

IN THIS ISSUE:

Hot Issue

Discussions on South-South and Triangular Cooperation Move Forward at the High-Level Meeting

From December 5 to 9, 2011, UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation convened the annual Global South-South Development Expo at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy.

[READ MORE](#)



Deputy-Director Kato at the Meeting (second from left)



Special

Working Paper on Resource Governance Released

JICA-RI released a working paper titled “State Inaction in Resource Governance: Natural Resource Control and Bureaucratic Oversight in Thailand” by associate professor of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo and project head, Jin Sato. This is one of the research outcomes of JICA-RI's project “Conflicts and Cooperation in Resource Governance.”

[READ MORE](#)



Special

New Working Paper: Empirical Study of Industrial Clusters Examining Relationship among “Ethnic Networks” and “Knowledge Learning”

JICA-RI released a working paper titled “Ethnic Networks and Technical Knowledge Learning in Industrial Clusters” in January, 2012. The paper is part of a research project “Empirical Study of Industrial Clusters in Africa, the Role of Space, Infrastructure, Human Resources and Social Capital” and is authored by Research Associate Yessica Chung.

[READ MORE](#)

Discussions on SSC/TRC Move Forward at the High-Level Meeting in Rome

From December 5 to 9, 2011, UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation convened the annual Global South-South Development Expo at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. At this year's expo, where evidence-based South-South development solutions were shared, JICA, along with UNDP and FAO, organized the High-Level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. JICA has been a co-organizer of this conference to promote knowledge-sharing since the start in 2008. Under the theme of "Effective Partnership towards Innovative Development Solutions," about 80 director-generals of cooperation agencies from various countries attended to discuss ways to provide and scale up technical cooperation to developing countries. From JICA-RI, Deputy-Director Hiroshi Kato participated and chaired one of the sessions.

Throughout the High-Level Meeting, numerous representatives introduced specific South-South and triangular cooperation endeavors of their countries and organizations, from agricultural development and health risk reduction for women and children to innovative financing mechanisms.

The third session was titled "South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Capacity Development and Scaling Up" and Deputy-Director Kato, as chair, urged four speakers to discuss "best practices" and "lessons learned" from three angles: 1) recipient country, 2) pivotal country (developing country which offers technical cooperation), and 3) facilitator (developed country or donor agency that assists the technical cooperation). Among them, the senior advisor of Secretaria General Ibero-Americana (SEGIB) spoke of its situation where SEGIB has been systematically working as a coordinator to match needs and available technology/knowledge among member countries and to realize cooperation with reduced transaction costs. Meanwhile, the head of the UNDP Project Office in Poland explained how they have been similarly operating to catalyze South-South cooperation between Iraq and Poland. Deputy-Director Kato noted



Deputy-Director Kato Speaking as Chair
(second from right)

that institutionalized South-South and triangular cooperation like the above two have the potential to bring large impact.

It was a perfect timing for the global aid community to contemplate South-South and triangular cooperation as, less than a week before the meeting, diverse delegates publicly recognized, again, the significance of this development scheme at the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea. [Read about [the HLF-4](#).] Deputy-Director Kato said, "It was noteworthy to learn the participating officials' high regard for South-South and triangular cooperation and their enthusiasm to get involved. There's no doubt that this instrument will be an important agenda more than ever."

Deputy-Director Kato also pointed out that many of the representatives mentioned a variety of good practices based on Japanese cooperation. As Japan has been the pioneer of this scheme for almost 40 years, he believes its experiences are great assets and stressed that they need to be shared more widely with the international community.

For this, JICA-RI is preparing to launch a study group to closely examine exemplary cases of triangular cooperation, and to compile its outcomes as a volume in the future.

Working Paper on Resource Governance Released

JICA-RI released a working paper titled “[State Inaction in Resource Governance: Natural Resource Control and Bureaucratic Oversight in Thailand](#)” by associate professor of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo and project head, Jin Sato. This is one of the research outcomes of JICA-RI's project “[Conflicts and Cooperation in Resource Governance](#).”

Based on a detail case study of Thailand, the paper argues that the continuing failure of environmental administration in developing countries by the state lies not only in inappropriate actions taken by the responsible agencies, but also in the way bureaucratic structures have complicatedly evolved to offer no policy choices. In the case of Thailand,

inter-departmental conflict has historical roots that have shaped the present policy environment, and bureaucratic competition is often controlled by pre-existing veto players with strong vested interests in the status quo.

This paper would offer practical suggestions for practitioners on such issues as the selection of partner organizations in forming an environmental project.

New Working Paper: Empirical Study of Industrial Clusters Examining Relationship among “Ethnic Networks” and “Knowledge Learning”



JICA-RI released a working paper titled “[Ethnic Networks and Technical Knowledge Learning in Industrial Clusters](#)” in January, 2012. The paper is part of a research project “[Empirical Study of Industrial Clusters in Africa, the Role of Space, Infrastructure, Human](#)

[Resources and Social Capital](#)” and is authored by Research Associate [Yessica Chung](#).

Using a dataset of workshops located in the furniture clusters of the city of Arusha, Tanzania, where a population of 270,000 live, this paper investigates the mechanisms of technical knowledge exchange that takes place in the clusters.

The results show that ethnic networks of producers have contributed to the exchange of technical knowledge. The paper further reveals that ethnic minorities are more likely to exhibit the same manufacturing techniques compared with ethnic majorities.