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## Japan and the Developing World: JICA-RI Holds an Open Symposium for the 60th Anniversary of Japan's ODA

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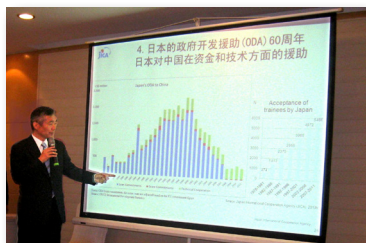


### Review

## Investing in Education for Persons with Disabilities: JICA-RI Research Fellow Kamal Lamichhane Presents his Book on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On December 3rd, JICA-RI Research Fellow Kamal Lamichhane participated in the event that celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

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### Review

## Improving Quality of Aid through Competition and Cooperation: JICA-RI Deputy Director Naohiro Kitano Delivers Speech at Seminar on China's Foreign Aid

JICA-RI Deputy Director Naohiro Kitano gave a presentation on China's foreign aid at the seminar on "Estimating China's Foreign Aid" held in Beijing.

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Photo: Mika Tanimoto/JICA

### Review

## Working Papers Released

JICA-RI released two working papers on training program and rice production in Africa. The book entitled "Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance" was published by Cornell University Press.

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## Japan and the Developing World: JICA-RI Holds an Open Symposium for the 60th Anniversary of Japan's ODA

On November 20, 2014, JICA-RI held an open symposium entitled “Japan and the Developing World: Sixty years of Japan's foreign aid and the post-2015 agenda.”

Featuring leading and influential thinkers and experienced practitioners of international development both from Japan and around the world, the event intended to critically review the 60-year history of Japan's ODA and, based on the lessons drawn, look toward the future of international cooperation by Japan and other stakeholders around the world.

The symposium consisted of four sessions. In Session 1 entitled “Overview and political economy of Japan's foreign aid,” JICA Vice President Hiroshi Kato gave a retrospective overview of Japan's ODA from the postwar era to the present day to kick off the discussion. Some of the points discussed among the panelists included the role of Japan's ODA in promoting economic growth in Asian countries through industrialization, and the need for Japan to improve internal and external communication concerning its ODA policy.

In Session 2 “Asian development assistance models,” Yasutami Shimomura (Professor Emeritus, Hosei University) moderated the discussion on the characteristics and effectiveness of Asian development models. The panelists identified the common features of the ODA provided by Japan, China, and South Korea as assistance based on their own experience of development and an emphasis on comprehensive economic growth through infrastructure development to improve investment conditions. The panelists from India and Vietnam shared their experiences of Japanese assistance from the perspective of recipient countries.

In Session 3 with the theme of “Japan, MDIs, and the future of global governance in development finance,” JICA Vice President Kiyoshi Kadera first gave an overview of Japan's relationships in the postwar history with international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank. During the following discussion, the importance of multilateral part-



Panel Discussion

nerships to tackle emerging global issues were highlighted, such as climate change and pandemics, and the value of the data and knowledge built up by international organizations as a global public good. It was also pointed out that Japan should maintain a consistent policy toward international organizations. With regard to emerging donors such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the expectation that these new actors adopt international best practices in environmental and social safeguard standards in their projects and programs was expressed among the discussants.

In the last session entitled “The future of ODA and the post-2015 agenda,” panelists from NGOs, private companies, foundations, and others discussed the future of international cooperation. Some of the significant aspects discussed included: the importance of building new partnerships based on the advantages and complementarities of each actor when the development actors are becoming more diverse, building a bottom-up system to work with the civil society, innovations in technology, humanitarian perspectives, and partnerships with the private sector.

Video recordings from the symposium are available on [YouTube](#).

Video interviews with the speakers at the symposium and researchers participating in the research project are also available on [JICA-RI website](#).

**For the details of the symposium program**

## Investing in Education of Persons with Disabilities: JICA-RI Research Fellow Kamal Lamichhane Presents his Book on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

JICA-RI Research Fellow [Kamal Lamichhane](#) has written the book entitled ***Disability, Education and Employment in Developing Countries: From Charity to Investment***, which will be published by Cambridge University Press by the end of December, 2014. This book for the first time brings together interdisciplinary studies on the connections and relationships between disability, education and employment in low and middle income countries and provides new insights into the importance of investing in people with disability. On the occasion of 23rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3rd, JICA-RI and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN-DESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations University (UNU) jointly organized a programme to launch this book at the United Nations Headquarter.



[Kamal Lamichhane](#)

Within the context of the quickly approaching 2015 deadline to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there have been active discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. Throughout this process,

ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities has been a critical issue in the international community. The data and empirical research on the issue has been limited even though persons with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population and 80% of them are said to live in developing countries.

Based on empirical data from developing countries including Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and the Philippines, Lamichhane has conducted research that systematically analyzes the relationships between disability, education, and employment. He presented the main

finding of the book, highlighting that investments in human capital, particularly education and employment, are some of the most important factors in promoting both social inclusion and economic empowerment. When education and labor markets are made inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities, not only does their livelihood improve, so do the prospects of their families and society as a whole.

Following Lamichhane's presentation, Yasuyuki Sawada, Professor at the Graduate school of Economics, the University of Tokyo (JICA-RI Visiting Fellow); Rosangela Berman Bieler, Chief Disability Section, Programme Division of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at UN-DESA, discussed the policy implication of the book. It was noted that the book contributes largely to post-2015 debate in setting meaningful goal by providing reliable statistics and empirical evidences on disability. The discussants also commended the outstanding achievement that book brings for the first time extant empirical research on the returns to the investment in education of persons with disabilities. At the same time, speakers also stated the need of further research in other countries applying the analytical framework adopted in the book.

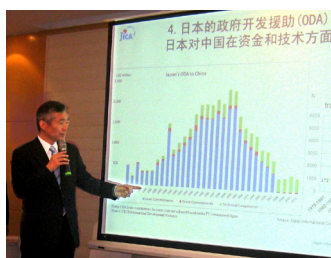
In addition to the book launch event, Lamichhane also participated as a panelist in a panel discussions including "Disability-Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals" hosted by UN-DESA. During the discussion, panelists exchanged their views on how technology promotes the social participation of persons with disabilities, as well as specific policies and practical initiatives on the topic. Lamichhane pointed out that many of the persons with disabilities living in developing countries have limited access to technology due to poverty, and that the application of universal design will benefit them without additional cost.



## Improving Quality of Aid through Competition and Cooperation: JICA-RI Deputy Director Naohiro Kitano Delivers Speech at Seminar on China's Foreign Aid

On November 26, 2014, a seminar on “Estimating China's Foreign Aid” was co-hosted in Beijing by the Institute of International Development Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), and the JICA China Office. JICA-RI Deputy Director [Naohiro Kitano](#) gave a presentation on China's foreign aid.

In his presentation, Kitano explained the results of estimates of the volume of China's foreign aid by referring to the JICA-RI working paper *Estimating China's Foreign Aid 2001-2013*, co-authored by Kitano and [Yukinori Harada](#), which was published in June 2014. The latest ODA white paper by the the Government of China only shows the totals of committed amount over several fiscal years. Whereas the estimates by the working paper shows net and gross figures of both bilateral and multilateral foreign aid by China, based on definitions of ODA by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The results of the estimates indicate that China's foreign aid increased from around 700 million US dollars in 2001 to around 7.1 billion US dollars in 2013, by ten times over the past 12 years, which makes China to rank at sixth if compared among DAC member countries.



Deputy Director Kitano

Kitano also explained the perspectives of aid recipient countries on its use of China's foreign aid citing cases in Sri Lanka and other countries.

He introduced the case of the agricultural sector in Africa to demonstrate how projects of China and Japan are coming close to each other at a country level. He suggested that China may be utilizing its experience as an aid recipient country effectively in its provision of foreign aid, noting that Japan has supported China's reform and opening-up

policies through both bilateral and multilateral channels in the history of Japan's ODA which marks 60th anniversary this year.

In the panel discussion that followed the presentation, Christophe Bahuet, Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China, and Mao Xiaojing, Deputy Director of the Institute of International Development Cooperation (IIDC) gave comments: the significance of the estimates that includes not only by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce but also aid by other ministries and multilateral aid, and allows for comparison with the ODA of DAC member countries, the importance of the insights from aid recipient side. In her concluding remarks, Wang Luo, Director of the IIDC, stated that China is making efforts to improve its foreign aid in terms of both amount and quality and can learn a lot from the experiences of Japan and other DAC member countries, so that China fulfills its responsibilities in the international community.

Around 60 researchers and practitioners participated in the seminar and engaged in discussions. Some of the organizations and research institutions presented include: the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), Peking University, Tsinghua University, and China Agricultural University, the UNDP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Australian Embassy in China, the Delegation of the European Union to China, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ).

### JICA-RI Working Paper

[Kitano & Harada. \(2014\) Estimating China's Foreign Aid 2001-2013. JICA Research Institute Working Paper No. 78](#)

## Working Papers Released

JICA-RI released two working papers on training program and rice production in Africa. The book entitled “Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance” was published by Cornell University Press.

### Working Paper No. 85

#### **“An Empirical Study of the Conditions for Successful Knowledge Transfer in Training Programs”**

Author: Satoru Mikami, Mitsuaki Furukawa

This paper aims at investigating the conditions in which training programs (TPs) can contribute not only to individual human resources development but also to organization-level reform and innovation in developing countries. Regression analyses of TP data sponsored by JICA reveal that communication between training participants and the dispatch organizations during the training plays an important role in increasing the probability of implementation of action plans at home by training participants.

### Working Paper No. 86

#### **“Constraints on Rice Sector Development in Mozambique”**

Author: Kei Kajisa

This paper revealed important factors for increasing rice production by analyzing a rice farmer panel data set that was collected in 2007/08 and 2011 in Mozambique. As a result of analysis, the author identified that the introduction of land-saving technologies such as irrigation development assuring water access increases output and also increases the returns to chemical fertilizer use. It was also suggested that training and improvement of market access are important factors for better production of rice.

### Book

#### **“Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance”**

Editor: T.J. Pempel, Keiichi Tsunekawa

Publisher: Cornell University Press

On December 18, 2014, Cornell University Press published **Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance**, which is based on the research project by JICA-RI. Edited by Professor Keiichi Tsunekawa of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (former JICA-RI Director) and Professor T. J. Pempel of the University of California, Berkeley, this book focuses on the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98 (AFC) and the global financial crisis of 2008-09 (GFC), examining East Asian resilience to two financial crises. The book addresses the two key questions; the reason why the impact of the GFC was minimal while the AFC caused huge economic losses in East Asian countries and; the question of whether East Asia's successful weathering of the GFC suggest that East Asia is poised for a “second Asian miracle” or not. The analyses in each chapter show optimistic perspective on the future of East Asian economies in the short to medium term. In the medium to long term, however, East Asia faces serious challenges that may hamper continued economic development in future, such as an aging society, the middle-income trap, the redistribution of wealth, and political instability. East Asia countries should not be overly optimistic about the future without addressing these issues.

