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Book Launch Event in Brussels on December 11



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A working paper based on the results of JICA-RI’s research project entitled “Role of Budget Support in the Development Aid Regime” was released in January 2014.

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JICA-RI Holds Book Launch Events in Three Countries on “Preventing Violent Conflict in Africa”

A book entitled “Preventing Violent Conflict in Africa: Inequalities, Perceptions, and Institutions” was released by Palgrave Macmillan in the UK in October 2013. This is the result of close research collaboration between the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE), University of Oxford, and JICA-RI. The researchers of seven countries including Japan, the US, Europe, and Africa had conducted the research for five years from 2008 to 2013. To mark the launch of the book, public events were held during December 9 and 12, 2013, in three cities: Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Brussels (Belgium), and London (the UK).

This research project addressed the issue of violent conflict in Africa with a focus on “Horizontal Inequalities: HIs,” i.e. multidimensional—political, economic, social and cultural—inequalities between identity groups. In particular, it placed importance on the following two issues in occurrence of violent conflicts: (1) the gap between objective HIs observed in statistical data and subjective perceptions of HIs, i.e. how people perceive the political, economic, social and cultural status of their own identity groups in society; (2) the significance of political HIs among various dimensions of HIs and political institutions that condition political HIs. With this framework, the research presented case studies of ten African countries, bringing forward a set of policy recommendations for conflict prevention.

The launch events were organized in Addis Ababa on December 9, in Brussels on 11, and in London on 12. In each event, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow [Yoichi Mine](#), Professor of Doshisha University, who headed the research project, introduced an overview of the book. Subsequently, former JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Mari Katayanagi, one of the authors of the book, presented the policy recommendations in the events in Addis Ababa and Brussels. In London, Frances Stewart, Emeritus Professor of Oxford University and one of the four editors of the book, provided the details of the survey results on subjective HIs.



Events in Addis Ababa on December 9
Visiting Fellow Mine (second from the right)
Former JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Katayanagi
(second from the left)

The event in Addis Ababa, where the headquarters of the African Union (AU) is located, brought together an audience from the Embassies of African countries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian government, international organizations, research institutions and NGOs. Participants from the countries analyzed in the case studies were also included. They led active discussions based on their firsthand experiences over the issues such as the importance of the approaches which the book presented for conflict prevention and the interrelations between HIs and past colonial policies as well as disputes over the distribution of abundant natural resources.

The launch in Brussels, where the headquarters of European Union (EU) is located, was co-hosted by the Friends of Europe, a think tank based in the city, with the participation from EU, UN organizations, research institutes, and NGOs. Vigorous discussion took place on a wide range of topics related to the book, including how to utilize the research outcome in the actual operations of EU, JICA, and others. In London, the event was co-organized with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Participants were mainly from universities and NGOs, and they engaged in active exchange of views by raising a variety of questions such as how to collect information on subjective HIs, what a causal relationship between subjective HIs and conflicts is, and what the effectiveness and challenges of decentralization are, which is one of the policy recommendations in the book.

JICA-RI Conducts the First Personnel Exchange with a German Research Institute

For about two weeks from December 9 to 20, 2013, JICA-RI Executive Senior Research Fellow [Mitsuaki Furukawa](#) visited the German Development Institute (Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik: DIE) for the purpose of a personnel exchange between JICA-RI and DIE.

DIE, a think tank in the international development field, has been providing recommendations to the European Commission (EC), the German government, and other agencies based on its wide-ranging research. For example, requested to prepare the European Report on Development (ERD) 2013 by the EC, DIE conducted detailed analyses and submitted recommendations on issues such as migration, tax, trade, and other aspects in cooperation with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM).

The theme of the joint research under the personnel exchange is “Aid Fragmentation.” Furukawa has been working on this subject at part of his research on budget support under the framework of “Aid Strategies,” which is one of the four research areas of JICA-RI. DIE’s Department for Bilateral and Multilateral Development Cooperation, where Furukawa

visited, has also been advancing research on “Aid Fragmentation” since Germany has taken a leading role in promoting “Managing Diversity and Reducing Fragmentation,” which was discussed at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea, in 2011.

These circumstances led to the personnel exchange this time. During his visit to DIE, Furukawa attended the meetings of DIE researchers, the training programs for emerging donors, and the presentations at the Global Governance School. He also gave a presentation on the theme of “Aid Fragmentation and Aid Effectiveness: Infant and Child Mortality and Primary School Completion.”

As the personnel exchange from DIE, Senior Researcher Stefan Leiderer of the Department for Bilateral and Multilateral Development Cooperation will visit Japan as JICA-RI’s Visiting Scholar for three weeks starting mid-February 2014.

With the effort of the personnel exchanges, a joint workshop on the theme of the “Aid Fragmentation” will be convened at JICA-RI in late February 2014 while Senior Researcher Leiderer stays in Japan.



JICA-RI Releases Working Paper based on Research on “Role of Budget Support in the Development Aid Regime”

A working paper (WP) based on the results of JICA-RI's research project entitled “Role of Budget Support in the Development Aid Regime” was released in January 2014. This WP, co-authored by Executive Senior Research Fellow [Mitsuaki Furukawa](#) and Senior Research Fellow [Satoru Mikami](#), was published with the title of “[Is Country-system-based Aid Really Better than Project-based Aid? Evidence from Rural Water Supply Management in Uganda.](#)”

The Research Background

In the “Paris Aid Effectiveness Declaration” in March 2005, developed countries/donors confirmed that ‘aid fragmentation’ imposed unnecessary burdens on partner countries, and harmed their governance. Building on this awareness, the adoption of the recipient country's system rather than the implementation of project-based aid was regarded as a common challenge that developing countries and donors should tackle.

At the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in 2011, the efforts to enhance the effectiveness and the use of country-system continuously came up as central issues. However, it has not been verified yet that the use of country-systems is more effective than project-based aid, despite the existence of a theoretical model. Given these circumstances, this research project attempts to examine whether the results are different between aid through country-systems and project-based aid by donors, using the cases of Uganda where the general budget support was introduced early on among recipient countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Research Methods

The result of interview surveys with the Government of Uganda, donors and local governments, proved that the rural water supply was selected as the most appropriate field for verification. The reasons given were: in the development of the rural water supply,

a country-based system was introduced at an early stage; the donors that have continued project-based aid (Japan) and those that have used the country-systems (except Japan) are clearly divided; and the monitoring data for empirical analyses has been well maintained. This WP attempts to verify the differences between the two approaches with a focus on the sustainability of the boreholes and that of Water Sanitation Committees (WSCs).

Policy Implications and Main Conclusions

The estimated results statistically found that project-based assistance outperformed country-system-based projects in terms of sustainability of boreholes as well as that of WSCs that are responsible for maintaining the facilities. This result indicates that many factors should be taken into account in adopting the country-based system. What is important is that a project, whether country-based or donor-based, should be aligned with the sector policy and plan of the recipient government.



Executive Senior Research Fellow Furukawa (left)
Senior Research Fellow Mikami (right)