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## Towards Post-2015 Agenda: JICA-RI Holds Workshop on Re-evaluating 60-years of Japan's Foreign Aid

2014 is a milestone year commemorating 60-year anniversary of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). Meanwhile, 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 entering the final phase.

On the occasion of reaching this significant milestone, JICA-RI has been conducting a research project to review Japan's ODA towards post-2015 (Project for the 60th Anniversary of Foreign Aid). The results of this research are to be published in an English book.

During July 22-24, JICA-RI organized an authors' workshop on the theme of "Japan and Developing World: 60 Years of Japan's Foreign Aid and the Post-2015 Agenda" in Hokkaido. The workshop assembled experts from home and abroad. The event aimed to review Japan's 60-year history of ODA from various perspectives with exchanging opinions.

Japan's ODA, which started as part of war reparations, has been changing over the years responding to the context of the times. Looking back the path and recognizing the accomplishments and challenges, the research project attempts to draw policy implications for Japan's future ODA and for international efforts among development partners. Furthermore it is expected to present the knowledge and effective systems that have been accumulated, which will contribute to discussion on post-2015 as well as transformation required for revolution of development aid including its redefinition, theories and practices.

Senior Fellow John Page of the Brookings Institution, Professor Emeritus Yasutami Shimomura of Hosei University, and JICA-RI Director [Hiroshi Kato](#) will edit the book, while 26 authors from home and abroad will contribute to chapters. A public seminar to present the results of the research will be held at the JICA Ichigaya in November 2014.

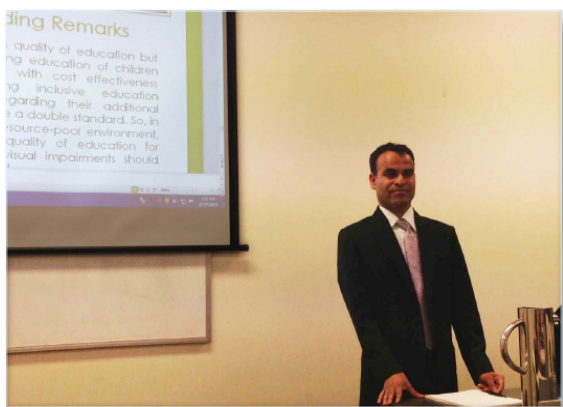


## Accurate and Disaggregated Disability Data and Statistics are Crucial for SDGs: JICA-RI Research Fellow Recommends at UN Expert Group Meeting

With the target year 2015 to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaching, active discussions on the development agenda for post-2015 are ongoing.

In the course of finalizing goals for post-2015, an expert group meeting (EGM) was held under the theme of “Disability data and statistics, monitoring and evaluation: the way forward, a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond” at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris from July 8-10. The meeting was co-organized by the UNESCO and the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The EGM discussed the current status of disability statistics and suggested some recommendations to strengthen data collection. The EGM also discussed on how disability can be included in the targets and indicators being developed for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Including JICA-RI research fellow [Kamal Lamichhane](#), approximately 25 experts working on disability research participated in the EGM. Besides engaging in other research projects on disability in JICA-RI, Lamichhane involves as one of the members in Evidence-based Analysis for Post-2015 Development Strategies.



Research Fellow Lamichhane

In his concept note submitted prior to the EGM, Lamichhane highlights the importance of establishing system for collecting, managing, and monitoring data and statistics on disability in achieving disability-inclusive development goals. Despite the fact that about 80 per cent of the world's population of people with disabilities lives in developing countries, studies on necessary conditions to improve their quality of life are limited. Furthermore, those with disabilities remain trapped in the poverty cycle as a result of lack of effective policies and programs to develop their human capital and to increase their access to basic facilities. In light of these situations, he suggests that comprehensive social inclusion requires multifaceted efforts and policies with greater investment in addition to a change in social attitudes on disability.

Lamichhane also points out that the dearth of reliable data and empirical research accounts for why disability issues have a low priority in the development agenda within policies of governments and international agencies. He, therefore, emphasizes the need to expand the collecting, managing, and monitoring of disability data. As the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) also emphasize the importance of data and statistics, it is crucial that researchers, academic institutions and governments work jointly and innovatively beyond disciplines and geographical boundaries.

The EGM also stressed the need to incorporate disability in all the surveys conducted in national level with internationally acceptable questionnaires so that such data can be compared, disaggregated by disability status. The proposed recommendations and consensus from the EGM will be submitted at the UN General Assembly to be held in September 2014, and are expected to contribute to the discussions towards finalizing SDGs.

## JICA-RI Deputy Director Attends Public Dialogue at the Global Launch of the 2014 Human Development Report

The 2014 Human Development Report “Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience” was released. On July 24, the Report, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was globally launched at the U Thant International Conference Hall of the United Nations University Headquarters in Tokyo.

The global launch was hosted by the Government of Japan. Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, Director of Human Development Report Office Khalid Malik, and JICA President Akihiko Tanaka, who is a member of the advisory panel on this report, attended and gave speeches at the event.

In a public dialogue at the launch, JICA-RI Deputy Director [Naohiro Kitano](#) discussed international initiatives towards building resilience.

Kitano pointed out that when risks are diverse and their impacts extend across border, collaboration between humanitarian aid agencies and development aid agencies is vital to forecast, prevent, mitigate risk, and to support people facing the risk. He also stressed that resilience against disasters should be enhanced jointly among the private sector, local and national governments, and civil society in order to manage the risks of globalized supply chains. In responding to the issue of securing employment that Mr. Malik had pointed out, Kitano commented: in the midst of increasing international labor migration, overseas remittances account for a growing proportion of GDP in some developing countries; therefore it is important to consider how to utilize the remittance in development.

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## What is the Most Effective Approach in Improving Child Nutrition?

JICA-RI Research Fellow [Sakiko Shiratori](#) has engaged in a research, analyzing and estimating the determinants of a child’s nutritional status in developing countries with an approach of applied economics. She presented her findings from the case of Tanzania at the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from July 27 to 29.

At a concurrent session on July 29, Shiratori presented a paper entitled “Determinants of Child Malnutrition in Tanzania: A Quantile Regression Approach.” Using data of 8,023 children under five years old from 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the socioeconomic determinants of nutritional status is estimated. Focusing on height-for-age z-score (HAZ) and the level of hemoglobin as two indicators of long-term nutritional status, she analyzes a wide range of variables: age,

sex, birth order, preceding birth interval, mothers’ height, BMI, hemoglobin, parents’ education, barrier for medical care, and access to safe drinking water.

The analysis shows that the mother’s education (higher than primary school) is one of the significant factors that influence the child’s growth, particularly distinct among the children suffering from chronic undernutrition. It also shows: large effects of mother’s nutritional status on child’s nutritional status imply that malnutrition is handed down from one generation to another.

As policy implications drawn from these findings, Shiratori pointed out the importance of integrated interventions with proven evidence in improving the nutrition and health of children, such as promoting mother’s educational opportunities.