

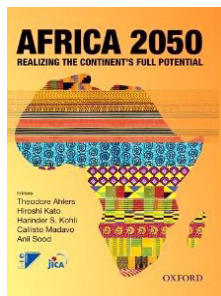
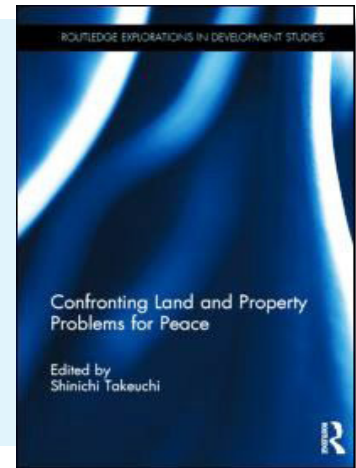
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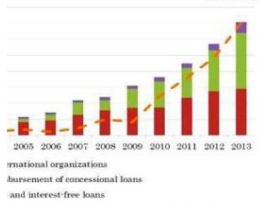


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How to Tackle Post-conflict Land Issue: a Book *Confronting Land and Property Problems for Peace* Released

A book entitled *Confronting Land and Property Problems for Peace*, which is based on JICA-RI's research findings, was published by Routledge on May 27.

The volume compiles the findings of JICA-RI's research project "Land and Property Problems in Post-conflict State-building and Economic Development" from 2011 to 2013. It examines a range of land and property problems in conflict-affected settings.

To date, the issues of land ownership have been analyzed and discussed as a topic in the development research. However this research, focusing the problems in conflict-affected settings, examines the problem from a long-term perspective, rather than concentrating only on the immediate phase of emergency and humanitarian assistance. While the previous literature focuses on the response from external actors such as the international community, this research attempts to focus on local actors including the relevant governments and eventually re-examining the roles of the external actors.

The book suggests the following policy implications based on the research findings.

- 1) Although restitution of land and housing to returnees is an important endeavor, it is not always the best strategy to restore the conditions before the conflict.
- 2) It is crucial to strengthen a conflict resolution mechanism, especially a mediation system, in the conflict-affected fragile situations.
- 3) Problems over land require comprehensive governance, including relevant administration and judiciary, to be improved. In the meantime, institutions should be established to ensure that private investments will not have adverse effect on the lives of local people.

As humanitarian aid workers have so far played a key role in discussing the post-conflict land and property problems, there remains a gap in this issue between humanitarian assistance and development assistance. Development assistance workers, therefore, should engage in discussion at an earlier stage of post-conflict phase so that the perspectives of land governance will be incorporated into peace-building and long-term development assistance.

<Related Link>

[*JICA-RI Publication page](#)

[*The book introduction page of Routledge](#)



Book “Africa 2050” Launched at Side Event of the African Development Bank Annual Meeting

On May 20, a new book *Africa 2050: Realizing the Continent's Full Potential* was introduced at an official side event to the Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Kigali, capital of Rwanda. The book published by Oxford University Press in January 2014 was a collaborative undertaking between JICA-RI and Centennial Group International, US-based think tank.

This side event assembled 102 people, including Raymond Zate Zoukpo, First Vice President of the AfDB, ministers from the member countries, and representatives of think tanks and international organizations. Senior Special Advisor Kunio Okamura representing JICA delivered the opening and closing remarks.

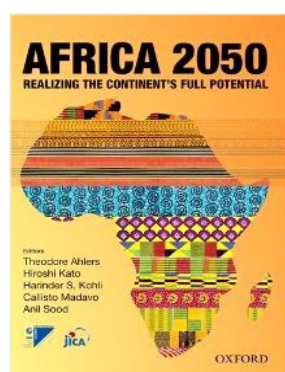
The book is based on a report predicting economic and social structures in Africa in 2050. JICA-RI and Centennial Group International released this report on the sidelines of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama in June 2013. From JICA-RI, Director [Hiroshi Kato](#) contributed as one of the editors and Senior Research Fellow [Tomonori Sudo](#) authored a chapter on climate change.

The volume lays out the vision for Africa 2050 that the Continent will see burgeoning population and accelerating urbanization towards 2050. Thus it indicates that creating job continuously to absorb the redundant labor force will be a key factor for the stability in economic and social order. Furthermore, the book points out that transformation of the economic structures will be an essential challenge for sustainable growth in Africa. It also emphasizes the need to develop market and investment climates in order to prompt the private sector to invest and to foster human capital through enhancing education and health services.

During the launch event, Dr. Callisto Madavo, one of the editors of the book, voiced his view that while the economic growth in Africa since the 1990s has led to an increase in foreign direct investment (FDI), Africa might face a risk of losing its economic growth unless the economic transformation is sustained. He expressed his expectations that African people and their governments will share the vision laid out in the book and take concrete actions.

Dr. Theodore Ahlers, another editor, explained that the book offers concrete action plans based on the three strategic frameworks—(1) prosperous people, (2) competitive economies, and (3) the integrated continent—while highlighting the importance of job creation. He stressed that capable states, strong institutions, and rule of law along with achievement-oriented, pragmatic, and proactive leadership are imperative to achieve the proposals in the book.

During the Q&A session, ministers and senior officials from each country engaged in a lively discussion, focusing on the long-term vision for the future of Africa in 2050. Many opinions and comments centered on the regional integration, economic integration including the single currency, and the role of the private sector.



Discussion on Monetary Policy in Cambodia: Historical Factors of Dollarization and Promotion of National Currency

On June 2, JICA-RI and the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) co-hosted a public seminar entitled “Cambodia’s Monetary Policy: Dollarization, Managing National Currency Supply and Exchange Rate Stability” at JICA Ichigaya.

JICA-RI has launched the research project “[The Empirical Study on the Promotion of Home Currency in Cambodia](#)” in collaboration with the researchers of NBC and other institutions in order to reveal the underlying reasons for the dollarization and elicit effective policies towards promotion of usage of Riel, official national currency. In the course of the project, JICA-RI invited the researchers from NBC to discuss: why the US dollar is widely used and held as the main currency in Cambodia; and what policy measures should be taken to promote the home currency while maintaining the stability of the macro-economy.

Dr. Khou Vouthy, Director of Economic Research and International Cooperation Department of NBC, gave a presentation on the theme of “Cambodia’s Monetary Policy: Dollarization, Managing National Currency Supply and Exchange Rate Stability.”

First, Dr. Khou introduced several indicators that represent Cambodia’s stable economy—continuously growing GDP per capita, an annual average economic growth rate of 8%, the inflation rate being kept at a low level, and the stable exchange rate. Despite her relatively stable macroeconomic environment, Cambodia has experienced dollarization for the last several decades. He explained the historical background as follows: The civil war started in the early 1970s, which followed by the Khmer Rouge regime from 1975 to 1980, where the currency and banking systems were entirely abolished; When the civil war ended in 1980, the home currency was reintroduced but was not widely accepted as people had lost confi-

dence in the currency; From 1991 to 1992, large quantities of US dollars were brought into Cambodia from overseas, particularly through activities of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. As a result, US dollars started to be used in various economic transactions in the country. Dr. Khou introduced a survey result on the currencies in circulation in Cambodia that he had conducted in 2010. He explained that an extreme dollarization has been prevalent in the urban areas including Phnom Penh and tourist sites as well as in sectors such as garment industry, tourism, and NGOs. On the contrary, economic transactions based on Riel have been widespread in local areas and in sectors such as agriculture, construction and the public sector.

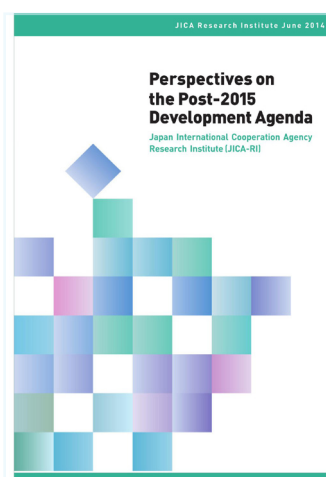
In promoting de-dollarization, Dr. Khou stressed that the process should be gradual and market-based. He listed the advantages of dollarization—stabilization in macro-economy and reduction in the risk of currency devaluation. He at the same time pointed out that there exist potential risks—undermining efficacy of monetary policy and the trade loss due to the high US dollar. He emphasized the importance of advancing balanced monetary policy on de-dollarization. Finally, Dr. Khou touched on the collaborative research with JICA-RI that it is valuable for the Cambodian government and NBC to deepen the understanding the factors of dollarization and to implement effective policies to promote the home currency.

In response to Dr. Khou’s presentation, Professor Hidenobu Okuda of Hitotsubashi University, a member of the collaborative project, commented on the important factors in effective de-dollarization: the stabilization of the exchange rate; a gradual shift in de-dollarization; and rebuilding confidence in the national currency.

Inclusiveness and Resilience towards New Development Agenda: JICA-RI's Report “Perspectives on the Post-2015 Development Agenda” Released

With the target year 2015 to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaching, discussions on the post-2015 international development framework and the specific indicators are underway.

Against this backdrop, JICA-RI has been implementing a research project on the theme of “Evidence-based Analysis for the Post-2015 Development Strategies.” This report, a compilation of the findings of the project, highlights two concepts in framing the post-2015 agenda—“inclusiveness” and “resilience,” which have become the focus of attention in international development discourses. Another premise of the report is the centrality of the concept of human security, an area in which the Japanese government has taken the initiative. The report attempts to assess the status of achievements of MDGs, to analyze the remaining challenges, and to offer recommendations on the post-2015 development framework.



[*Download Full report at JICA-RI website](#)



JICA-RI Releases a Report on China's Foreign Aid: Working Paper "Estimating China's Foreign Aid 2001-2013"

In recent years, the growing presence of China's foreign aid in developing countries, such as Africa, has led to a debate on its actual aid volume, development impacts and implications. China is not a member state of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and thus does not follow its definition of ODA (Official Development Assistance) or relevant rules and practices. Therefore, the details of China's aid volume have not been known, despite the release of a White Paper on China's foreign aid by the Chinese government in 2011 and a few studies conducted by researchers to estimate the amount.

Against this background of uncertain knowledge regarding Chinese and emerging donors' aid in general, JICA-RI has been conducting a research project on aid strategies of emerging countries. As part of the research activities, JICA-RI has published a Working Paper titled "Estimating China's Foreign Aid 2001-2013." The paper estimates China's net disbursement of foreign aid, including bilateral and multilateral aid, making the most of publicly accessible statistics and information so that estimates are as comparable as possible to net disbursement of ODA in accordance with the definition by DAC.

The results show that China's net foreign aid has grown rapidly since 2004 and reached US\$ 7.1 billion in 2013. The share of bilateral aid is much larger than that of multilateral aid. The difference between net and gross foreign aid is still small due to the fact that the repayment of concessional loans is still relatively limited. Among DAC members' ODA, China's rank has moved up from 16th in 2001 to 6th in 2012 and 2013. China's bilateral aid volume has approached that of France, while its multilateral aid has been estimated to be relatively small. Further, net disbursement of preferential export buyer's credits, which some recipient countries treat as ODA loans, is estimated to have been US\$ 7.0 billion in 2013. China's foreign aid is expected to increase rapidly and catch up with some of the top five DAC members in the foreseeable future.

China's foreign aid has long been a subject of scrutiny and controversy. However, the discussion has not been necessarily based on accurate information and assessment. It is essential for DAC member countries to further understand the current situation and the prospect of China's foreign aid. By deepening mutual understanding through dialogue between DAC member states and China, and through enhancing the competitiveness of each country, the quality of development assistance and foreign aid will improve, which will in turn have a positive impact on the recipient countries.

[* Download Working Paper at JICA-RI website](#)

