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Workshop at AFD

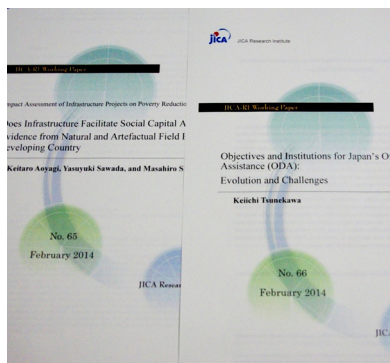


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Review

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JICA-RI Research Fellow Akira Murata has been involved in the research project in the Philippines. His Working Paper is released in February.

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JICA-RI Director Attends Two Workshops in Washington, DC and Paris

JICA-RI Co-hosts a Joint Study Workshop “Last Mile in Ending Extreme Poverty” with the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC

The workshop entitled “Last Mile in Ending Extreme Poverty” was co-organized by JICA-RI and the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC on January 30 and 31. With post-2015 development issues (“last mile”—those people who may be last to be included) in mind, the workshop for authors focused on three themes: peace, job security, and resilience.

The workshop brought together JICA-RI representatives: Director [Hiroshi Kato](#) as an editor, Senior Research Advisor (SRA) [Akio Hosono](#), Senior Research Fellow [Go Shimada](#), Visiting Fellow [Yoichi Mine](#) (Professor of Doshisha University), and former Research Fellow Ryutaro Murotani (Representative, JICA Rwanda Office) as authors. The other authors include Senior Fellow Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow John Page, and Senior Fellow Bruce Jones (Professor of New York University) of the Brookings Institution.

At the workshop, SRA Hosono gave a presentation titled “Strategies for Inclusive Development in Agrarian Sub-Saharan Countries.” Senior Research Fellow Shimada gave a presentation titled “Towards Community Resilience: The Role of Social Capital after Disasters.” Visiting Fellow Mine and former Research Fellow Murotani presented together under the title of “Bridging State and Local Communities through Livelihood Improvements.” The presentations were followed by discussions based on comments from discussants and the authors.

The authors will revise their papers based on the discussion, and the publication is scheduled to be released by the Brookings Institution Press by the end of 2014.

JICA-RI, IDS, and AFD Host a Joint Authors’ Workshop on “Quality of Growth” in Paris

On February 3 and 4, JICA-RI, Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in University of Sussex, and L’Agence Française de Développement (AFD) jointly hosted the second authors’ workshop on “Quality of Growth” at the AFD Headquarters in Paris. The workshop aimed to present research papers and to exchange comments on each paper in light of the discussion at the first workshop in 2012.

From JICA-RI, Director [Hiroshi Kato](#), Senior Research Advisor [Akio Hosono](#), Senior Research Fellow [Go Shimada](#), Research Fellow [Kamal Lamichhane](#), and Deputy Assistant Chief of Research Program Division Ippei Tsuruga joined the event; from IDS, Director Lawrence Haddad and Research Fellow Dirk Willenbockel participated; from AFD, Director of Strategy Jean-Yves Grosclaude, Unit Head Cyrille Bellier, and Research Officer Nicolas Meisel along with Professor Michel Aglietta (University of Paris 10) and Mr. Richard Bluhm (Maastricht University Doctoral Course) participated in the workshop.

In the workshop, the authors presented their draft papers to further develop a discussion on what the “quality of growth” is and on what growth pattern can produce a quality development effect.

After a careful revision of the papers based on the discussion from the workshop, the collection of papers is scheduled to be published by the end of 2014.

*JICA-RI website Related Article

JICA-RI Researcher Gives a Speech on “Disability and Labor Markets in Developing Countries” in the UK

On February 6, the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in University of Sussex organized a seminar in Brighton. JICA-RI Research Fellow [Kamal Lamichhane](#) gave a presentation as a guest speaker.

The seminar, targeted for the researchers and students of IDS, is held regularly by inviting both domestic and international experts.

Lamichhane's presentation focused on the labor market participation of persons with disabilities especially in low and middle income countries. First he stated that people with disabilities constitute about 15 percent of the world's total population and nearly 80 percent of them live in developing countries. Additionally, around 15-20 percent of the poor are persons with disabilities in these countries. He pointed out that poor and unequal access to education or employment is one of major factors for their poverty.

He also explained that these individuals continue to be under-represented in the workforce due to various barriers, and that even when hired, they are employed in part-time and /or jobs that are accorded low status.

Discussing policies toward increasing labor market opportunities for individuals with disabilities, Lamichhane emphasized the need of providing educational opportunities beyond primary level. Highlighting the importance of greater educational investment, he also presented other strategies such as scholarship provisions, conditional cash transfers, and building more schools that can accommodate students with disabilities.

At the end of the presentation, Lamichhane stressed, “Providing quality education and removing disabling barriers for labor market participation are key to the economic empowerment of people with disabilities.”

Participants at the seminar expressed their surprise on the high rate of returns to the investment in education for persons with disabilities.

*** [JICA-RI website Related Article](#)**



[Research Fellow Lamichhane at University of Sussex](#)

JICA-RI Releases the Latest Research Results

Four new Working Papers (WPs) are released in February.

WP No.65 “Does Infrastructure Facilitate Social Capital Accumulation? Evidence from Natural and Artefactual Field Experiments in a Developing Country”

Authors: Keitaro Aoyagi, Yasuyuki Sawada, and Masahiro Shoji

This paper, based on a dataset from an irrigation project in Sri Lanka, attempts to analyze how peoples' trust toward others, one of the core dimensions of social capital, accumulates by comparing two hypotheses: the habit formation hypothesis and the repeated interaction hypothesis.

WP No.66 “Objectives and Institutions for Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA): Evolution and Challenges”

Author: Keiichi Tsunekawa

This paper argues that historically, objectives of Japan's ODA have been diversified without a unified entity that manages ODA. It proposes that Japan needs to clarify its assistance philosophy, using the concept of human security in order to lead the international trend of development assistance.

WP No.67 “Ex-post Risk Management among Rural Filipino Farm Households”

Authors: Akira Murata, Suguru Miyazaki

The paper investigates the strategies which rural Filipino farm households have applied in the face of natural disasters or economic difficulties, with the farm household survey in the villages covering three provinces in the Philippines.

WP No.68 “A Quantitative Study of Social Capital in the Tertiary Sector of Kobe—Has Social Capital Promoted Economic Reconstruction Since the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake?”

Author: Go Shimada

The paper examines how social capital has worked in the process of recovery and reconstruction in Kobe since the Great Hanshin and Awaji Earthquake in 1995, with a focus on the employment of the tertiary sector of the city.

JICA-RI's new project history book is released

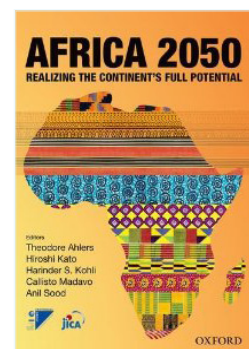
JICA-RI releases its ninth volume of “project history series” titled *“Polio Has Disappeared from Our Village International Cooperation with Scientific Attitude to Inquire into the Truth in the Field Diffused from Shandong Province in China”* from SAIKI PRINTING Co., Ltd. on February 10, 2014. Minoru OKADA, author of this volume, portrays the struggle against polio and the paths to its eradication in the field by the collaboration of Chinese and Japanese experts, getting supports from an international society.



*This book is available only in Japanese

JICA-RI's book on Africa 2050 is released

The book entitled *“Africa 2050-Realizing the Continent's Full Potential,”* based on the report at TICAD V is published by Oxford University Press in January 2014. The volume is a compilation of the vision for Africa 2050, predicting Africa's economic and social structure.



JICA-RI Researcher Releases a Working Paper Entitled “Ex-post Risk Management among Rural Filipino Farm

JICA-RI Research Fellow [Akira Murata](#) has been involved in three research projects in the Philippines, in Bangladesh, as well as in the Middle East and North Africa. His Working Paper (WP) on growth and poverty reduction in rural Philippines is released in February.

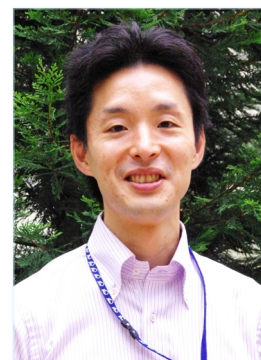
Before joining JICA-RI, Murata studied on the topic of “overseas remittance” at the Doctoral School of University of Sussex in the UK. During this period, he worked as an intern at international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). He continued his studies as a consultant at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, expanding his research network with researchers and practitioners primarily in the Philippines. This network resulted in helping him conduct the on-going research at JICA-RI.

The WP entitled “Ex-post Risk Management among Rural Filipino Farm Households” has just been released. In this study, the paper investigated the extent to which factors affected a choice of coping strategies which rural Filipino farm households have applied in the face of natural disasters or economic difficulties, using the farm household survey conducted in 2010 covering the three provinces of the Philippines: La Union in the Ilocos Region, Iloilo in the Western Visayas Region, and Compostela Valley in the Davao Region of Mindanao.

Rural communities in the Philippines are economically vulnerable to a wide range of negative shocks including natural disasters—typhoons, flood and drought, and those at the individual household—sickness, injury and death of family members. Those households prone to these shocks choose strategies to cope with them, including: (1) dissaving or selling assets; (2) borrowing from neighbors/relatives/friends and banks or receiving remittances from family members and relatives; (3) reallocating labor within family members.

This study investigates factors which influence a farm household’s choice of coping strategies by taking into account shock attributes—coverage, intensity, and frequency—as well as both household and village characteristics. In order to support economically vulnerable rural households, findings of this study suggest the importance of diversifying sources of income, improving agricultural infrastructure and developing social protection.

Murata further touched on the other on-going research projects. Regarding “Risk and Poverty in Bangladesh” project, he organized an authors’ workshop in November 2013, inviting several authors to compile a number of important case studies for publication. In another project entitled “JICA-Brookings Institution Joint Collaboration Research: Achieving ‘Inclusive Growth’ in MENA after the Arab Spring,” he conducted a survey on youth job preference by interviewing engineering students at universities in Egypt and Indonesia to design youth employment policies in Egypt; he presented an interim report at the Brookings Institution in September, 2013; he also compiled a paper on “Designing Youth Employment Policies in Egypt” as the final output of the joint study, which was released as a Working Paper from the Brookings Institution in January 2014. He presented the findings of this research to local policy makers and international donors in the seminar on “Towards Achieving Inclusive Growth in Egypt” held at Hotel Conrad, Cairo in Egypt on 25th of February, 2014.



Research Fellow Murata

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***JICA-RI website "RI-Focus No.23"**