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Hot Issue

Symposium with ASEAN-ISIS on Human Security

On November 1, just before the APEC summit, JICA-RI hosted a symposium with ASEAN-ISIS to present research findings of a project on the mainstreaming of human security within the ASEAN integration framework as well as discuss how the Southeast Asia region can benefit from ASEAN-APEC synergies.

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Human security in the forefront of the symposium discussions



Review

Seeking the Linkages between Ethnic Diversity and Economic Stability

JICA-RI and Kobe University are conducting a research project on the relationship between ethnic diversity and economic stability in Africa. Many new findings of this research project were presented at a recent workshop in Kenya.

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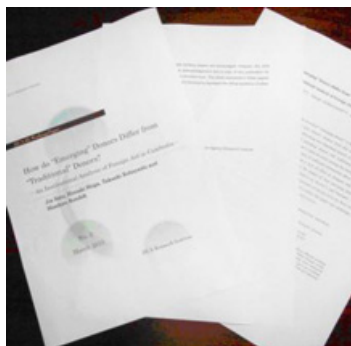


Review

Exploring Factors for the Scale-up of Small-scale Irrigation Systems with "Temporary Structures" in Malawi

Thanks in part to a JICA technical cooperation project, small-scale irrigation systems built from bamboo, stones or other local material have become prevalent throughout Malawi. To explore factors as to why the residents have accepted these systems, Atsushi Hanatani, Senior Research Fellow, spent two months on site conducting intensive interviews and surveys.

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Review

Working Paper on Emerging Donors Published

In recent years, emerging donor countries have attracted often unwarranted criticism from the traditional donor community for the unprecedented directions in their aid patterns. This working paper details the findings of a study which examines comparatively the factors that contribute to the aid pattern formation and transformation of the emerging donor countries of China, Korea, Thailand and India.

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Symposium with ASEAN-ISIS: Regional Integration of ASEAN with Human Security in Mind

Human security, the concept of security centering on the individual, is one pillar of Japan's ODA Charter and a mission which JICA has been working actively to mainstream in its activities. This commitment is embodied in a current JICA-RI [project](#) that attempts to promote a people-oriented integration of the ASEAN region and examines the cross-border issues arising from it.

The project, a collaboration between JICA-RI and the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies, seeks means to incorporate a human security architecture into the process of ASEAN integration through examination of critical cross-border threats (e.g., human trafficking, piracy, etc.) and provision of regional public goods from a human security perspective. Because the nature of cross-border threats is highly case-specific, each project researcher studies a particular topic, and the collective findings will then suggest to ASEAN member countries and Japan the desirable courses of action on a policy level.



Because the implications of ASEAN integration run parallel to those of APEC regional cooperation, the project team held a [symposium](#) at JICA-RI on November 1, prior to the APEC summit in Yokohama in which the key items of the symposium would be echoed. The half-daylong symposium allowed the project members to showcase to the international

audience their interim research findings and to bring to the forefront challenges in human security and regional cooperation.

The symposium, the second for the project with the [first](#) held in Tokyo in March 2009, consisted of opening speeches on “Human Security and APEC” followed by a panel discussion on “Opportunities for Mainstreaming Human Security in Southeast Asia.”

The participating researchers presented on topics ranging from maritime crimes, to pandemics and health security, to the challenges in definition and scope of the term “human security” in the case of ASEAN integration. In examining these problems, recurring themes that arose throughout the discussions were: What is the ideal framework for regional cooperation to cope with these threats? How should capacity be built for regional governance to promote regional cooperation? How can member states capitalize on the synergies between APEC and ASEAN?

In addressing these questions, the experts debated several ideas. Some suggested further involvement by more powerful, non-ASEAN countries in mainstreaming human security. Some participants insisted that robust, region-wide plans must also be compatible on national or local levels, and be customized to the needs of the country. Most speakers agreed that APEC's role must expand beyond the scope of economic cooperation to encompass other issues surrounding intraregional trade such as education and food security – areas in which much can be learned from ASEAN's experiences.

The results of the project will be disseminated to ASEAN member states. The team hopes to compile completed findings of the first two years into a book-length publication next year with plans for other future events.

Seeking the Linkages between Ethnic Diversity and Economic Stability

The violent clashes that erupted in Kenya following its 2007 elections were fueled by ethnic tensions, and only through international mediation could resolution be attained. Exploring ways to mitigate such ethnically-charged incidents is one objective of a JICA-RI and Kobe University collaborative research project and was also the topic of a recent workshop under this project.

The project “[Ethnic Diversity and Economic Instability in Africa: Policies for Harmonious Development](#)” seeks the linkages between ethnic diversity and economic instability and aims to identify policies that diminish the impact of ethnicity as a cause of instability.

On November 5 and 6, the project members, experts of various disciplines from institutions around the world, gathered for a workshop in Naivasha, Kenya, to review their interim research as it pertains to Kenya as a case study. The third of a four-part series, this workshop analyzed the dynamics between ethnicity and economy in Kenya to uncover how its ethnic diversity can be made a positive factor in its economic development and perhaps that of Africa as a whole. The [first workshop](#) served as a platform for developing theories and frameworks specifically involving *horizontal* and *vertical inequalities*, and the [second](#) applied these theories and frameworks to practical studies.

Although the experts debated a variety of occasionally conflicting arguments, they reached consensus on some points. They have found evidence that suggests ethnicities within Kenya are not inherently antagonistic to each other, debunking common conceptions that attribute incidences like the post-election violence to longstanding tribal rivalries. Rather, “underlying economic pressures” such as population explosion, scarcity of land and other inequalities exacerbate interethnic hostilities.

Another finding from an empirical study suggests that education (particularly for girls), long thought of as a potential key to stability, allows people to be more tolerant to politically-

motivated violence, suggesting its lack of correlation to ethnic trust or identity.

In conjunction with this research project, a socio-economic experiment has been completed recently by Kobe University with support from JICA-RI and its preliminary results were presented at the workshop. The experiment, based largely on General Equilibrium theory, simulates trade interactions within an economic system that involves various Kenyan ethnic groups as market players. Contrary to popular belief, the findings indicate that market interaction among ethnic groups leads to equilibria with more even distribution of goods, implying that certain characteristics of economic behavior among ethnic groups may contribute to greater stability.

If ethnic diversity truly has a negative impact on economic growth, then Africa has been suffering from a negative vicious cycle, points out Kohei Yoshida, a JICA-RI Research Associate involved in the project. He believes that, “...as a development agency, JICA needs to know the mechanisms of the vicious cycle to find ways to solve the problems. If one country fails to maintain security, it will of course worsen [everyone’s] standard of living.”



The researchers are seeking the positive influence of ethnic diversity.

The final workshop of this series will be held in Oxford, UK, in 2011 and will focus on policy implications. A list of currently available [working papers](#) from the project can be found on the JICA-RI website.

Exploring Factors for the Scale-up of Small-scale Irrigation Systems with “Temporary Structures” in Malawi

Atsushi Hanatani, JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow, spent two months (August to October of this year) in three Malawi villages to implement a full-scale survey for the research project “[Social Dimensions of Irrigation Management Systems in Africa](#)” and to conduct intensive interviews of the local residents.

This project aims to analyze cooperative behavior among local residents in regard to the use and management of irrigation facilities as common pool resources in African agricultural communities.

This field survey examined the conditions of use and management of small-scale irrigation systems which have become prevalent throughout Malawi. These irrigation systems – makeshift “temporary” intake facilities built from wood, bamboo, stones or other local material – have spread partly as a result of the JICA technical cooperation project “Development of Smallholder Irrigation Schemes Technical Cooperation Project” (2006-2009).

Hanatani’s project intends to explore the social and economic factors as to why the residents have accepted this technology, and assess its institutional sustainability.

Aside from the low cost and simple techniques involved, behind the widespread acceptance of this technology lies a certain degree of rationality in terms of access to and tenure conditions of land and water resources, and of the livelihood strategy of Malawian farmers, says Hanatani. In particular, the fact that these types of irrigation schemes are managed and operated by informal “clubs” in which farmers can join or leave anytime appears to have a high level of congruity with farmers’ preference for maintaining a diversified livelihood strategy.

In the future, Hanatani will compile the research findings into a working paper which is expected to provide insights useful for future irrigation development in Africa.

Working Paper on Emerging Donors Published

In recent years, emerging donors have been attracting attention worldwide due to the new directions of their aid strategies and the potential implications to the aid architecture established by traditional donors. With mounting calls for greater harmonization efforts among donors, some emerging donors seem to have pursued their own paths and as a result are often viewed in a negative light.

Undue representation of emerging donors in literature, ignorance of their diversity, and underrepresentation of recipient countries’ views have led Hiroaki Shiga, JICA-RI Research Officer, former JICA-RI Visiting Fellow Jin Sato, Takaaki Kobayashi (JICA) and Hisahiro Kondo (Tokyo International University) to produce two working papers to address this lack of information.

The [first paper](#) examines from the recipient country perspective the aid activities and performance of four emerging donors *vis-à-vis* the recipient country of Cambodia and found that these donors are appreciated by the Cambodian

government for their own distinctive features such as their expeditious financing of infrastructure.

Recently published, the [second paper](#) takes a historical and comparative analysis of four emerging donor countries to further understanding of their aid patterns and formulation, and to ascertain what factors account for the formation and transformation of these patterns.

Among the factors identified include: a need to maintain regional stability, deep-rooted political philosophy, donor identity within the international community, and external pressure from organizations like DAC.

These papers, says Shiga, are meant for practitioners of development assistance who want to build mutually-cooperative relationships between traditional and emerging donors. The papers are expected to be “...of special use for Japanese ODA policymakers and practitioners since Japan may be in a position to play mediator between traditional and emerging donors.”