

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Hot Issue

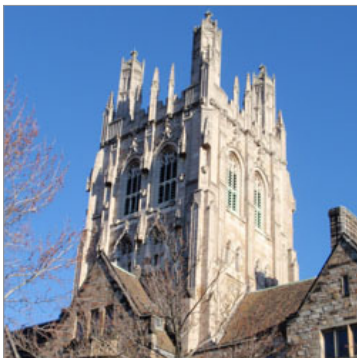
## Proposal for Exchange and Cooperation in Higher Education in East Asia

JICA-RI has published its premier policy brief. It is a proposal that leverages the results of the Institute's on-going project "Analysis of Cross-border Higher-Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia." The policy brief details the measures that JICA-RI recommends to be adopted by Japan in promoting international exchange and cooperation in higher-education within the East Asia region.

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JICA-RI releases a policy brief based on workshop discussions and a research project on cross-border higher education



### Reviews

## Yale University Symposium Seeks Factors of African Economic Instability

JICA-RI held a symposium on the causes of economic instability of Africa at Yale University on January 16 and 17. In the symposium, economists, psychologists, anthropologists, and other experts discussed issues in ethnicity - an important component of African identity - along with other possible causes of economic instability such as political instability, conflict, and natural resources.

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### Special

## East Asia Economic Integration Discussed at Global Development Network (GDN) Annual Conference

Representing the hub organization of GDN-Japan, JICA-RI members attended the GDN annual conference in Prague in January. A jointly-sponsored session with the East Asian Development Network (EADN) discussed how East Asian countries can benefit from intra-regional trade and financial cooperation.

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# Proposal for Cross-border Higher Education and International Cooperation in an East Asian Community

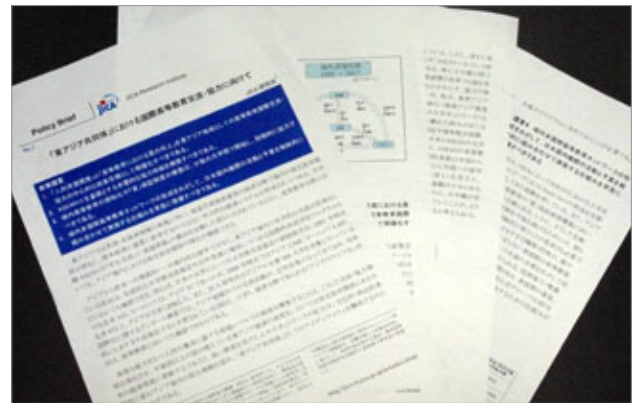
In early February, JICA-RI issued its premier policy brief. A policy brief is a concisely-stated proposal based on the findings of research studies. Entitled “Toward Cross-border Higher Education and International Cooperation in an East Asian Community,” the newly-issued policy brief articulates the significance that international exchange among higher-education institutions can have on the region’s integration. It also suggests some measures that relevant authorities and organizations in Japan may wish to consider in promoting such exchange.

JICA-RI Director Keiichi Tsunekawa says that he has been considering policy briefs as one of the means for disseminating research findings to the public since JICA-RI’s establishment in October 2008. This objective is to not simply state opinions, but to propose specific measures that leverage the findings of research projects to individuals, associations and agencies related to international cooperation. Tsunekawa stated that JICA-RI intends to make similar policy recommendations for different fields based on the progress of its research projects.

In discussing the role of international exchange in higher education, Kazuo Kuroda, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow and co-author of the brief, says that not only the promotion of mutual understanding but also the cooperation for the development of human capital within the region is of paramount importance for the formation of an East Asian community with a strong competitive edge.

To promote such exchange, some international framework is needed, believes Kuroda. In East Asia, however, where the state of higher education significantly differs from country to country, efforts to create a wholly-new framework while disregarding the existing

ones would prove futile. Kuroda emphasizes the importance of formulating a framework which, while encompassing various existing schemes and programs, would allow for multi-layered cooperation and exchange among the participating countries and institutions.



JICA-RI's recently-published policy brief

Furthermore, Takako Yuki, JICA-RI Research Fellow and co-author of the policy brief, says that, assuming that Japanese firms will continue expanding their businesses in the region, extending public support in developing highly competitive human capital in the region would not only benefit the countries of that region, but also serve Japan’s long term strategic objectives.

The promotion of East Asia regional integration is one of the important issues for Japan. It is hoped that this policy brief will serve to stimulate debate on this matter.

Both Kuroda and Yuki head the JICA-RI project “[Analysis of Cross-border Higher-Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia.](#)”

*The [policy brief](#) is available for viewing on the JICA-RI webpage. (Japanese only)*

## Yale University Symposium Seeks Factors of African Economic Instability

JICA-RI held a symposium in January at Yale University to study causes for economic instability in Africa focusing on ethnic diversity. The event is part of a research project coordinated by JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Takaaki Oiwa.

Experts in fields such as economics, psychology, political science and anthropology analyzed how ethnic diversity affects economic instability. The consensus was that through its impact on political processes and regimes, ethnic diversity can adversely influence economic growth.

One participant argued that this relationship can partially be explained through the concept of “horizontal inequality” – inequalities among

people who share a common identity like ethnicity or religion.

Other factors of economic instability discussed include political instability, conflict, natural resources and an African concept of “identity.” Land ownership issues in an African context were also linked. The discussions also sought means to bolster the economy by exploring possibilities for African regional integration and a currency union, among others.

In mid 2010, another symposium will be held in Kenya and will feature the country as a case study. The political and economic turmoil witnessed following its 2007 election will provide basis for the discussions.

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## Special

## JICA-RI Attends Conference on Regional and Global Integration

From January 16 to 18, the Global Development Network (GDN) Annual Conference was held in Prague, Czech Republic. As the hub organization representing the GDN-Japan network, JICA-RI's members including Deputy Director Hiroshi Kato attended the conference. “Regional and Global Integration: Quo Vadis?” was the main theme. The JICA-RI members participated in a parallel session on East Asia economic integration and a screening panel for a global development award granted by the Japanese government.

GDN was established in 1999 under a World Bank initiative, and in 2001 was incorporated as an NGO. Today it is operated as an international organization.

With the aim of international development knowledge creation and sharing, GDN connects world-wide research organizations by expanding its network.

During the conference, GDN-Japan and the East Asian Development Network jointly held a parallel session on East Asian cooperation for trade, infrastructure and finance. A Japanese global development award ceremony was also held to recognize high-performing researchers and organizations of developing countries in the field of international development. Kato presided over an award panel for NGO projects.

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