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JICA-RI and the Brookings Institution Launch Collaborative Research on Scaling Up

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Kickoff meeting at the Brookings in Washington, D.C.



Review

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JICA-RI recently released a paper titled "Assessing Effectiveness and Sustainability of Community-managed Informal Irrigation in Africa - A Comparative Institutional Analysis of 'Temporary' Irrigation in Malawi -." In this paper, Atsushi Hanatani and Mine Sato present an outcome of the project "A Study on Irrigation Control Management by Local Farmers in Africa and Its Agricultural Societies."

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研究所

Review

Insights Shared by SOAS's Professor Nisanke at JICA-RI Seminar on Inclusive Development in Africa

On September 21, JICA-RI invited Professor Machiko Nisanke from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London and organized a public seminar titled "Towards Inclusive Development in Africa – In a Comparative Perspective with Asia." This seminar aimed to provide an opportunity to learn and contemplate development agendas regarding Africa, one of the most underdeveloped regions of the world.

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JICA-RI and the Brookings Institution Launch Collaborative Research on Scaling Up

Scaling up -- an act of expanding and sustaining successful pilot policies or programs to spread the effect to more people -- is a familiar term to development and aid professionals. But, in the last few years, it is attracting renewed interest among the development circle.

This is primarily because the international community is gradually recognizing that their work has not brought impacts as big as they wished, while the final year of Millennium Development Goals is approaching fast. Also a growing presence of new actors such as emerging donors and private foundations have inspired innovative aid programs of larger scale, and consequently drawn more attention to this topic. Still, the data and knowledge gained from its good practices are yet to be presented as academic literature.

At this time, JICA-RI and the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. agreed to conduct a joint research on scaling up. This issue was addressed briefly in *Catalyzing Development* (June 2011), a publication from the outcome of a tripartite project by JICA, the Brookings, and Korea International Cooperation Agency, and in the successive effort, two institutions focus to “deepen international knowledge” on this topic and “to provide policy-relevant analysis and guidance to development practitioners.” The

outcome will be published in 2012.

In this project, leading researchers and practitioners knowledgeable on the theme will work on the diverse sub-themes of “scaling up,” which will be broadly grouped into three pathways of private sector, public sector and agency reform. The members include: JICA-RI director [Akio Hosono](#), research associate [Shunichiro Honda](#); Homi Kharas and Johannes Linn, both senior fellows at the Brookings; and others. Hosono and Honda will make contributions on South-South/triangular cooperation as approach of trans-border scaling up and the capacity aspect of scaling-up process respectively.

Up until now, scaling up has not become the mainstream of aid practices due to various factors including the lack of ownership and commitment for broadening pilot initiatives by developing countries as well as unclear incentives for scaling up within aid organizations.

By analyzing and introducing excellent scaling-up cases from the field, the research team expects to contribute to more strategic and systematic application of scaling-up approaches in operations for wider and more sustained impacts. As a result, donors and recipients alike would be able to more aggressively plan with scaling up in mind, and carry out comprehensive programs that are efficient and effective.



[Hosono \(center\)](#) and [Honda \(second from left\)](#)

At the kickoff meeting at the Brookings on July 28, Hosono stated: “It’s essential to investigate how we can achieve scaling up... as we should strive to bring an impact of development more effectively despite the tightening ODA budget.” He also emphasized its importance for JICA as it sets “scale-up” as one of the key guiding principles for its assistance.

Both parties aim to complete the first drafts by the end of 2011 and will meet once again to review and exchange feedback at a workshop in early next year.

New Working Paper Examines the Widespread Adoption of “Temporary” Irrigation in Malawi

On August 24, JICA-RI released a paper titled ["Assessing Effectiveness and Sustainability of Community-managed Informal Irrigation in Africa - A Comparative Institutional Analysis of 'Temporary' Irrigation in Malawi -."](#) In this paper, former JICA-RI senior research fellow Atsushi Hanatani (now resident representative at JICA South Sudan Office) and research associate [Mine Sato](#) present an outcome of the project ["A Study on Irrigation Control Management by Local Farmers in Africa and Its Agricultural Societies,"](#) which aimed to contribute to poverty reduction in Africa's farming communities.

From the early 2000's, a type of group-based small-scale irrigation with temporary structures has been widely adopted among Malawian farmers, partly thanks to JICA's assistance. The method, called "temporary" irrigation, uses locally available materials and manpower to build river diversion structures and canals. In this research, Hanatani and Sato attempt to assess "the effectiveness and sustainability of this technology from the beneficiaries' point of view, by employing a commons-based analytical framework that focuses on property rights and collective action."

A comparative study of three irrigation cases reveals that, in spite of the lack of stable tenure over land and water, and of firm collective-action incentives for farmers, the method clears most of the criteria to prove its easy-to-adopt characteristics and effectiveness — technologically (temporary nature of facilities), economically (resource affluence), and institutionally (easy access to resources, loose form of collective action). The research team points out that these things made the temporary irrigation's diffusion possible in Malawi.

While the same irrigation system has become popular, the environment surrounding the technology is changing, the team reveals. Water and land are getting scarce, and permanent river diversion structures are replacing the temporary ones gradually. These changes affect the quantity of resources and its management, and may challenge the future sustainability of this technology, Hanatani and Sato write.

To ensure its sustainability, the paper proposes new policies including: 1) to raise the irrigation system's profitability, 2) to improve water use efficiency and to promote river-basin preservation measures, and 3) to strengthen water users' associations with the farmers' incentives for taking collective action in mind.

On the significance of this research, Hanatani and Sato say that, with the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals approaching, the world needs to swiftly tackle the problems of water, food, and poor farmers especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. For this, aid organizations have helped expand irrigation agriculture in Africa so that it can complement rain-fed farming in dry season, but the transition has not necessarily been successful. The team explains: "Up until now, low level of farmers' participation has been blamed as one of the reasons. Yet, our analysis discovered the failure of irrigation agriculture does not fall on farmers, but on the communal nature of goods used for irrigation agriculture." People's actions affect conditions of public goods like water and land in their availability and quantity, for example. Since the status of the goods is beyond their control, farmers do not see much incentive to participate in irrigation, according to the research. "The presupposition that "farmers could manage the system properly if only they obtain the ownership" clearly has limitations. We should pay more attention to the nature of public goods in irrigation when designing projects," they conclude.



Temporary irrigation made of wooden poles and grass

Insights Shared by SOAS's Professor Nissanke at JICA-RI Seminar on Inclusive Development in Africa



Professor Nissanke stressing the importance of inclusiveness

On September 21, JICA-RI invited Professor Machiko Nissanke from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London and organized a public seminar titled “Towards Inclusive Development in Africa – In a Comparative Perspective with Asia.” Professor Nissanke, an expert of international economics and financial economics with Africa and East Asia as regional specialty, has served as advisor to various international organizations such as UNDP, World Bank, and JICA.

JICA has been committed to African development for decades and has carried out numerous aid projects in the continent. As the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) is approaching in 2013, this seminar was held with an aim to provide an opportunity to learn and contemplate development agendas regarding this one of the most underdeveloped regions of the world.

Despite the severe weather, a variety of participants attended the event, including ministry officials, researchers of African studies, aid practitioners of JICA, consultants as well as JICA staff at Uganda and Madagascar offices (via satellite).

In the seminar, Professor Nissanke shared her thoughts over why Africa's poor has not been able to benefit from globalization in the past 30 years from economic point of view.

After briefly introducing the environment and conditions surrounding Sub-Saharan Africa and comparing them with those of East Asia and South America, she closely examined specific characteristics of Africa's economies now. Here she addressed constraints for further growth like their economies' overly commodity-dependent structure (over 75% of their economic activities in global market are from commodity-centered trade unlike anywhere else, she said).

At the end of the voluminous presentation, Professor Nissanke concluded that, though Asian and Latin American experiences can be an interesting reference point, Africa should seek answers within. She explained, “Africa has been told what to do for a long time, but [those pieces of advice] never stuck as they came from outside. Africa needs to consider how it should develop itself. And the international community should stand by to let African countries speak for themselves, as main actors are the local people.”

As for implications over inclusive development, she warned that the idea of “inclusiveness” itself and “sharing” is at stake due to rising social tensions worldwide. She said, “Now is the time to reflect [upon our actions]. Short-term goals to reduce poverty are, of course, important, but we should also engage in long-term development in an inclusive manner.”