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The lecture series of the United Nations welcomed Hosono



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## JICA-RI Representatives Attend GDN's Regional Network Meeting in Croatia

The general meeting of the Global Development Network (GDN) was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on June 27 and 28, in which Tetsuo Konaka and Koji Noda from JICA-RI participated on behalf of GDN-JAPAN along with other regional representatives.

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# JICA-RI Director Addresses to UN and Academia on Triangular Cooperation's Effectiveness

**Akio Hosono**, director of JICA-RI, spoke on the effectiveness of JICA's triangular cooperation—a kind of support for South-South Cooperation by developed countries and/or international organizations—at international conferences during his recent visit to U.S. from July 27 to August 3.

On July 30, Hosono gave a presentation on the promotion of innovation through South-South cooperation at the session of the Society for International Development World Congress 2011, which was held with the theme of “Partnerships with the Global South” in Washington, D.C.

There he demonstrated the effectiveness of triangular and South-South cooperation approach with diverse examples including: the ProSAVANA-JBM project (a Japan-Brazil joint project which aims to apply the experience from the Cerrado agricultural development project to Mozambique); various “Third Country Training Program” activities; and the Asia Africa Knowledge Co-creation Program.

Referring to the fact that most of the R&D activities in the world are currently conducted in developed countries, Hosono stressed that collaborative activities for developing countries should be designed with the motto of “innovation for the poor” rather than “filling the technological gap”—more from the perspective of the developing countries. To illustrate, he cited the past cases of JICA's technical cooperation, as well as other initiatives led by private sector (e.g. an India-Japan automakers' joint-venture project whose products were enthusiastically accepted in the local market for its affordability and compactness.) Hosono then concluded his presentation by emphasizing the need to consider South-South cooperation as a vehicle to creating solutions, knowledge, and technology rather than a mere transfer of resources.

In the following week, on August 2, Hosono delivered a lecture titled, “Triangular Cooperation: Supporting Innovation and Capacity Development” as part of the U.N's lecture series on South-South and Triangular

Cooperation at U.N. headquarters in New York. He introduced JICA's specific cases like an investment promotion project in Zambia in cooperation with Malaysia, and illustrated a variety of types and features of triangular cooperation.

More than 140 participants—including U.N. ambassadors, U.N. institutes' high officials, NGO representatives, and researchers—participated to hear Hosono speak. Some asked questions over the approach of knowledge-sharing process for South-South/triangular cooperation, the roles of private sector, and the keys for fair and sustainable cooperation.

In response, Hosono said: “Let's say that we achieve a technological innovation that meets the need of beneficiary countries and their poor through this scheme. Then, the innovation itself becomes a breakthrough to a change, and has a potential of delivering its effect to the beneficiaries continually.” Furthermore, he referred to the Asia-Africa Business Forum, a triangular cooperation initiative involving the private sector, which now provides an excellent knowledge-sharing opportunity for the business people of both regions.

On the issue of how to sustain the effect of South-South/triangular cooperation, he answered that it is important to strengthen systems to make the efforts consistent with the actual states of communities and beneficiaries, and to collaborate with multiple actors—including emerging bilateral donors, various social benefactors and actors in the business sector.



Akio Hosono at the session of the SID (second from left)



## Final Workshop for “Ethnic Diversity and Economic Instability in Africa” Project Convened in U.K.



Researchers gathered to draw useful policy implications for ethnically diverse African countries (4th from right: Tsunekawa)

JICA-RI hosted the fourth and last workshop for a research project “[Ethnic Diversity and Economic Instability in Africa](#)” at Oxford University in U.K. on July 15 and 16. Nearly 40 researchers and officials of aid organizations, who specialize in Africa, participated from Japan, U.K, Belgium, Hong Kong, and Tanzania, among others. From JICA-RI, senior research advisor [Keiichi Tsunekawa](#), senior advisor to the deputy director Koji Yamada, and research associate Kohei Yoshida attended. This research project looks into the mechanism of the negative correlation between ethnic diversity and economic development in Africa comprehensively through interdisciplinary methods, and seeks measures to realize economic growth in multi-ethnic societies.

At the beginning of the workshop, the participants in charge presented drafts of nine papers, which were peer-reviewed by all including the rest of attendees. Following this session, they took time to reflect on the findings at three previously-held workshops and exchanged opinions in order to draw implications for policies and systems in Africa.

Among the presenters, Professor Daniel Posner of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology studied the average number of years of each ethnic group’s education by using panel data from the Kenya’s Demographic and Health Survey, and showed that children of certain ethnic groups received education for a longer period of time. This indicates that ethnicity-driven favoritism under centralized

political systems could interfere with equal distribution of public services.

Dr. Arnim Langer of Catholic University of Leuven, in Belgium, and Professor Frances Stewart of Oxford University jointly compared and examined the effectiveness and risks of direct and indirect policies which are adopted to reduce horizontal inequality in a multi-ethnic environment. They stressed that a suitable policy varies depending on each country’s circumstance and affirmative actions for correcting ethnic inequality pose risks of further enhancing ethnic consciousness.

Summing up the workshop, JICA-RI’s special fellow Hiroyuki Hino—the project leader, and economic advisor for Kenya’s Prime Minister’s office—concluded that various policies are advisable including: 1) Establishing a more decentralized system to discourage political leaders from taking actions to possibly agitate interethnic antagonism for their political purposes; 2) Considering ethnic diversity as a positive condition and investing in state-building that is not affected by ethnic differences; and 3) Creating land policies, natural resources management policies, and appropriately managing incoming foreign funds, all of which directly tackle the causes of interethnic horizontal inequality.

JICA-RI plans to disseminate the project results in working papers and books, and through a public symposium to be held in Tokyo.

# Field Trip to South India Sheds Light on JICA's Achievements in Improving Sericulture and Life of People Engaged

From June 13 to July 2, JICA-RI senior advisor to the deputy director Koji Yamada conducted a survey in India for "Project History" book series, which introduces JICA's past accomplishments. [\[Go to the articles on the book series.\]](#)

India is one of the world's largest silk producers. Yet the most of what it can produce is low-quality, and to mass-produce fabrics, its silk industry heavily relies on imports. To reverse the situation, JICA developed technologies best-suited for the local environment, and promoted bivoltine\* sericulture in three southern states from 1991 to 2007.

In Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states, two of the above three, Yamada interviewed officials at Central Silk Board at the Ministry of Textile, Department of Sericulture in both states, other institutions; and 40 silk-rearing farmers. He confirmed Japanese technologies were taking root at the selected farmers, and witnessed the positive effects like income increase to the level high enough to send their children to university.

Due to their success, large-scale farmers have expanded their operations, consequently contributing to their communities (e.g. providing financial assistance to others). Though silk-rearing requires a big plot of land to grow mulberry trees and raise silkworms, Yamada



Rotary mountage introduced by JICA

learned that even farmers without land could be engaged, thanks to gradually heirless large-scale farmers who are willing to lend their land and split the profit. Yamada says, "I think it's fair to say JICA's technical cooperation has achieved to help the poverty reduction effort in a way."

Yamada plans to thoroughly examine the data gained from this field survey and will incorporate it in the draft of the upcoming book.

\*NOTE: Bivoltine silkworms are the types of silkworms which go through two lifecycles per year and spin prolific and quality cocoons.



(Before) Dense and wildly grown mulberry plantation



(Now) Well-maintained mulberry field



## JICA-RI Representatives Attend GDN's Regional Network Meeting in Croatia

Global Development Network (GDN) is the sole international organization in the world which functions as a research network in the development field and boasts to have network partners in 11 regions around the globe. Every year regional network heads meet twice to exchange updates and discuss upcoming matters, and the most recent general meeting was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on June 27 and 28. As JICA-RI has long played the role of a hub body for [GDN-JAPAN](#) – one of the above-mentioned partners, Tetsuo Konaka, JICA-RI's assistant director, and Koji Noda, senior research officer, participated on behalf of GDN-JAPAN along with other regional representatives.

Prior to the regional network meeting, the GDN board members assigned Alan Winters, former UK's Department for International Development chief economist, to take over as chairperson of the board from the former president of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo. The board also decided that the next annual meeting would be convened in Budapest, Hungary in June 2012, with the main theme of "Urbanization." These announcements were made at the opening of the regional network meeting.

At the subsequent meeting, participants mainly discussed GDN's business plan for 2011–2016, which was prepared by the head office. In particular, the plan called for a launch of "the Global Research Capacity Building Program." It

is a program to expand systematic cooperation among GDN's existing projects which support various academic studies such as "Regional Research Competition," "Global Research Competition," and "Global Research Project." It is also expected to cultivate interdisciplinary researchers in developing and emerging countries and promote mutual cooperation amid ongoing globalization in the research field. The Program was generally welcomed by the attendees including the representatives from developing countries

JICA-RI explained recent GDN-JAPAN's activities, such as organizing regular meetings within the region and hosting principal sessions at GDN annual meetings, updated the audience on the aftermath of the disaster in March (also its influence to ODA programs), which drew much attention, and expressed appreciation for the support and sympathy from many countries. The representatives

additionally spoke with the heads of other regional networks such as East Asian Development Network on potential collaborations in the future.

Currently, GDN provides a rare opportunity for regular interactions and information exchanges worldwide in international development research. Strengthening the ties with GDN would surely help promote dissemination of research outcomes by JICA-RI and any other research institutes in Japan.



The new chairman for the GDN Board, Prof. L. Alan Winters