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Hot Issue

Papers Explore Relationship of Ethnic Diversity and Economic Stability in Africa

How ethnic diversity in Africa influences economic and political stability is the focus of a JICA-RI research project. Through this project, JICA-RI has recently produced four working papers on such topics as polarized societies, market economy instability, individual versus collective values in consensus-building, and quantifying ethnicity.

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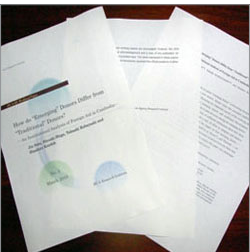
Hiroyuki Hino (left) and Takaaki Oiwa (right) lead a project on Africa



Reviews

Mounting Interest in Cross-border Higher Education Research

A JICA-RI research team led by Visiting Fellow Kuroda and Research Fellow Yuki attended the annual meeting of the Comparative & International Education Society held in Chicago. Kuroda, who presented his research on East Asia cross-border higher education, felt the high interest in the subject from the myriad of comments and questions he encountered. [READ MORE](#)



Reviews

JICA-RI's Fiscal Year 2009 Working Papers

JICA-RI has recently published its research results in 14 working papers. [READ MORE](#)



Reviews

Research Results on Adaptation Measures to be Published for COP16

To coincide with the COP16 to be held this autumn, Visiting Fellow Fujikura and his team are preparing for a book compiling their research results. The research analyzes climate change in Asian and African developing countries and seeks appropriate adaptation measures. [READ MORE](#)



Reviews

Analysis of Emerging Asian Donors from a Recipient Country's Perspective

Visiting Fellow and project leader Jin Sato has co-authored a working paper on the analysis of development assistance of so-called "emerging" donors, namely China, South Korea, Thailand and India. This project studies the aid of these emerging donors from the recipient country's perspective. [READ MORE](#)

Four JICA-RI Papers Explore Ethnic Diversity and Economic Stability

Four working papers, each focusing on different aspects of African ethnic diversity and economic instability, have recently been published by JICA-RI. These papers are outputs of a project led by JICA-RI Special Fellow Hiroyuki Hino.



JICA-RI Special Fellow Hiroyuki Hino

This joint project with Kobe University, “[Ethnic Diversity and Economic Instability in Africa](#),” involves the collaborative effort of over 30 political scientists, anthropologists, historians, psychologists and economists from around the world to research the relationship between ethnicity and economy. The working papers were produced through individual research and symposia discussions held at [Kobe University](#) and [Yale University](#).

Consensus from the symposia discussions affirms ethnic diversity as a determinant for economic development, believes Hino. “Diversity is undermining African economies by contributing to growth reduction over time, and through its impact on political stability,” states Hino. “Understanding how diversity is negatively interlinked with economy and its channels of impact may lead to creation of policy and institutions that transform diversity influence into a positive one.”

At this time, five experts have published their research through JICA-RI:



[Gustav Ranis](#), Professor Emeritus of Yale University, details the behavior of polarized societies toward public goods provision, specifies how pre-existing conditions such as population density and resource abundance adversely affect development, and mentions potential remedies to such conditions.



Professor [Anjan Mukherji](#) of Jawaharlal Nehru University takes the profound question of why the market economy is unstable and concisely condenses his economics-based argument into readily-understandable terms.



Also from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Professor [Satish Jain](#) elaborates on the interaction between the preferences and values of individuals versus those of society, and how that interaction affects consensus building, which in turn impacts equality within a market economy.



Professor [Graham Brown](#) (left) of the University of Bath and co-author, [Arnim Langer](#) of the University of Oxford, discuss the increasing need for capturing ethnicity as an empirical variable in science, the accompanying limitations to measuring it and ways to address such obstacles.

“The end product of this research, we hope, will be practical recommendations to government and public institutions in policy making,” says Hino, “not only to mitigate the potentially negative impact on interactions of ethnicities, but to transform those interactions into a positive force in economic development.”

More papers will be published on the [JICA-RI webpage](#) in the near future.

Mounting Interest in Cross-border Higher Education Research

Visiting Fellow Kazuo Kuroda, Research Fellow Takako Yuki and their research team are studying the social and economic effects of East Asia area cross-border higher education (CBHE). Recently Kuroda, Yuki and team attended the annual meeting of the Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) in Chicago to present on the ongoing progress of their project, “[Analysis of Higher Education Exchange and Labor Market Integration in East Asia](#).” The team also visited the World Bank in Washington, DC.

At the CIES annual meeting from March 1 to 5, the team presented an outline of their field survey of on-going CBHE programs in 300 principal Asian universities and introduced a Japan-Malaysia international joint degree program. In addition, they reported on the results of an analysis on the external effects of CBHE programs on the employment situation from a case on Malaysia.



Visiting Fellow Kuroda presents at CIES in Chicago

There were many questions and comments from the audience, and the team was approached for possible participation at other international conferences and academic journal article submission. Kuroda says that, other than from case studies, there is very little verified data available on the internationalization of higher education. In that sense, he could truly feel the high expectations of peers and the strong interest in their research, he says.

At the CIES meeting, there were many presentations on higher education, reflecting strong international interest in the field. Kuroda says that the definition of internationalization of higher education, the difficulties of indices that measure it, and the thinness of theoretical foundation were discussed among other things. The team’s research should be able to contribute to these types of issues, Kuroda says.

After the CIES meeting, Yuki visited the World Bank to exchange information and views with related parties. Discussions on CBHE programs being still limited within the World Bank, they expressed strong interest in the expected results of the team’s research.

Through this same research project, the team published a policy brief entitled, “[Toward Cross-border Higher Education and International Cooperation in an East Asian Community](#)” in February of this year. The team is now continuing its study on international exchange of higher education in the East Asia region, and conducting empirical studies on its effects.

JICA-RI's Fiscal Year 2009 Working Papers

JICA-RI's activities up to fiscal year 2009 have resulted in the publication of 14 working papers. Here is a brief overview of the publications.

Collaboration with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue

JICA-RI has been collaborating with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), founded by Joseph Stiglitz. A working paper on Rwanda's precarious land tenure draws on the presentations and discussions made at the IPD Africa Taskforce meeting held in South Africa in July 2009. ([Working paper No.1](#))

“Emerging” Donors and their Impact

JICA-RI is studying the changing face of the international development world through the impact of new, “emerging” donor nations in this project. A paper has been produced comparing the characteristics and practices of emerging and traditional donor nations of Asia from the recipient's perspective. ([No.2](#))

Infrastructure Development

JICA-RI's research on infrastructure development has led to two working papers on topics such as social capital formation, credit markets, and how access to infrastructure like irrigation contributes to poverty reduction, based on a case from a JICA infrastructure project in Sri Lanka aimed at alleviating poverty. ([No.3](#), [No.4](#))

State-building

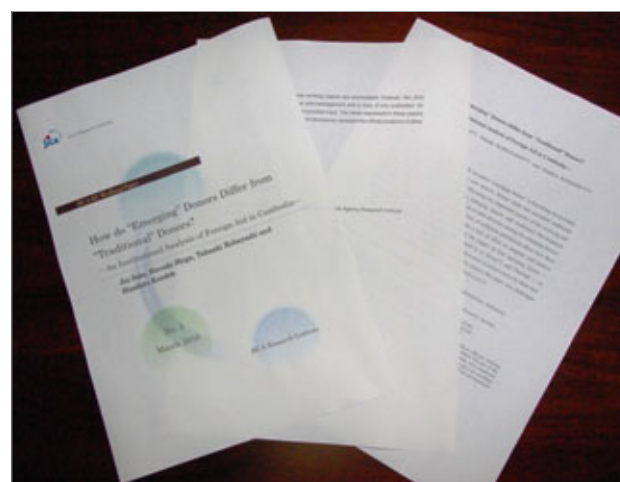
JICA-RI and JICA staff from other departments have jointly produced a working paper on state-building in various countries in “fragile” situations. Part of the paper has been contributed as a background paper for the World Bank's World Development Report 2011. ([No.5](#))

Ethnic Diversity & Economic Instability

This JICA-RI collaborative research project involving over 30 researchers worldwide has thus far produced 4 papers on the relationship between ethnic diversity and political-economic instability in Africa. Among the themes are democracy, integration, measuring ethnicity, conflicts and more. ([No.6](#), [No.7](#), [No.8](#), [No.9](#))

Growth & Poverty Reduction in Indonesia

JICA-RI's extensive research on growth and poverty reduction in Indonesian farming communities has resulted in 5 working papers. Topics include: the impact of spatial connectivity on income growth, human capital and mobility, environmental factors and child growth, climate change, and decentralization. ([No.10](#), [No.11](#), [No.12](#), [No.13](#), [No.14](#))



All papers are currently available on the [JICA-RI website](#) with new ones to be added as projects continue.

Research Results on Adaptation Measures to be Published for COP16

JICA-RI Visiting Fellow and project leader Ryo Fujikura is preparing to publish a book on the results of his team's research project "[Adaptation to Climate Change in Developing Countries](#)." The findings of the book will also be shared at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16), to be held in Mexico in November of this year.

This project analyzes the present condition and future prospects of climate in African and Asian developing countries and from this, attempts to produce measures for adaptation and for development.

Fujikura says that the book summarizes adaptation measures and issues on various levels from international organizations to community. Such

measures are based on the discussions of an interim workshop for the research project held last year in England. Fujikura believes that the book provides valuable information for policy makers and practitioners from both developing and developed countries.

Japan is committed to proactively tackling climate change issues, and the book represents a part of Japan's intellectual contribution to this end. JICA-RI will present the book at a COP 16 side event.

In addition to this project, Fujikura is planning a study with both Japanese and overseas experts and researchers on mitigation schemes for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries beginning fiscal year 2010.

Analysis of Emerging Asian Donors from a Recipient Country's Perspective

Among aid recipient countries, there are those that have been transformed into donor countries themselves and are now providing assistance to less developed countries. These countries are known as "emerging donors" and, in recent years, their aid activities have been gaining the attention of the international community. However, the reality behind these activities is not readily apparent.

With such recognition, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow Jin Sato is leading the research project "[Impact of Non-DAC Donors in Asia: a Recipient's Perspective](#)." He and his team have recently published a [working paper](#) analyzing the aid activities of emerging donors in Asia with which Japan has strong ties — China, Korea, Thailand and India.

Some critics argue that emerging donors prioritize their own interests, and less attention is paid to issues like poverty alleviation or environmental conservation of the recipient countries. Sato argues, however, that Japan's aid also received such criticism in the past, and that emerging donors will most likely change for the better as did Japan. Aid recipients value some aspects of emerging donor aid, such as the speed of aid delivery or the granting of broader discretionary authority to recipient countries, more highly than those of traditional (existing) donors, emphasizes Sato.

Sato stresses that, in considering Japan's aid and aid harmonization among donors, it is important to review the role of aid from the recipient perspective, and that more effort should be spent on creating a platform for deeper discussion between traditional and emerging donors.