

IN THIS ISSUE:

Hot Issue

JICA-RI Hosts Parallel Sessions at the GDN Annual Conference

From June 18 to 20, JICA-RI hosted two parallel sessions entitled “Industrializing Africa” and “Building Resilience beyond 2015” at the 15th GDN Annual Conference in Accra, Ghana.

[...READ MORE](#)



Review

An International Comparison of Overseas Volunteer Programs: Peace Corps, VSO and JOCV: JICA-RI Holds a Public Seminar

On June 23, JICA-RI convened a public seminar entitled “An International Comparison of Overseas Volunteer Programs: Focus on the US and the UK” at the JICA Ichigaya.

[...READ MORE](#)

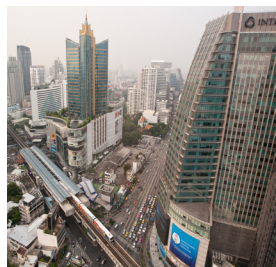


Review

JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Contributes to a Report focused on “Best Practices for Achieving Green Growth”

On July 1, GGBP published a report entitled “Green Growth in Practice: Lessons from Country Experiences.”

[...READ MORE](#)



(Photo: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)

Review

JICA-RI Releases Working Paper on the Interdependent Happiness in East Asia

The working paper based on an empirical study to examine how socio-economic status might undermine cultural well-being in East Asian countries is published.

[...READ MORE](#)

“Industrializing Africa” and “Building Resilience beyond 2015”: JICA-RI Hosts Parallel Sessions at the GDN Annual Conference

From June 18 to 20, the 15th GDN* (Global Development Network) Annual Conference was convened in Accra, the capital of Ghana under the theme of “Structural Transformation in Africa and Beyond.” JICA-RI, which serves as the hub institution for GDN-Japan, hosted two parallel sessions entitled “Industrializing Africa” and “Building Resilience beyond 2015.”

The conference assembled over 430 people from the GDN’s regional network partners, the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations agencies, and NGOs and private think tanks around the world. From JICA-RI, it was attended by Director [Hiroshi Kato](#) (Vice President of JICA), Senior Research Advisor (SRA) [Akio Hosono](#), Senior Research Fellow [Go Shimada](#), Research Program Division Chief Hironobu Murakami, and Research Program Division Officer Akiko Aikawa.

On June 18, JICA-RI co-hosted a parallel session entitled “Industrializing Africa” with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) based at Columbia University. The collaborative research results of JICA-RI and IPD focusing on industrial policies in Africa were shared with the participants. SRA Hosono presented a case study with a focus on three key dimensions in the process of structural economic transformation: changes in the initial condition to enable a transformation (readiness); factors that initiate the changes (trigger); and elements that maintain and promote the momentum of transformation (drivers). From IPD, Professor Akbar Norman of Columbia University and Senior Fellow John Page of the Brookings Institution gave presentations respectively.

On the following day, another parallel session entitled “Building Resilience beyond 2015” from the Asian perspective was co-hosted by JICA-RI and East Asian Development Network (EADN), a GDN regional network in East Asia.



Director Kato(right) and winners

Senior Research Fellow Shimada gave a presentation on the recovery of employment and structural shift in the tertiary sector industries from the perspective of long-term reconstruction after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

At the conference, winners were selected and announced for the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project and Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development sponsored by the World Bank’s Policy and Human Resources Development Fund, which the Japanese government contributes to. Director Kato, as a chairperson of the selection committee, presented the award to the researchers at the closing ceremony.

*GDN is a non-profit international body that aims to present and share recent research results through networking. The headquarters of GDN is based in New Delhi, India. JICA-RI is a hub institution of GDN Japan, one of the eleven GDN regional networks.

An International Comparison of Overseas Volunteer Programs: Peace Corps, VSO and JOCV: JICA-RI Holds a Public Seminar

On June 23, JICA-RI convened a public seminar entitled “An International Comparison of Overseas Volunteer Programs: Focus on the US and the UK” at the JICA Ichigaya.

JICA-RI has been conducting the Interdisciplinary Study of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC) research project since 2012. As part of this project, the Institute has held seminars to disseminate its research outcomes and build up research networks. This seminar highlighted the Peace Corps program run by the US government and the VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) by a British NPO. It looked into the objectives, achievements, and histories of the two programs, while comparing with the JOCV program.



Dr. Kawachi

First, Dr. Kumiko Kawachi, Strategy Officer of the Nagasaki University School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, gave a presentation titled “The Pioneer of Government-run Volunteer Organizations: Half a Century of Path of the US Peace Corps.” She outlined

the history and achievement of the program, including: its foundation in 1961 under an Executive Order by late President Kennedy; and its record of dispatch of more than 215,000 volunteers in total to 139 countries as of February 2014. Dr. Kawachi pointed out that the Peace Corps has been affected by the US’s international relations and its domestic politics, due to its affiliation to the government, although the program adopted an independent, non-political stance since its launch. She explained it with an example of halting the dispatch of the Peace Corps to Latin America during 1972 and 1982.



Ms. Matsumoto

Ms. Setsuko Matsumoto, Head of the Research and Planning Department at Creative Cooperation Service Japan Co., Ltd., gave a presentation on the theme of “A Study of VSO: What We Can Learn from an Organization That Keeps Changing.” Founded in the

UK in 1958 by Alexander G. Dickson, “the father of worldwide volunteering” and others, VSO has pursued to reduce poverty by supporting partner organizations of each country. In early days, the program dispatched high-caliber British youngsters who had finished their secondary schooling to emerging nations in order to serve as English teachers. Soon afterward fields of volunteering increasingly professionalized and VSO now dispatches volunteers with a high level of expertise regardless of their nationalities to the poorest nations and regions. Ms. Matsumoto pointed out that VSO, having flexibly changed in response to the demands of the times, can offer a great many suggestions to the restructuring of the JOCV program.

...Continued on next page

...Continued from previous page

After the presentations, Professor Nobuhide Sawamura of Osaka University Graduate School of Human Sciences illustrated the features and differences among the three volunteer organizations, drawing on the anecdotes that he heard from the volunteers during his visit to developing countries; he touched on that the Peace Corps is prone to the changes in Presidency of the US, while VSO, as an international NGO, has dispatched volunteers with 94 different nationalities



Prof. Sawamura

including developing countries to date.

Lastly JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow **Yasunobu Okabe** wrapped up the session, stating: “The JOCV program is similar to the Peace Corps in organization, while it resembles VSO in terms of its development assistance initiatives and high level of expertise. Thus JOCV program can learn a great deal from the advantages and experiences of both organizations.”



Senior Research Fellow Okabe

JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Contributes to a Report focused on “Best Practices for Achieving Green Growth”

Many countries around the world today face challenges in advancing economic and social development in light of the resource constraints and risks posed by climate change and environmental degradation. Green growth—an inclusive initiatives that achieve resource-efficient, climate-resilient economic development and poverty reduction—is now a must for every country.

The Green Growth Best Practice (GGBP) initiative is a global network established with the aim of promoting green growth. It is governed by a steering committee with representatives from 13 organizations, such as the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), working with 75 authors. On July 1, GGBP published a report entitled “Green Growth in Practice: Lessons from Country Experiences.”

The report provides the comprehensive global assessment of planning, analysis, and implementation from more than 60 green growth programs that each government around the world has engaged in. It also identifies key challenges and constraints in implementation of green growth strategies. The report provides guidance and examples to policymakers advancing such policies in their own countries.

JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow **Tomonori Sudo** contributed to the report as one of the authors of Chapter 6, entitled “Mobilizing Investment.”

For the details of the report, please visit the following link: <http://ggbp.org/>

JICA-RI Releases Working Paper on the Interdependent Happiness in East Asia

Title: *Interdependent Happiness: Cultural Happiness under the East Asian Cultural Mandate*

Author: Hidefumi Hitokoto

Summary:

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in international community towards incorporating concepts of happiness in development policies. The academic research and discussion on happiness has progressed, in particular, in Europe and the U.S., whereas happiness studies in developing countries has not well-developed.

JICA-RI conducted the project entitled “Re-examination of Development Policy from Happiness Study.” Based on the hypothesis that happiness in developing countries embodies diverse cultural and social values, this research aims to listen to voices of the public in developing countries in order to explore: 1) the definition of happiness; and 2) the important factors to make people happy.

This working paper conducts an empirical study to examine how socio-economic status might undermine cultural well-being in East Asian countries. It analyses the results of a survey using representative adults in urban and rural areas of Thailand, a country which has achieved rapid economic growth. The paper finds that those with high socio-economic status (higher income and education) have lowered interdependent happiness (harmony with others, quiescence, etc.), indicating that in Thailand interdependent happiness has a negative correlation with objective socio-economic status.

Given that pursuing socio-economic status alone might hinder cultural well-being in East Asia, the paper therefore argues that it is necessary to devise comprehensive policies for well-balanced development, taking into account the balance between culture and the social and ecological environment.

[\[Link to the Working Paper\]](#)



(Photo: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)