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Climate Change and Direction of International Cooperation

Discussions of global warming tend to be focused on “mitigation” as to how to reduce greenhouse gases, while the issue of “adaptation” has attracted insufficient attention. New approaches to international cooperation for developing countries that are more vulnerable to the impacts of global warming were explored at a recent symposium.

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JICA-RI held the “Climate Change Adaptation and International Development” symposium.



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To provide an occasion to discuss the Responsibility to Protect concept in Asia, JICA-RI co-hosted a policy roundtable with experts in the field.

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Review

Cases of Development Finance Diversification in Asia Presented at the GDN Annual Conference

While most donor countries are struggling to recover from the financial crisis, how can the aid to developing countries be funded? This was the issue discussed at the annual conference of Global Development Network in Colombia.

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Review

Rediscovering Japan’s Assistance behind Brazil’s Transformation to an Agricultural Giant

The Cerrado region in mid-western Brazil was once called “the barren soil.” After only a quarter of a century since the start of its development, it was reborn as one of the largest agricultural lands in the world. And behind the success, praised as one of the greatest achievements in the 20th-century agricultural history, there were Japanese cooperation and Japanese immigrants’ contributions.

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Climate Change and Direction of International Cooperation

Climate Change Symposium Called for Further Promotion of “Adaptation Measures”

On February 1, 2011, JICA-RI, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, held a symposium titled “Climate Change Adaptation and International Development – Visions of International Cooperation Against Climate Change.” The purpose was to launch JICA-RI’s recent book “Climate Change Adaptation and International Development” edited by Ryo Fujikura (JICA-RI Visiting Fellow) and Masato Kawanishi (JICA’s Senior Advisor), as well as to share the findings of various studies on climate change and international cooperation. The event was attended by some 80 participants from development consulting firms, universities, NGOs, and other related organizations.

Adaptation Measures Should be Targeted at the Poor

Fujikura, as the first speaker of the symposium, stressed the “need to incorporate more elements of adaptation into aid programs for developing countries” while quoting major points from the book.

He said that “reduction of vulnerability” and “building the capacity to recover” are two key elements to effective adaptation. “Vulnerability” in this case refers to the susceptibility to the negative impacts of climate change, which varies depending on not only weather, geography, and other natural conditions but also economic, social, political, and a variety of other factors. “Capacity to recover” means the ability to bounce back from the state of crisis.

As part of contributions for effective adaptation measures, JICA-RI conducted a study on flood damage in Metro Manila, that is projected to expand in the future, by running simulations to figure out the extent of damage in cases with and without the ODA loan projects for disaster



Dr. Ryo Fujikura

prevention. As a result of this study, it became possible to quantitatively assess the effects of the projects to adapt to climate change.

Adaptation Responses Need to be Based on Fundamental Understanding of “Water Shortage”

Takeshi Takama, JICA Senior Advisor and one of the contributors of the book, gave a presentation on how to envisage effective adaptation measures by citing the example of Ga-Selala village in northern South Africa.

Over the past few years, Ga-Selala village has been experiencing lower-than-average precipitation and rainy seasons that were out of cycle. Although the villagers are aware of “water shortages,” they do not perceive the phenomenon as a “consequence of climate change.” Takama pointed out that this seemingly minor difference in perception actually represents serious potential problems. “When the villagers think that the ‘water shortages’ are a transient problem, they try to cope with it by adopting short-term solutions, such as reducing their food intake. This will increase their vulnerability and put them in a vicious cycle. Bringing them to the awareness that it is a long-term problem caused by ‘climate change’ may provide impetus for considering more fundamental approaches instead of temporary measures.”

The same thing can be said about policy makers. Building irrigation facilities to cope with water shortages would not be adaptive in essence, according to Takama. He concluded his presentation by stating, “It is important to recognize the fundamental nature of climate change. We need to build potential capacity by combining multidimensional solutions, such as developing community farms that can be adaptive in the long run, rather than resorting to short-term measures like reducing food intake.”

In addition to the above two speakers, Masashi Kusunoki (Director at Meteorological Research Institute), Kiyoshi Masumoto (Senior Advisor at Office for Climate Change, JICA), and Izumi Kubota (Senior Researcher at National Institute for Environmental Studies) made presentations respectively.

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A Symposium on the “Responsibility to Protect” Concept

Emergence of “Responsibility to Protect”

Since its foundation in 1945, the United Nations has been committed to maintaining international peace and security, and promoting human rights. However, after the international community confronted failures to react to horrendous atrocities in the past 20 years like the Rwandan civil war, a new discussion materialized to shift the emphasis of security policies from states to individual people. The newly-emerged norm is known as Responsibility to Protect (RtoP), which basically signifies that a state has a responsibility, and not a privilege, to protect its own people from the four types of atrocities; genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing; and crimes against humanity, while the international community also has a responsibility to assist the state, and protect its people when the state fails to fulfill its duty. First introduced in 2001, RtoP has stirred much controversy due to its sensitive nature, especially on the intervention by the international community to domestic issues. The debate is ongoing.

Meeting and Roundtable to Contemplate RtoP, ASEAN, and Asia

JICA-RI has been working with ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies for a [research on mainstreaming human security in ASEAN Integration](#), and on January 26, co-hosted a dissemination meeting and policy roundtable focusing on RtoP, in Tokyo. The event was co-organized with the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS) of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, where JICA-RI research collaborator Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony leads a study group. Over 50 experts, officials from international organizations such as UNHCR and governments, gathered to discuss how to think about RtoP in the region.

After opening with remarks by JICA-RI Director [Keiichi Tsunekawa](#) and Assoc. Prof. Caballero-

Anthony, and a keynote speech by former UN Assistant Secretary General Professor Ramesh Thakur, the meeting moved ahead to five sessions: 1: RtoP in Asia – Conceptual Issues and Challenges; 2: Operationalising the RtoP – Regional Mechanisms; 3: Country Perspectives on RtoP in Southeast Asia; 4: Country Perspectives on RtoP in Northeast Asia; and lastly 5: Ways Forward in Advancing the RtoP in Asia. Researchers from various Asian regions including Singapore, Indonesia, China and Japan presented their findings.



Assoc. Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony

Through the meeting, it has become apparent that, though the understanding of the norm is deepening, response from the Asian countries is varied, depending on their situations. The last session on diverse challenges that ASEAN faces in moving the discussion forward, revealed that the concept requires more time before gaining a mainstream position in the security policies of these countries. Assoc. Prof. Caballero-Anthony admits it's at a “baby stage,” but emphasizes its importance: “Whatever the cases may be, [with RtoP] states will have a potential to avert the conditions before they deteriorate. When you deal with these issues, you need a concerted global effort to address them.”

Cases of Development Finance Diversification in Asia Presented at the GDN Annual Conference

The 12th Annual Global Development Conference of the “Global Development Network (GDN),” an international organization of research institutes and universities involved in international cooperation, was held on January 13-15, 2011, in Bogotá, Colombia. This conference is organized annually with the aim to provide a platform to generate and share knowledge in the field of development. The main theme of this year’s conference was “Financing Development in a Post-crisis World: The Need for a Fresh Look.” About 400 people including Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, and researchers and aid officials from around the world were in attendance. As the secretariat of GDN-Japan (one of the GDN regional networks), Director **Keiichi Tsunekawa** and staffs from JICA-RI attended the conference.

To look into the main subject from various angles, six plenary sessions were held, covering such topics as “Financing Development in a Post-crisis World: The New Agenda” and “Financial Sector Development and Domestic Resource Mobilization.” A total of 18 parallel sessions were also organized, taking up themes including micro-credits and overseas workers’ remittances.

GDN-Japan and the East Asian Development Network (EADN) jointly held a parallel session on “Diversification of Development Finance in Asia.” It has become increasingly difficult for most donor countries, which are trying to recover from the financial crisis, to deliver sufficient aid to developing countries. As continuous aid is required for poverty reduction in the area, finding alternatives to fill the lack of fund is essential. By focusing on the trends of development aid in post-crisis Asian countries, this parallel session aimed to analyze and study the impact of such activities and explore possible policy recommendations for donor countries.

The President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), Dr. Josef T Yap, served as the chair, and the following three speakers presented their research findings: Dr. Kaoru Hayashi, GDN-Japan Adviser and Professor of Bunkyo University, Dr. Jin Sato, head

of JICA-RI’s research project “Impact of Non-DAC Donors in Asia: A Recipient’s Perspective” and Associate Professor of the University of Tokyo, and Dr. Guntur Sugiyarto, Senior Economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Dr. Hayashi’s presentation was titled “Post-crisis Trend in Development Assistance -Changing Landscape-.” By focusing on the gap between past records of net and gross disbursement of aid to Asian countries, he shared his analysis of ODA trends surrounding the post-crisis world.



Dr. Jin Sato presenting a case of Cambodia

Referring to JICA’s research project mentioned above, Dr. Sato introduced a case study of road rehabilitation projects in Cambodia and presented findings on the differences between emerging donors and traditional donors, with consideration on the standpoint of aid-recipient countries.

Dr. Sugiyarto’s presentation focused on the potential role of overseas workers’ remittances as complementary and alternative funds for development.

Meanwhile, Director Tsunekawa of JICA-RI served as the head of the selection committee and the presenter for the Global Development Award ceremony. This award, proposed and funded by the Japanese government, aims to discover and foster research proposals in the field of development as well as innovative development projects of NGOs. The GDN Secretariat and other distinguished representatives expressed appreciation for the Japanese government’s longtime support for this award.

Rediscovering Japan's Assistance behind Brazil's Transformation to an Agricultural Giant

Agricultural development of the “Cerrado” region began in the early 1970s, and it was subsequently turned into a national project by the Brazilian Government by 1975. Japan started providing technical cooperation from 1977, and helped progress the project through extensive financial cooperation from 1979. Soybean, corn, cotton, coffee and other crops were planted. And today, Cerrado has grown into a major agricultural region, yielding various produces, livestock and forest products.

With a mission to pass this epic history as a book, JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow [Akio Hosono](#) and JICA Visiting Senior Advisor Yutaka Hongo visited the capital city Brasilia, Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais State, and Japanese Brazilians' colonies for research from January 8 to 30, 2011. The two experts on South America interviewed a total of 40 people who were involved in the projects, including; Former Minister of Agriculture and the leader of the projects Alison Paulineli and other officials; Plinio Souza and scientists who succeeded in breeding soybean varieties for Cerrado; and farmers and business personnel.

Hongo says, “My biggest interests are to find out who made the first breakthrough possible and how, and in what way Japanese cooperation



Cerrado transformed into a vast soybean field
Photo: Yutaka Hongo

functioned.” Hosono reflects upon the research trip and says, “The role Japan played wasn't minor, especially in promoting technological innovations like the improvements of soil and breeds, and institutional innovations such as reclaiming land with a lead of cooperatives and securing large reserved lands for environmental considerations.”

With the gathered information, Hosono and Hongo are currently organizing the track of this historical accomplishment, and preparing to put it together as a publication.



The vegetation of Cerrado (tropical savanna)

Photo: Yutaka Hongo