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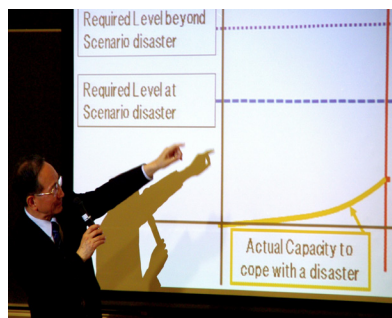
### Review

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On October 11, Dr. Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner gave a speech with a theme of “Towards a More Resilient Society.”

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### Review

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The Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank, the Interdisciplinary Policy Research Laboratory of the University of Tokyo and JICA Research Institute jointly hosted a seminar titled “Evaluation of Development Assistance: Perspectives from the World Bank Group and JICA” on October 8.

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### Review

## In-Depth Research on Economy in Myanmar Available in a Book

A book entitled “Myanmar Keizai no Atarashii Hikari (New Light for Economy in Myanmar)” was released by Keiso Shobo in September 2012. This book presents the compiled outcomes of the JICA research project “Issues and Challenges for Economic Development in Myanmar.”

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# The World Bank and JICA Co-Hosted a Seminar at the IMF/WB Annual Meetings

At the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Tokyo, the Program of Seminars (POS), the main event of the Meetings, were held from October 10 to 13. As part of POS, the World Bank and JICA co-hosted a seminar entitled “Can Government Policies Lead to Good Jobs for Development?” on October 12.

This seminar, focusing on how government policies can contribute to job creation, aimed to discuss the link between jobs and inclusive development with sharing the experiences of different countries.

In his opening remarks, JICA President Akihiko Tanaka said: “Different countries may opt for different strategies, but whatever their policies are, the outcome should be such that all the members of society should have fair and equal access to jobs. And each government should consider its policy for creating jobs that best suits the labor market of each country.”

Following the remarks, Hafez Ghanem, Senior Fellow of Brookings Institution, chaired the seminar with four panelists: Laura Alfaro, Professor of the Harvard Business School; Newai Gebre-Ab, Chief Economic Adviser to the Ethiopian prime minister; Martin Rama, World Bank Senior Economic Adviser; and [Yasuyuki Sawada](#), JICA-RI Visiting Fellow and Professor of the University of Tokyo.

In his speech, Dr. Sawada introduced the urbanized job situation in Bangladesh—covered in *the World Development Report (WDR) 2013: Jobs*—focusing on the importance of infrastructure development and transformation in the employment structure. First, he pointed out that improvement of infrastructure, such as irrigation systems in farmland and transportation system between villages and cities enabled the smooth shift from the unskilled workforce in agriculture to non-agricultural sectors.

Together with this transformation in employment structure, expansion of employment opportunities for women, especially for young women in the garment industry triggered social impact on women; the total fertility rate\* decreased from 5.1 in 1989 to 2.3 in 2011; the enrollment rate of girls in elementary and secondary schools is now higher than that of boys. Penetration of microfinance programs in rural areas by Grameen bank, BRAC, ASA, and other institutions as well as improved infrastructure facilitated such social transformation in Bangladesh.

In the previously cited the WDR 2013, Bangladesh is introduced as an example of a country in the process of urbanizing, while its garment industry is the model of a thriving industry.

\* The total fertility rate is the number of children a woman has on average in her lifetime.



## JICA-RI Hosted Two Special Seminars with Brookings Institution and European Union on October 4 and October 11.

JICA Research Institute held an open seminar on structural change and roles of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Africa, entitled “[Aid, Structural Change and the Private Sector in Africa](#),” on October 4, inviting Dr. John Page, senior fellow from Brookings Institution.



In this seminar, Dr. Page pointed out: “In Africa, domestic private investments are extremely limited, while foreign direct investments center on natural resources. Development assistance, therefore, can play a crucial role in the reforms of the investment climate and in nurturing advanced industries, as well as in support of formulating growth strategies through exports.” He proposed the four new strategies for aid—improving export logistics, supporting agglomerations, building firm capacities, and promoting regional integration—to accelerate Africa’s structural change.

JICA-RI coordinated an open seminar with the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Japan at JICA-RI in Ichigaya on October 11. Dr. Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, gave a speech with a theme of “Towards a More Resilient Society.”

Dr. Georgieva, defining resilience as “capacity to cope with shocks,” explained that EU has recently stressed the enhancement of resilience in developing countries. She emphasized: “A long-term investment in comprehensive policies and preventive measures to reduce disaster risk is the most effective way of minimizing the damage.”

She also pointed out the importance of building up a new strategy that combines humanitarian and development assistance in collaboration with governments of disaster-prone countries, with utilizing Japan’s abundant experience in Great East Japan Earthquake.



\* Please visit our website for the interviews with [Dr. Page](#) and [Dr. Georgieva](#).



## JICA-RI, the World Bank, and the University of Tokyo Rethink “Evaluation of Development Assistance”

The Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank (WB), the Interdisciplinary Policy Research Laboratory of the University of Tokyo and JICA Research Institute jointly hosted a seminar titled “Evaluation of Development Assistance: Perspectives from the World Bank Group and JICA” at the University of Tokyo on October 8.

This seminar was held with the aim of discussing evaluation of development assistance, an indispensable key to enhance the impact of assistance.

In her opening speech, Director-General and Senior Vice President of IEG Caroline Heider talked with a theme of “Improving the Effectiveness of Development Agencies through Independent Evaluation.”

As another guest speaker, [JICA-RI Director Akio Hosono](#) gave a speech titled “Resilience

and Disaster Risk Management.” He introduced a number of cases on disaster-prevention measures including the BOSAI Project in Central America with JICA’s cooperation, drawing on the experiences such as in the Great East Japan Earthquake. Director Hosono especially underlined the call for a more comprehensive approach to disaster risk management that involves not only national and local governments but local communities.

Professor [Yasuyuki Todo](#) from the University of Tokyo (JICA-RI Visiting Fellow), in his presentation based on Impact Evaluation of JICA’s projects, proposed a formulation of a system to keep JICA’s independence in evaluation in order to make precise impact appraisal.

The discussion at this seminar gave an invaluable guide for JICA in developing a more effective evaluation approach.

## Review

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Professor emeritus Konosuke Odaka of Hitotsubashi University and Professor Fumiharu Mieno of Kyoto University, both editors and authors among ten contributors of the book, introduce the comprehensive research results based on data that were gathered from 2000 to 2004 with the cooperation of JICA.

Haruyuki Shimada, one of the authors and advisor from JICA’s South Asia Department,

commented: “The situation in Myanmar has been rapidly changing. However, it is unlikely that the economy and social structure of Myanmar will make a drastic change in a few years. To understand the present and foresee the future, it is vital to observe Myanmar from a long-term view. So, the significance and value of this book never be detracted.”

\*Please visit [our website](#) for the detail of the book.

