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Shifting the Security Paradigm: A Focus on People

Jun Honna, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow and researcher for a joint project with JICA-RI and ASEAN's Institute of Strategic and International Studies, discusses why a shift in paradigm is necessary regarding security and expresses the importance of *human security* within the framework of ASEAN regional integration.

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Small children, too, can be trafficking victims Photo: Yuji Shinoda



Reviews

Increasing Importance of Capacity Development Research

To improve the effectiveness of development assistance, JICA-RI is conducting research on capacity development. JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Akio Hosono and his research team stress the importance of individual, organizational and societal capacity development aligned with specific conditions of developing countries.

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Reviews

A Policy Recommendation for Africa's Private Sector Development

JICA-RI, together with the World Bank and the African Economic Research Consortium, has produced a policy brief detailing recommendations for increasing competitiveness within Africa's private sector. This policy brief was introduced at a recent seminar in Nairobi. Having attended the seminar, Research Fellow Megumi Muto shares her perspective.

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Shifting the Security Paradigm: A Focus on People

“One of JICA’s missions is to mainstream the concept of ‘human security’ in developing countries,” says Jun Honna, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow, on his current research project. “It is in this context that we are eager to share the conceptual framework and implementation strategy for *human securitization* of development assistance in Southeast Asia.”

Human security breaks down the conventional, national-level concept of security and reconstructs it for individuals. It addresses similar problems such as terrorism, disease outbreaks and poverty, but centers on individuals rather than states, thereby tackling problems from global to local scales. Japan has already adopted human security as a basic principle in its Official Development Assistance Charter and actively promotes the concept.



JICA-RI’s Jun Honna calls for a paradigm shift in security

Human security has already become a global norm, says Honna. Even though human security has been normalized on the international level, on the regional level there still exist gaps in institutions in implementing human security policy. For this reason, Honna is leading a research project in collaboration with ASEAN’s Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) to create a regional architecture to combat cross-border threats to human security and determine the best means of implementation on a policy level.

The JICA-ASEAN collaboration consists of researchers from institutes and universities across Southeast Asia, all studying different aspects of human security and cross-border threats.

Honna, himself, has completed a study of maritime crimes and is now beginning work on human trafficking. He says that “...the current approach to trafficking is not sufficient to protect the security of the people because now there is a global tendency that [views] the problem of trafficking as a *national* security matter.” He pointed out that the 9-11 terrorist attack in particular provided momentum for many states to see the illicit flow of people as a security problem. This perspective, he argues, leads to empowering the security sector (e.g., police) which in turn tends to abuse power – often victims are criminalized rather than protected. “A different perspective may lead to a different approach.”

Honna’s perspective is that human security should dictate the approach to human trafficking. This change in paradigm, he believes, would increase civic awareness, and authorities would be more sensitive of trafficking issues. “There are so many causes of insecurity which cannot be handled through a national security perspective. This is a golden opportunity for us to cooperate with ASEAN and mainstream a new, people-centered paradigm.”

On April 17, the JICA-RI and ASEAN research teams held a workshop in Manila to update on progress and decide new avenues of research – the objective being how to incorporate a human security architecture into the process of regional integration. The results of the project will be disseminated to all ASEAN member governments. By early 2011, the team hopes to compile completed findings into JICA-RI working papers with talks of book-length publications and future events.

Increasing Importance of Capacity Development Research

Since last year, JICA-RI has been preparing a research project on the analysis of capacity development for further inclusive and dynamic development through a systematic and analytical approach. As a result, the research project entitled “[Revisiting the Capacity Development Approach through Comparative Case Analysis](#)” was launched in April of this year. For the project, capacity development is defined as an endogenous and holistic process of strengthening capacity to deal with issues on the individual, organizational and community levels.

The research team consists of JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Akio Hosono as project leader, Research Associate Shunichiro Honda as coordinator, and other experts from various fields. During the course of the project, the team is also expected to contribute the interim research results to the ongoing joint research initiative on aid effectiveness conducted by JICA, the Korean International Cooperation Agency and The Brookings Institution of the US.

Recently, capacity development has been increasingly recognized as a critical issue in the aid effectiveness agenda. In the Accra Agenda for Action adopted at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2008, capacity development was strongly emphasized along with aid harmonization and alignment.

However, so far, capacity development research has been mostly limited to donor case studies lacking in more rigorous analysis. Hosono points out that, following the Millennium Development Goals, capacity development has been gaining attention as a critical issue of discussion. He and his team hope to contribute to international



JICA-RI's Akio Hosono (left) with Shunichiro Honda (right)

discussion with an academic and systematic approach to analysis.

The team has already begun research activities on selected cases which include: “The School-for-All Project” in Niger, effective provision and maintenance by the Local Government Engineering Department in Bangladesh, and a rural community development initiative in South Sulawesi, Indonesia – all of which, with JICA's contribution, have been able to enhance the capacity of improved public service delivery.

On the focus of the study, Hosono says that analysis will be made on not only the public sector organs, but also on the capacity changes of public service recipients in the context of decentralization and civic engagements.

Also, Honda says that one of the goals is to develop an analytical framework as well as to synthesize lessons for use by aid practitioners in applying more systematic process analysis on selected cases of capacity development assistance. The team hopes to disseminate such findings in the future.

A Policy Recommendation for Africa's Private Sector Development

"Africa is growing," commented JICA-RI Research Fellow Megumi Muto, "It is no longer as fragile as has previously been seen - growth is at center stage." The question that arises now is how African economies can achieve shared growth.

Answers may lie in a policy brief recently drafted by JICA-RI, the World Bank, the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development. The brief details findings and policy recommendations to increase competitiveness and opportunities in Africa's private sector.

These findings were discussed at a [seminar](#) hosted by JICA-RI, AERC, and the World Bank, and attended by JICA-RI Director Keiichi Tsunekawa and Muto on May 7 in Nairobi. Its purpose was to uncover strategies and lessons – particularly those from East Asia's developmental successes – for Africa's enterprise development.

According to the policy brief, the current dynamics within Africa's private sector — comprised of the majority micro-small enterprises and the minority large scale enterprises — are characterized by the imbalances within their performances. In her contribution, Muto described why micro-small businesses organize into industrial "clusters," or agglomerations of related businesses grouping together. Clusters may also present means of expanding market size by linking micro and small-sized enterprises to bigger enterprises with national or regional markets. She also described cluster growth constraints such as lack of space, innovation and investment, and illustrated the low-level "survival" conditions in which micro-small Tanzanian enterprises operate.

Muto's team is also exploring the effects of managerial business training for cluster enterprises. Their findings suggest that by learning basic accounting, production management and other business practices, small business owners can "graduate" from the



Promoting regional integration – Muto on lessons from East Asia

survival level to a more competitive one. Muto's team plans to publish their research separately as JICA-RI working papers later this year.

Other seminar contributors pointed out disconnects between foreign enterprises and the domestic market which deprive both sides of synergies and mutual benefits. Zoning policies such as special economic zones were also mentioned in the context of creating export-led growth, linkages and technological upgrading.

At the Nairobi event, Muto participated in a policy roundtable discussion along with ministerial members of African government and private sector representatives on benchmarking competitiveness and identifying private sector constraints. Muto pointed out the need to align soft and hard factors like law and infrastructure, and stressed the role of regional integration.

In his opening remarks at the seminar, JICA-RI Director Tsunekawa mentioned how JICA's past assistance in the Asia region complemented the needs of that market. By studying African enterprises, he believes JICA can better identify areas where improvement is most needed. Muto echoed this notion in saying, "[JICA-RI] forming an alliance with the World Bank and providing a shared policy framework for donors and partner countries...harmonizes approaches toward enterprise development in Africa. This lends support to JICA's own operations in Africa."

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