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Working papers on the relations of infrastructure and the global food prices, and the aid system in Tanzania are published.

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Message from the Director



The JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) was established in October 2008 as the research arm of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), one of the world's largest bilateral development organizations. Affiliated with the Agency to deliver effective development cooperation, JICA-RI's work is both policy- and operations-oriented. Its work is carried out together with various operational and academic organizations and other professionals committed to international development. During the six years that have passed since JICA-RI was established, it has not only built on but also broadened its foundations as a research institute. Our accomplishments have appeared in a great number of research papers, books, reports, etc., both in English and in Japanese.

There are two major roles that JICA-RI should play: first, to feed the results of its rigorous analysis back into JICA's operations; and second, to offer contributions towards international development efforts based on the result of the research. As the research arm of JICA, the implementing agency of Japan's bilateral aid, JICA-RI has the advantage of having full access to the abundant information obtained

from development projects and programs on the ground. JICA-RI can provide this along with research-based knowledge. We strive to offer useful insights not only into JICA projects but also Japan's ODA policies, thereby contributing to constructive discussions in the international arena. In another words, JICA-RI aims to serve as a public good available to all partners involved in international development efforts.

The year 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of Japan's ODA, which was initiated after the Japanese government joined the Colombo Plan in 1954. In this context, the Japanese government is seeking to revise its ODA charter in order to better respond to emerging and evolving needs. Moreover, with the target year to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015 rapidly approaching, negotiations are underway on the post-2015 international development framework, along with the consideration of specific indicators. Active and significant discussions and consultations with a wide range of stakeholders are taking place on the roles of ODA as well as the establishment of the post-2015 framework. In these circumstances, it is very important to return to basic principles in order not to lose our sense of direction. For JICA, "human security" is one of the most important guiding principles. As such, I fully acknowledge that JICA-RI must play a leading role in mainstreaming the concept of "human security" and to ensure it is reflected in our operations.

Human security means to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. Through my experiences in engaging in JICA activities in Africa, I have become acutely aware of the importance and difficulty of extending assistance – especially for post-conflict fragile countries. Based on the perspective of human security, more research should be undertaken to iden-

tify factors that effectively facilitate efforts towards peace building, reconstruction support, and subsequent economic growth in conflict-affected countries.

From its inception until today, JICA-RI has laid the foundations for its role as a research institute by establishing research strategies and directions, and setting frameworks for the quality control and dissemination of research outcomes. To further these efforts, the JICA-RI is fully committed to making more research outcomes available. Specifically JICA-RI will

publish more working papers as well as reports and books on research outcomes in the days to come. More endeavors will be made to secure the quality of research outcomes and to simultaneously disseminate such outcomes.

Through such efforts, I have confidence in our ability to contribute to the improvement of JICA's operations and to address emerging global issues with development partners. I welcome your input and look forward to working together for inclusive and dynamic development.

October 1, 2014
Ichiro Tambo
Director



「Photo: koji Sato/JICA」

Achieving Stability in the Muslim World through the Power of Education: JICA-RI Distinguished Fellow Surin Pitsuwan Visits Pakistan

JICA-RI Distinguished Fellow [Surin Pitsuwan](#) visited Pakistan from October 1st to October 4, 2014.

Dr. Surin had served in several key positions including Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Secretary-General of ASEAN, and a member of the UN Commission on Human Security between 2001 and 2003. He is currently an International Academic Advisor at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and Professor Emeritus of Thammasat University in Thailand. Since November 2013, Dr. Surin has assumed the position of Distinguished Fellow at JICA-RI.

Dr. Surin chose to visit the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, where JICA has assisted the country for many years in the field of education for two reasons; firstly, Dr. Surin is himself a Thai Muslim and has a deep interest in peace and stability in Muslim societies in Asia; secondly, based on his perspective on human security, he attaches importance to inclusive development that takes into account the socially vulnerable, such as women and children. During his four-day stay in Pakistan, Dr. Surin visited various projects supported by JICA and enthusiastically listened to the voices on the ground. He also exchanged views on the country's development strategy through dialogue with such leaders in the government as the Minister of Planning and Development and the Minister of Finance

Dr. Surin considers education as a key factor for mutual understanding and a better future as he states that "education opens up the mind." He visited several projects and institutions in the education sector. When he visited the Non-Formal Education Promotion Project in Punjab, he observed non-formal basic education classes for children aged between 5 and 15. With about 40 children, their parents and guardians, and project staff, he shared his personal experience. Having been brought up as a member of Thailand's minority Muslim population, he had devoted himself to his studies through the guidance of

his family and his own efforts and it was entirely thanks to education that he was able to become a researcher, a politician, and Foreign Minister. He told them that education was a source of power and that it offered an opportunity to draw children into a new world. He encouraged those present to continue with the children's education, saying that the 40 children were all brimming with potential and might become physicians, nurses, or politicians in the future. The powerful words of Dr. Surin engaged the hearts and minds of all present.

In his meetings with Pakistan's Minister of Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Dr. Surin exchanged views with them regarding Vision 2025, a development plan for Pakistan. Dr. Surin pointed out Pakistan's growth potential, referring to the case of Malaysia, where an initiative launched by Prime Minister Mahathir "the Vision 2020 plan" led to rapid economic growth in the country. Moreover, he shared his views on the common challenges of Pakistan and ASEAN countries including Thailand: the importance of collaboration between research and industry to achieve national development, and the role of government in bringing them together.

Dr. Surin expressed his respect for Pakistan's history, culture, and way of life, and encouraged the people he met in Pakistan. He highlighted the importance of education as well as keeping an open mind to gain knowledge, which will benefit Muslim societies for mutual understanding. At the same time, he offered important suggestions for JICA projects and research to ensure stability in Pakistan and other Muslim countries.

In November, Dr. Surin will present a report in Japan concerning the findings from his visit to Pakistan.

What is the Impact of Community Participation in School Management? JICA-RI Holds a Seminar on Impact Evaluation Analyses of Education Projects

On September 22, JICA-RI held a public seminar titled “Impact Evaluation Analyses of Education Projects in Developing Countries: Cases of Community Participation in School Management.”

More efforts have been pursued for better monitoring and evaluation of development projects. Nowadays, “impact evaluation” is widely used to empirically assess the impact of development projects. The seminar focused on impact evaluation analyses of school-based management (SBM) in education projects. SBM is an effort to improve education services by delegating authority of school management to school level. Many countries encourage community participation in SBM.

Firstly, [Yasuyuki Sawada](#), Professor at the Faculty of Economics, the University of Tokyo (JICA-RI Visiting Fellow) presented the overview of the impact evaluation analysis of JICA’s “School for All” project. In the “School for All” project, the school management committee consisting of elected members including parents, the school principal, and teachers lead the activities to improve the education environment using community resources. The study found that the project may have strengthened the social capital among community members, parents and school personnel.

Secondly, Dr. Nazmul Chaudhury, Lead Economist at the World Bank, presented the SBM impact evaluation by the World Bank. Using the case of Nepal, he pointed out that the involvement of parents and community members is effective since they have the best knowledge on what is going on in schools. Since 2001, Nepal has been implementing the policy of community managed schools. The World Bank assisted the policy through Nepal Community School Support Project. The impact evaluation study of the project showed that the project increased the participation of parents in school



management as well as children’s enrollment opportunities, while no improvements on learning outcomes were confirmed.

Lastly, Menno Pradhan, Professor at the University of Amsterdam, gave a presentation on the project in Indonesia. In his study, they tried two different methods (“election” and “linkage”) for strengthening school management committees on top of the grant and training assistance to school management committees. In the “election” treatment schools, school committee members were chosen through election. In the “linkage” schools, the school committee and the village council strengthen their linkage via joint planning meetings. The analysis showed that the strengthening of linkage and elections combined with linkage is most cost-effective in improving learning.

During the discussion that followed presentations, The comments and views shared among participants are: SBM is not a panacea for all problems, thus needs to be combined with other interventions; the impacts of SBM depend on the project contents, or on the context of the country or region; and some interventions may take longer time to have observable outcomes. It was also pointed out that future research topics should tackle the causal chains and factors to influence learning outcomes, and more elaborated cost benefit analysis.

Overview of Working Papers Released in October

【Working Paper No.81】

“Risk, Infrastructure, and Rural Market Integration: Implications of Infrastructure Provision for Food Markets and Household Consumption in Rural Indonesia”

Author : Suguru Miyazaki, Yasuharu Shimamura

This paper empirically analyses the effect of different types of infrastructure (irrigation systems and local paved roads) in relation to the global food price crisis that occurred in 2007-08 and thereafter and which affected poor households in rural Indonesia. The results show that the villages with relatively low integration with the surrounding markets, but which had access to irrigation systems, had enough supply of rice and the price of rice was relatively lower. Thus, negative influences caused by the food price crisis were mitigated.

【Working Paper No.82】

“Management of the International Development Aid System and the Creation of Political Space for China: The Case of Tanzania”

Author : Mitsuaki Furukawa

This paper attempts to assess government behavior around aid and other development resources in Tanzania where the Poverty Reduction Regime is most advanced. It was found that the Tanzanian government owns the initiative for the National development plan and created the political space for aid and development finance from China, while accepting the development strategies and aid approaches of traditional donors. This case shows the importance of the analysis of aid structure not only from the perspectives of the traditional donors, but also from the perspectives of the recipient countries.



「Photo: Kenshiro Imamura/JICA」