

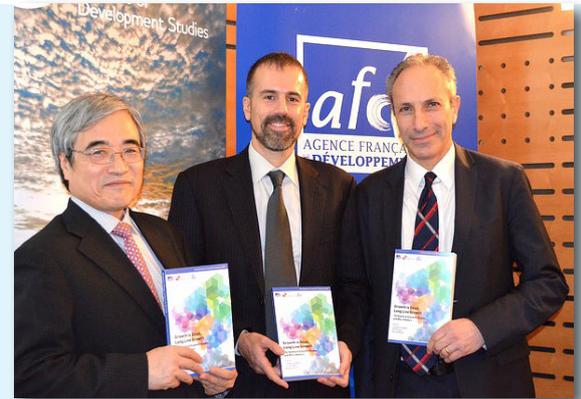
IN THIS ISSUE:

Hot Issue

“Quality of Growth” for the 21st Century

On January 26, 2015, the launching event of the research report on “Quality of Growth” was held at the headquarters of AFD in Paris.

[READ MORE](#)



Review

East Asia’s Financial Resilience

On February 2, 2015, JICA-RI held a book launch for Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance.

[READ MORE](#)



Review

The EMBRACE Model, Continuum of Care for Mothers and Infants

On January 26, 2015, a workshop of the research project on Maternal and Child Health was held at JICA-RI.

[READ MORE](#)



Review

World Development Report (WDR) 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior

On February 4, 2015, JICA and the World Bank held a joint seminar on the World Development Report (WDR) 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior.

[READ MORE](#)



Review

Publications Released

A working paper on aid administration was released.

[READ MORE](#)

“Quality of Growth” for the 21st Century: JICA-RI Holds an Open Seminar with AFD and IDS

Throughout the 20th Century right up until today, “growth” has been considered as economic growth. Its objectives have been considered as being an increase and expansion in the scale of economic activity, and its progress has been measured by GDP. However, as signs of the widening disparity both between countries and within countries, and the negative impact of global climate change are all becoming evident, societies have a choice, either reframe their definition of growth, or try to pursue it as we have known it for many decades.

JICA-RI has been conducting joint research on the “quality of growth” since 2012 in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex. The research aims to academically seek a desirable development model and growth in the 21st century by trying to answer a number of questions: What are the dimensions of growth quality we should care most about? How to measure such qualities? What are the tradeoffs between growth and those dimensions in the context of different policy regimes and governance structures? The outcome was published in a report, a collection of papers that represents the effort of researchers from AFD, IDS, and JICA. From JICA-RI, Vice President Hiroshi Kato, Senior Research Advisor [Akio Hosono](#), Senior Research Fellow [Go Shimada](#), [Kamal Lamichhane](#), Associate Professor of the Center for Research on International Cooperation in Educational Development (CRICED) at the University of Tsukuba (JICA-RI Visiting Scholar), and Ippei Tsuruga, Representative of the JICA USA Office (former Assistant Division Chief of JICA-RI Research Program Division) have all contributed papers.

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka, AFD CEO Anne Paugam, and IDS Director Melissa Leach, as well as the five authors of the report participated as panelists. In the opening session, Tanaka touched on JICA’s view that quality growth will be achieved only when it is “inclusive,” “resilient,” and “environmentally sustainable,” while

talking about JICA’s specific past initiatives and on-going revisions of the development cooperation framework by the Japanese government. Paugam underlined the importance of an international response to climate change and consideration of its social and environmental impacts and referenced COP21, which will be held in Paris in December 2015. Furthermore, Leach emphasized the fact that “quality of growth,” including reducing inequality, promoting environmental sustainability, and striving for inclusiveness, is consistent with the strategies of IDS.

Subsequently, the authors presented the outcomes of their research. The issues discussed included the projection that targets for poverty reduction will not be achieved at the current rates of growth, analytical frameworks to measure growth, and the direction that “quality of growth” should take in the future among others. In the following session, Hosono presented examples of JICA’s technical cooperation in Chile and Thailand. He explained that industrial transformation which included the attributes of being balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure, should be fully taken into account in order to realize “quality of growth.”

Participants shared the understanding that policies and approaches toward ensuring “quality of growth” should be considered in the context of the challenges that each country faces. In addition, it is essential to take a cross-sectoral approach among government organizations, research institutes, and private corporations. Kato concluded that it is important for development agencies to encourage recipient countries to take ownership of their policymaking and implementation.

Related links

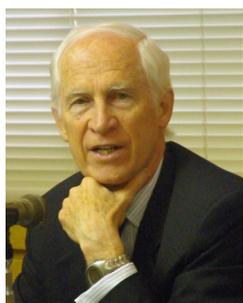
- [JICA HQ Website Article](#)
- [JICA-RI Website: Publication page](#)

East Asia's Financial Resilience and Future Prospects: JICA-RI Holds a Book Launch for *Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance*

On February 2, 2015, JICA-RI held a book launch for *Two Crises, Different Outcomes: East Asia and Global Finance*, published by Cornell University Press in January 2015.

The book is based on the research project entitled The Second East Asian Miracle? Political Economy of Asian Responses to the 1997/98 and 2008/09 Crises, conducted from July 2010 to March 2014. Edited by Professor Keiichi Tsunekawa of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (former Director of JICA-RI) and Professor T. J. Pempel of the University of California Berkeley, the book discusses two key questions from the perspective of political economy: why the impact of the global financial crisis of 2008-09 (GFC) was minimal while the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98 (AFC) caused huge economic losses in East Asian countries and the question of whether East Asia's successful weathering of the GFC suggests that East Asia is poised for a "second Asian miracle" or not.

In the seminar, Professor Pempel first gave a presentation on the main discussion of the book: why East Asian countries avoided disaster in the GFC. Professor Pempel pointed out that East Asian countries stayed largely on the sidelines as derivatives and credit-default swaps, based in the wake of experience during the AFC. In addition, they enhanced foreign reserve holdings, engaged in closer monitoring of short-term capital flows, and made regulatory systems more sophisticated and more active to manage risk while Asian markets are plugged into global capital markets. As a result, East Asian countries succeeded in minimizing the impact of GFC. In regards to the future prospects of the economies in the region,



Prof. Pempel

Professor Pempel foresees the future of East Asian economies in the short to medium term are sound, but should not be overly optimistic about it without addressing the issues including aging societies, the middle-income trap, and political and economic instability.

Subsequently, Professor Tsunekawa outlined the examples of various countries from the book and explained five policy implications for Japan in order to promote future growth in East Asia; to further strengthen the regional mechanism for financial resilience; to help East Asian countries overcome the middle-income trap in the fields of technical and technological education as well as company-level improvement in linkages and productivity; to provide knowledge on Japan's own experience of failure in building and maintaining a fiscally viable social security system so that other East Asian countries do not fall into the similar trap; to rectify the deficiencies and inadequacy of transport and communication infrastructure so that East Asian countries can use their human and physical resources more efficiently within their country and the region; and to offer a new policy model for higher development by seeking out a long-term nationally shared policy package that guarantees both modest but stable growth and a viable social welfare system.



Prof. Tsunekawa

Following the presentations, participants engaged in active discussions. A wide range of issues, such as the impact of the policy response by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) during the AFC, the effect of exchange market policies, and China's initiative in establishing the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank are discussed.

The EMBRACE Model, Continuum of Care for Mothers and Infants: JICA-RI Holds a Workshop on Empirical Research on Maternal and Child Health in Ghana

Maternal and neonatal mortality rates remain high in developing countries and need to be improved urgently. The Japanese Government announced a new Japan's Global Health Policy at the United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2010. In the policy, Japan suggests the Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care (EMBRACE) model, a package of effective interventions to improve the health of mothers and children through the Continuum of Care (CoC) approach.

In collaboration with the University of Tokyo and the Ghana Health Service (GHS), JICA has been conducting the research entitled "Ghana EMBRACE Implementation Research," aiming at evidence-based practice of the EMBRACE model. A workshop to share major outcomes of the intervention and to discuss the application of the research findings was held at JICA-RI on January 26, 2015, with two invited participants from the GHS.

Dr. Keiko Nanishi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Community and Global Health, in the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Tokyo, presented Japan's policy on maternal and child health. Subsequently, Ms. Ryoko Nishida of the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) reported on the progress of project activities in Ghana. The project introduced CoC cards that record the health of mother and child to ensure continuous service. In the course of interventions, some challenges were identified: appropriate stock management of CoC cards, securing accommodation facilities for expectant and nursing mothers, and improving the coordination between hospitals and health workers among other things.

Next, Dr. Kimiyo Kikuchi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Community and Global Health, in the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Tokyo, and Dr. Evelyn Ansah, Deputy Director and Public Health Specialist of the Research and Development Division at the GHS, presented the progress and outcomes of the research project. The formative research has identified barriers and promoting factors of CoC, such as parents' low education, lack of family support, and difficult access to health service facilities. They also reported on the plan and progress of quantitative impact evaluation. The research findings are expected to be published in academic journals.

Finally, Dr. Gloria Quansah Asare, Deputy Director General of the GHS, presented on the possible application of research findings in health policies in Ghana. The EMBRACE model is aligned with the national Maternal Newborn Child Health (MNCH) policies and strategies focusing on maternity checkups and neonatal care. Dr. Asare underlined the importance of the research to fill in the CoC gap that may be underlying persistent poor MNCH indicators. Among the participants, advocating the concept of CoC with more stakeholders to raise awareness among health workers and mothers, and the development of facilities are identified as priority issues to be addressed.



At the workshop

The World Bank and JICA Hold a Joint Seminar on the World Development Report (WDR) 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior

On February 4, 2015, JICA and the World Bank Group held a joint seminar on the World Development Report (WDR) 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior at JICA-Research Institute in Tokyo, Japan.

At this seminar, co-director Varun Gauri presented an outline of the World Development Report (WDR) 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior, which was followed by a panel discussion with Japanese researchers. JICA-RI Director [Ichiro Tambo](#) moderated the panel discussion, while JICA-RI Visiting Fellow [Yasuyuki Sawada](#) (Professor, Faculty of Economics and Graduate School of Economics, the University of Tokyo) participated as one of the panelists.

JICA Vice President Kiyoshi Kodera, in his opening remarks, explained the significance of the WDR and a history of meaningful influence over development policies and practices. Next, Dr. Gauri gave his keynote speech, highlighting main findings of the report. Humans are assumed to make decisions deliberatively, independently, and on the basis of consistent and self-interested preferences. However, Dr. Gauri pointed out that people think and make decisions automatically and socially, with mental models influenced by social norms and biases. He also explained that poverty is a decision making context that costs cognitive abilities. Therefore, he suggested, diagnosing and solving the psychological and social factors that influence development is vital in formulating and implementing policy and interventions. For instance, in Kenya, the weekly reminders of cell-phone messages encouraging patients to take their antiretroviral medicine to treat HIV/AIDS was tested to be more effective than daily reminders; another study revealed that providing households with chlorination dispensers to ensure a supply of safe drinking water was more effective than any other intervention.

Professor Sawada and Norito Kawakami, Dean of the School of Public Health and Professor in the Department of Mental Health at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Medicine, made comments on Dr. Gauri's presentation. Sawada first pointed out that development economics has witnessed remarkable achievements in recent years by deploying field experiments that enhance real world relevance of empirical studies, and the result of these researches had been meaningfully reflected in WDR2015. He highlighted an example of similar empirical research conducted by JICA, the study of social capital in school management in Africa, where a hybrid of artefactual and natural field experiment was applied. Sawada also indicated the limitations of empirical studies with experiments, such as external validity and robustness as policy instruments. Subsequently, Kawakami pointed out that mental health and well-being has a "dual effect" on sustainable development in both of productivity and the effective policy implementation, noting the fact that mental health affects our cognitive performance. Therefore, he suggested, providing educational programs and training for those with psychological difficulties and increasing trust among people are important to strengthen mental capital.

At the question and answer session, the floor actively discussed over various issues including the applicability of new approach to solve corruption issue in developing countries and the importance of mental health as a human capital. It was also pointed out that further analysis of social norms and biases building on existing researches are needed in order to propose practical and effective development policies.

Related Links

- [Presentation files on the World Bank website](#)
- [WDR2015 on the World Bank website](#)

A Working Paper Released

JICA-RI released a working paper on the aid administration which re-considers the case of Japanese economic cooperation.

Working Paper No.87

“The Benefits of Unification Failure: Re-examining the Evolution of Economic Cooperation in Japan”

Author: Jin Sato

Some countries employ a single ministry to administer all foreign aid activities while others have several different ministries. As for Japanese case, Japan has been successful in integrating agencies at the implementation level, but centralization at the ministerial level is lagging far behind and decision making is confusingly multi-centric, which has been criticized as inefficient and ineffective, both domestically and internationally. However, this paper argues that the inability of the government to unify its administrative systems should not be seen as sheer failure. The author claim that quasi-governmental corporations, which functioned as a mediator between ODA related ministries and the private sectors, played a significant role in expanding the constituents of economic cooperation within Japan.



BOP partnership with private sector today in water supply in Senegal
Photo: Kaku Suzuki /JICA