, pointing out that although numerous aid projects advocate peace and institutional transformation as their objectives, they rarely examine how poverty reduction lead to peace, and often lack the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Lastly, Parks made proposals to donors, such as: to build institutional knowledge and information on subnational conflicts in order to

contribute to not only poverty reduction but peace-building in these areas; to enhance monitoring and evaluation on political and institutional transformation; and to design large-scale programs that are flexible and conflict-sensitive.

In the succeeding panel discussion, together with Parks and Rood, Naoyuki Ochiai, JICA Senior Advisor to the Director General of Economic Infrastructure Department, JICA Senior Advisor Sachiko Ishikawa, and JICA-RI Visiting Fellow [Yoichi Mine](#) (Professor of Doshisha University) gave their inputs. Ochiai introduced J-BIRD, an aid program by the Japanese government and JICA in Mindanao, as an exemplary case that embodies TAF's suggestions. J-BIRD has assisted the broader peace process in Mindanao in collaboration with other two processes—the International Contact Group (ICG) that facilitated peace talks and the International Monitoring Team (IMT) that monitored the local peace implementation. Ishikawa, laying out the cooperation between J-BIRD, ICG and IMT in Mindanao, explained JICA's attempts to provide opportunities for exchanging views to various stakeholders from the central government to local leaders. Visiting Fellow Mine, stating that subnational conflicts has also been on the rise in Africa, pointed out the importance of the inequalities between social groups—horizontal inequalities (HIs)—as well as political institutions, based on the outcomes of the JICA-RI research project “Preventing Violent Conflict in Africa.”

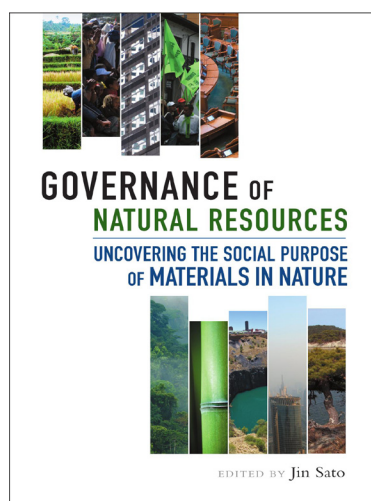


The project aimed to analyze the relationship between natural resource governance and societal structure in Asian and African developing countries, and to present Japanese approaches for development assistance in the environmental field. Jin Sato, Associate Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia of the University of Tokyo (the then JICA-RI Visiting Fellow) served as the project leader. Drawing on findings from field surveys, the project examined how systems of governance in resource and environment developed in the course of poor developing countries gaining economic strength; it also analyzed changes as well as interactions among government, private industries, and civil societies.

The book focuses on political issues arising in the process of nature turning to 'resource,' along with strategies to tackle the problems in many parts of the world. It includes case studies on Japan as a country experiencing problems of the future for developing countries. The volume also poses questions such as: Under what conditions stakeholders will build cooperation or compete among them over natural resources. It lays out a variety of challenges that parties involved in development aid should consider, because conflicts over water, land and clean air are expected to intensify globally.

Expected readers include practitioners and researchers who are directly involved in development; we also hope that the book will be beneficial as reference materials for those who have great interest in the areas of natural resource and environment, as well as postgraduate students specializing in environmental governance.

<Related Link> [UNU Books](#)



JICA Project “School for All” in Burkina-Faso is Introduced at Asian Meeting of Econometric Society

During August 2-4, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow [Yasuyuki Sawada](#) (Professor of the University of Tokyo) joined the annual Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society, which is one of the most prestigious international economic societies worldwide, held at the National University of Singapore. He gave a presentation on the evaluation results of the project using public goods games that was implemented in association with the JICA project “School for All” in Burkina-Faso.

Visiting Fellow Sawada’s presentation* was made in the session entitled “Education and Development,” chaired by Professor Albert Park from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. It was the only session where participants discussed empirical development microeconomics.

Visiting Fellow Sawada introduced a new research strategy that evaluates overall

School Based Management (SBM) on a large scale with Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs), together with the degree of voluntary contributions to public goods elicited by an artefactual field experiment using “public goods games” as evaluation criteria. The presentation induced lively discussions among the session participants. During the same session, new RCT-based evaluation results of education experiments in China were also presented. The session gave the participating experts an opportunity to reaffirm the significance of creating and disseminating the evaluation results of development policies through precise measures and studies, employing the leading-edge method of analysis.

*The presentation was based on the JICA-RI Working Paper No.42 [“Do Community-Managed Schools Facilitate Social Capital Accumulation? Evidence from the COGES Project in Burkina-Faso,”](#) released in 2012.

JICA-RI Researchers Attend “Asian Approach to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Resilience” Conference

On August 1-2, the conference entitled [“Asian Approach to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Resilience: Experience, Lessons and Opportunities for Cooperation”](#) was co-organized by the Asia Foundation (TAF) and the Korea Development Institute (KDI) in Hoi An, Vietnam. JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow [Tomonori Sudo](#) and JICA Expert Takaaki Kawano attended the event, together with more than 40 representatives from government officials to private-sector specialists and researchers from a broad range of countries in the Asia region. The discussions at the conference focused on how Asian countries have tackled climate change adaptation.

Sudo served as a moderator in the session on “Private Sector Engagement in Climate Change Resilience” where the presentation focused

on private-sector measures against disasters. The session highlighted the efforts, such as risk management against increasing natural disasters and climate change in Asia, and the urgent preparation to introduce business continuity plans (BCPs) in the event of a disaster. It was also pointed out that risk management has become the most powerful driving force behind the development of adaptation measures, given climate change regarded as a business risk. At the same time, a lack of knowledge about climate change, constrained resources and absence of urgency limited private sector’s adaptation approaches. As the countermeasures, governments’ clear direction for climate change policies, fair allocations of public resources, and need of capacity development for private sector were proposed.