

IN THIS ISSUE:

Hot Issue

JICA-RI Researchers Participate in the Conference of the Asian Society of Agricultural Economics in Dhaka

[READ MORE](#)



Photo: Koji Sato/JICA



Review

JICA-RI Deputy Director Naohiro Kitano participated in the North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum

[READ MORE](#)



Review

The World Bank Lead Economist Assumes the Position of Visiting Scholar at JICA-RI

[READ MORE](#)



Review

Pursuing Human-Centered Development: A Video Interview with Dr. Surin Pitsuwan on His Visit to Pakistan

[READ MORE](#)



Photo: Koji Sato/JICA

Review

Working Papers on Aid Strategies Released

[READ MORE](#)



Review

Interview with Director Ichiro Tambo

[READ MORE](#)

The Economic Growth and Challenges of Bangladesh: JICA-RI Researchers Participate in the Conference of the Asian Society of Agricultural Economics in Dhaka

From October 14-17, 2014, the 8th International Conference of the Asian Society of Agricultural Economists (ASAE) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The ASAE is an association for economists and other professionals aiming at exchanging academic information regarding agricultural economics and management with a focus on Asia.

JICA-RI is currently conducting a research project titled “Empirical Study on Risk and Poverty in Bangladesh.” Some of the research findings will be compiled into the book *Bangladesh Miracle and Challenges: Its Economic and Social Development*. JICA-RI researchers participated in the conference and presented the research findings of this project at the two sessions.

At the first session, JICA-RI researchers presented research findings regarding the driving forces and challenges underlying the remarkable recent economic and social achievements of Bangladesh. The structural transformation of the economy and the activities of NGOs are identified as significant contributing factor to the remarkable progress in Bangladesh. Another presentation explained how the two leading industries, the ready-made garment industry and pharmaceutical industry, addressed major market failure problems to sustain high and inclusive growth. The domestic companies in Bangladesh acquired a share of the market by solving problems in each industry; technology gap in the ready-made garment industry, and the monopolization of the market by multinational corporations in the drug industry. The session also addressed the topic of the risks associated with rapid urbanization, another aspect of structural transformation: traffic accidents and environmental pollution. The results of the study using experimental economics to analyze the risk perception of the public indicated that road safety is more valued than other types of risks. Finally, the findings from the study on



At the conference

NGO sector employment and youth job preference were presented. The survey targeting at young NGO staffs and university students in Bangladesh showed that NGO sector employment as a profession is getting less attractive. In order to secure qualified human resources, it is necessary to improve welfare benefits and adjust work load in the NGO sector.

At the second session, three research findings on microfinance in Bangladesh were presented. Firstly, the result of structural estimation of the effects of subsidies for microfinance on its proliferation was shared. Secondly, a presentation was made on borrowing from multiple microfinance institutions (MFIs). It was found the number of overlapping or multiple borrowing is increasing both in Bangladesh and India. Some evidence of information sharing among MFIs was also confirmed in the analysis. The session was concluded with a presentation of research results regarding the influence of microfinance on improvements in the social status of women. The results of analysis of panel data from household surveys from 1998 to 2008 indicated trends of improvement in the social status of women, such as education opportunities and decline in the fertility rate, to which microfinance is likely to contributing.

Toward Development through Cooperation in Northeast Asia: JICA-RI Deputy Director Naohiro Kitano Gives a Presentation at the International Conference in South Korea

At the session for sharing experiences of development assistance, [Kitano](#), based on JICA-RI's activities, presented the examples of development support by JICA and cooperation with Northeast Asian countries. The examples included: the Eastern Seaboard Development Program, which has supported economic growth in Thailand, and "the Project for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis in Pakistan" in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where the loan underpinned by an innovating financing approach "loan conversion" was provided. Three examples of collaboration with Northeast Asian countries were shared: the joint capacity development program between Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and JICA in the area of disaster prevention, Japan-China joint comparative research on agricultural cooperation in Africa conducted with China Agricultural University, and a one-year training project aimed at boosting the counter-narcotics capacities of Afghanistan by Japan and Russia with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Having touched upon the fact that Japan has long experience on south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation, Kitano stated that collaboration



All the participants

among Japan, Korea, China, and Russia in the field of development cooperation will enhance the value of assistance.

At the session, researchers from South Korea and China also gave presentations and a presenter from Russia outlined its ODA trends. Following the presentations, the participants lively exchanged their views on various issues including the potential for future collaboration.

Related Link
[UNSCAP website](#)



Kitano (second from the right)

The World Bank Lead Economist Nazmul Chaudhury Assumes the Position of Visiting Scholar at JICA-RI

Dr. Nazmul Chaudhury, a World Bank lead economist, assumes the position of Visiting Scholar at JICA-RI.

As an economist at the World Bank, Dr. Chaudhury has had a wide range of experiences in educational projects in developing countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh. He is the author of a number of academic articles on development and his publications have appeared in many academic journals.

Dr. Chaudhury participated in the JICA-RI Open Seminar "Impact Evaluation Analyses of Edu-

cation Projects in Developing Countries: Cases of Community Participation in School Management" on September 22nd, 2014. He presented the case of a Nepal Community School Support Project implemented by the World Bank.

As a visiting scholar at JICA-RI, Dr. Chaudhury will advise on impact evaluation research on the reform of the educational system in the Philippines. He is expected to share his knowledge and experiences through impact evaluation workshops for practitioners and staff members of JICA.

Pursuing Human-Centered Development: A Video Interview with Dr. Surin Pitsuwan on His Visit to Pakistan

Pursuing Human-Centered Development: A Video Interview with Dr. Surin Pitsuwan on His Visit to Pakistan

JICA-RI Distinguished Fellow Surin Pitsuwan visited Pakistan from October 1 to 4, 2014. A video interview with Dr. Surin on his visit to Pakistan is now on the JICA-RI website.

[<Link to the video>](#)

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, As 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.

On November 14, 2014, Dr. Surin reported on his visit to Pakistan at JICA Headquarters. Touching upon Pakistan's geopolitical importance with its ethnic and religious diversity in a

vast terrain, Dr. Surin explained that the human dimensions of development should be considered in order to fully realize the development potential of Pakistan. Dr. Surin emphasized that "human resource development" with focus on education is the most important factor in such endeavors. Thus, he recommended JICA to support human-centered development, thereby realizing human security.

Furthermore, Dr. Surin pointed out that the stability of Muslim societies is a problem not far away for Japan, mentioning the fact that Japan has close economic relations with the ASEAN region, which is home to many Muslims: the issue is closely linked to the economy and peace of Japan and consequently to the stability of the daily lives of its people.

Those insights and comments are also in the interview.

[<Related link>](#)

[<Researcher Profile>](#)

Working Papers on Aid Strategies Released

JICA-RI released two working papers on “aid fragmentation” and “public awareness on ODA.”

【Working Paper No.83】

“Aid Fragmentation and Effectiveness for Infant and Child Mortality and Primary School Completion”

Author : Mitsuaki Furukawa

This paper aims at examining empirically the overall effect of the project aid fragmentation in the health and education sectors. The result shows that the mitigation of project aid fragmentation may have no reduction in infant and child mortality rates. On the other hand, the reduction of aid fragmentation has positive impact on the primary school completion rate.

【Working Paper No.84】

“Informing Citizens about Development Aid: A Single-blinded Randomized Controlled Trial to Estimate the Impact of Information to Change Japanese Attitudes towards ODA”

Author: Satoru Mikami

Raising awareness on ODA to win positive support is a challenge that most donor countries face. The individual level of knowledge on ODA is one of the attributes correlated to the attitude for ODA. This paper analyzes whether/how the active provision of information on ODA can generate support for ODA and/or the intention to participate in development aid among Japanese citizens, using a survey-embedded experiment. The result reveals that the treatment can increase the level of support for ODA on average, especially in terms of the efficient use of money, while the impact is limited in involving the audience in development aid activities.



Photo: Akio Iizuka/JICA

【JICA-RI Focus Vol. 29】

Interview with Director Ichiro Tambo

This October 2014, Mr. Ichiro Tambo was appointed as the new director of JICA-RI. Director Tambo talks about the concept of “human security,” a guiding principle of JICA and JICA-RI’s activities, the strengths and challenges of JICA-RI, and future initiatives.

Upon your appointment as Director, you stated that “human security” should be a guiding principle of research activities of JICA-RI. Could you tell us about your reasons for that?

The concept of “human security” refers to the safeguarding of people’s freedom from fear and want, ensuring that they can live in safety and dignity. It aims to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfilment. The causes and actors in today’s conflicts are diverse. In conflicts such as civil wars, cross-border disputes, and terrorism, where states do not necessarily function, securing lives of people is a difficult challenge. However, development cannot be achieved without peace and stability. Therefore, “human security” is of critical importance for development practitioners.

Just before the 1994 massacre in Rwanda, I was engaged in the operation to close the JOCV office in Kigali. I was among only two Japanese in Kigali, left in a tense situation where we could have been killed at any time and any place. As a person engaged in development, I have never felt the importance of “peace” as strongly as I did at that time. This experience made me think that we have to create a world where each human can live with peace. Peace and stability should be the basis for development. I therefore expect JICA-RI to conduct research that builds firmly on the concept of “human security” and reflect this in all our research projects.

What are the strengths and comparative advantages of JICA-RI?

I consider JICA’s strength to be that it is an implementing agency with project sites on the ground that can provide evidence for practical and constructive discussion. When I was working for organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), for instance, there was an argument within the international community over aid harmonization that we should shift from project-based support to general budget support. However, this policy debate was not necessarily based on evidence that general budget support is more effective. Discussion among development partners should be practical and based on evidence. We should also keep this in mind when we JICA discuss the effectiveness of our own development assistance. JICA as an implementing agency with project sites in the field, should accumulate evidence built on actual development activities and share them widely. JICA-RI can provide evidence with scientific and academic proof. This is the greatest strength.

JICA-RI’s role in making connections of researchers both within and/or outside Japan is another advantage. For instance, the research project “Japan and the Developing World: sixty years of Japan’s foreign aid and the post-2015 agenda” provides a good opportunity to look back over JICA’s past projects and lessons learned toward the future of international co-operation between Japan and other stakeholders. I am confident that JICA-RI will contribute more to JICA’s operations by functioning as a platform to bring many distinguished researchers together.

Continue to next page...

...Continue from previous page

What are the challenges that JICA-RI should address in the future?

JICA-RI should not remain as a mere academic institution. We should aim to be useful for JICA's practitioners. If the research findings are useful for JICA's work, they will also be useful for the Japanese government, the governments of developing countries, other international organizations, development consultants, and the staff of NGOs. The importance of research that is "rooted in the sites" both qualitatively and quantitatively cannot be overemphasized.

Another research domain that I am interested in is to clarify the essence of the specific Japanese type of cooperation and the excellence of JICA's cooperation. There is "tacit knowledge," which is reflected in Ikujiro Nonaka's model of organizational knowledge

creation, in every successful Japanese type of cooperation. I am committed to work on the establishing such knowledge with academic proof. Furthermore, I would also like to enhance our public relation activities to gain better understanding from the public. One such example will be our signature publications on "Project History" that have compiled the JICA's experiences from various perspectives on a long-term basis beyond project's official reports.

Again I put the emphasis on "human security." We should find a way of development to secure human security in the trilateral relationship between development, peacebuilding and diplomacy. Anchoring "human security" in our research activities, I have confidence in our ability to contribute to the improvement of JICA's operations and to address emerging global issues with development partners.

