

IN THIS ISSUE:

Hot Issue

Former ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan Assumes the Position of Distinguished Fellow of JICA-RI

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), assumes the position of Distinguished Fellow of JICA-RI.

[READ MORE](#)



Review

JICA and GRIPS Co-Host the Commemorative Forum of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

On November 21-22, JICA and GRIPS organized a policy forum on leadership and organizational management at the GRIPS campus.

[READ MORE](#)



Review

JICA-RI Co-Hosts a Seminar on World Bank's Agricultural Project in Post-war Japan

On December 11, a seminar entitled "An Agricultural Land Development Projects in Post-war Japan Implemented by the World Bank: Its Significance for the Present" was held at JICA Ichigaya.

[READ MORE](#)



Review

JICA-RI Holds a Public Seminar on the Determinants of the Behavioral Patterns of China's Local Governments

On December 12, JICA-RI invited Dr. Lin Jiabin, Director-General of the Department of Social Development Research, the Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC) gave a speech on institutional factors that regulate the behavioral patterns of China's local governments.

[READ MORE](#)

Former ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan Assumes the Position of Distinguished Fellow of JICA-RI

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), assumes the position of Distinguished Fellow of JICA-RI.

Dr. Surin had served several key positions including Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and a member of the UN Commission on Human Security. He is currently an International Academic Advisor of the Centre for Islamic Studies at Oxford University and Professor Emeritus of Thammasat University in Thailand. To commemorate his new post as Distinguished Fellow, JICA organized a special lecture on November 12, 2013. Since Dr. Surin has strived for building a partnership between ASEAN and JICA during his office as ASEAN Secretary-General, he gave a lecture entitled “Challenge and Vision of ASEAN-Japan Partnership.”

In the lecture, Dr. Surin first stated that this year marks the 40th anniversary since the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan partnership. He stressed that strong cooperative ties has been fostered between Japan and ASEAN over

the period, while Japan contributing greatly to ASEAN’s regional economic growth. In current ASEAN member states, the rise of emerging middle class is remarkable, necessitating a transition from development centering on infrastructure to that focusing on people, society, and culture. He, therefore, hoped that Japan shares its academic and cultural knowledge with the ASEAN member states. Dr. Surin also mentioned that Japan has achieved inclusive growth with relatively low income gap and has had a fair distribution of its resources and wealth among people, which ASEAN countries can learn from Japan.

At the same time, Dr. Surin pointed out that not only ASEAN nations but Japan now face the need to create new norms focusing on human, national, and regional securities to accommodate Asia’s current regional environment. In closing, he stated as future issues that ASEAN member states should be aware of an urgent need to cultivate a common sense of community with East Asian nations including Japan, and to work together for a new direction of the future.



JICA and GRIPS Co-Host the Commemorative Forum of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

On November 21-22, JICA and GRIPS organized a policy forum on leadership and organizational management at the GRIPS campus, as part of their joint research project on leadership and organizational management in Southeast Asia. The event brought together the representatives of Japan and ASEAN member states, aiming to discuss extensively on effective measures for solving policy challenges with focus on leadership, organizational management, and open innovation.

On November 22, a public forum to commemorate the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was held on the theme of “Innovating Policies to Open the Future of Asia; A Paradigm Shift on Administrative Reforms.”

Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of JICA, stated in his welcoming speech that Japan and ASEAN members have long been collaborating to tackle the challenges in Asian region. He also emphasized the importance to strengthen the capacity of governments to introduce innovative policies for coping with confronting pressing issues: Japan is facing unprecedented policy issues due to an aging and shrinking population; and ASEAN countries are trying to determine how to respond to intense national disasters, and how to balance rapid economic growth. President Tanaka concluded his remarks by hoping that this forum would be an opportunity for sharing knowledge, experience, and innovative ideas among ASEAN countries and Japan.



JICA President
Tanaka



Prof. Emeritus
Nonaka

Professor Emeritus Ikujiro Nonaka of Hitotsubashi University gave a keynote presentation entitled “Wise Leadership for Knowledge Society.” In his speech, he pointed out the qualifications for good leaders and the importance of practical wisdom, with showcasing various examples. Subsequently two panel sessions followed his presentation.

In Session 1, Professor Emeritus Nonaka led the discussion on the theme of “Foster Wise Leadership to Inspire Organizations and Communities” with two panelists from Thailand and Vietnam. The following Session 2 on the theme of “Accelerate Open and Inclusive Policy Innovations” was moderated by Mr. Hiroshi Kato, Director of JICA-RI (Vice President of JICA). Three panelists from Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand introduced the policies that each government agency has engaged in; they presented the status of administrative reform initiatives in their respective countries.



Director Kato

Professor Masahiro Horie, Director of the Executive Development Center for Global Leadership of GRIPS, in response to their presentations, highly appreciated their different policies and institutional reform initiatives suited for each country.

JICA-RI Co-Hosts a Seminar on World Bank's Agricultural Project in Post-war Japan

Japan is currently the second largest funder to the World Bank (WB) next to the United States, whereas it had been the largest recipient state of its loans from the World Bank until the 1970s. Due to the domestic demand for food, Japan had to increase the agricultural production in the 1950s. A WB loan of US\$ 4.3 million in total was provided for reclamation project in Hokkaido and Aomori Prefecture through the Agriculture Land Development Machinery Public Corporation.

To review the effect of the WB-funded farm land development projects on the agriculture sector of Japan and to consider how the Japanese experience contributed to Japanese international cooperation in the future, a seminar entitled "An Agricultural Land Development Projects in Post-war Japan Implemented by the World Bank: Its Significance for the Present" was held at JICA Ichigaya on December 11.

In the opening remarks, JICA-RI Director [Hiroshi Kato](#) (JICA Vice President) stated that as the year 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), this seminar will give a good opportunity to review the history of Japanese international cooperation and to think of the future prospect.

Three scholars who followed Kato's opening remarks gave speeches and introduced case studies respectively. Professor Mikiyasu Nakayama of the Graduate School of the University of Tokyo gave a presentation titled "The World Bank's Aid to Japan." Secondly, Professor Ryo Fujikura of Hosei University explained the history of three subprojects in Hokkaido and Aomori Prefecture. Lastly, Professor Emeritus Yasuharu Umeda of Hokkaido University reported on the case of the Shinotsu peatland that WB sponsored.

JICA-RI Holds a Public Seminar on the Determinants of the Behavioral Patterns of China's Local Governments

On December 12, JICA-RI invited Dr. Lin Jiabin, Director-General of the Department of Social Development Research, the Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC), one of China's leading think-tanks, as a guest speaker. He gave a speech on institutional factors that regulate the behavioral patterns of China's local governments.

In his speech on "Determinants of the Behavioral Patterns of China's Local Governments," he first explained that the competition among local governments attributed to the rapid economic growth in China. He, however, pointed out that the various institutional systems that have urged local governments to

compete could bring about critical issues such as excessive consumption of resources and rapid urbanization.

Dr. Lin, as an example of such institutional systems, took up the performance evaluation of local governments' executives that tend to be heavily based on economic indicators such as GDP growth rate, investment amount in infrastructure or tax revenue which resulted in extreme competition to attract capital and excessive concentration in cities. In order to respond to the situations, he outlined a variety of reforms that were decided on at the 3rd Plenary Session of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPCCC) this November.