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Defining Institution- Building in Asia

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Director Tsunekawa (right) and panelists

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What's the status of Malawian water utilities
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Senior Research Fellow Atsushi Hanatani travels to the
field to find out

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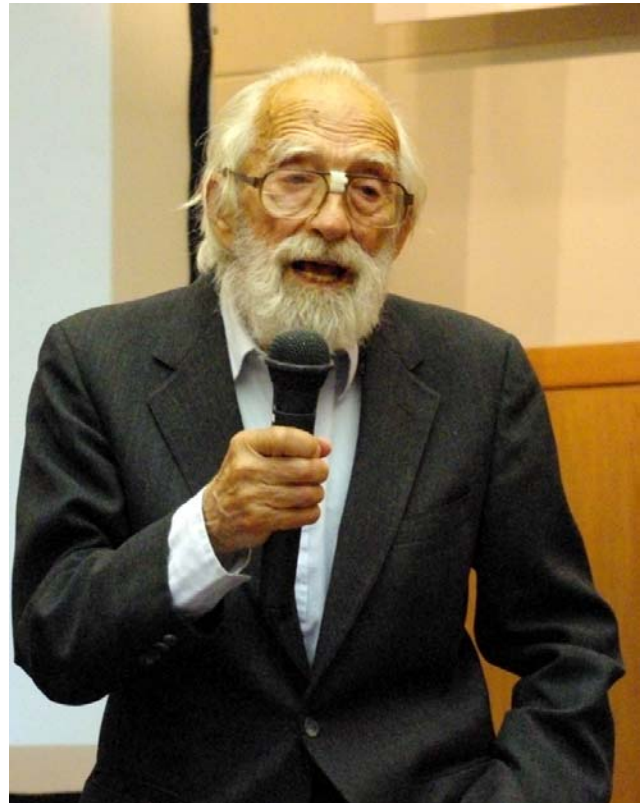
Institution Building in Asia for Peace and Development

JICA-RI, together with the [Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry \(RIETI\)](#) and the Asian Peace Science Network (APSN), held a two-day conference, entitled “International Conference on Institution Building in Asia for Peace and Development,” at JICA-RI on August 28-29 to discuss regional integration in Asia. The event featured over 40 international experts of diverse backgrounds in academia, policy-making, and practice to discuss the political, economic, and security-related issues of Asian regional integration.

The symposium on the first day included lectures from experts and leaders in the field and a panel discussion, all of which explored from various disciplines the importance of regional institutions in Asia.

JICA-RI Director Keiichi Tsunekawa gave a welcome remark and participated as a panel discussion moderator in which Naoki Umemiya, JICA Human Development Department Basic Education Group Assistant Director, made a presentation.

The second day was a marathon of six private discussion panels that examined specific aspects of regional integration including: trade, finance, law, technology, environment, governance, and security.



Walter Isard, Cornell University Professor Emeritus

JICA-RI Director Keiichi Tsunekawa delivered a speech alongside Walter Isard of APSN and Masahisa Fujita of RIETI. JICA-RI Deputy Director Hiroshi Kato also participated as a discussion moderator. JICA Senior Advisor Naoshi Sato, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow Yasuyuki Sawada, and Jin Sato, also Visiting Fellow, all presented in the discussion panels. [READ MORE](#)



Dir. Tsunekawa (left) with RIETI Pres. Fujita (right)

Possibilities of Increasing Rice Production in Africa

As a representative for JICA-RI's research project, entitled "An Empirical Analysis of Expanding Rice Production in Sub-Sahara Africa," Professor Keijiro Otsuka of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (FASID/GRIPS) traveled to Senegal, one of the project's target countries, from July 18-26 to evaluate the current situation of rice production.

In line with the [Coalition for African Rice Development](#) (CARD) Initiative's objective to double African rice production within 10 years, the study, which will take place in five Sub-Saharan pilot testing nations (Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Uganda), will assess the current condition of lowland rice production and the current financial well-being of individual farmers' households. This study is specifically designed to analyze CARD Initiative's contributions to the enhancement of rice production and poverty reduction by collecting the data from the same households over extended periods.



An African irrigational project

In the irrigated rice paddies within the Senegal River basin area, large-scale machinery is used in the rice production system. Paddy yield per hectare is as high as five to six tons—a quantity surpassing average irrigated rice yield in tropical Asia. However, due to the shortage as well as the breakdowns and mechanical failures of riding tractors, the planting date has often been delayed. Therefore, Prof. Otsuka points out that lower-priced, small machinery like hand tractors can be more effective. In addition, he stressed the training of agricultural specialists to disseminate more efficient farming practices to enhance rice productivity.

Professor Otsuka, regarding the possibility of Green Revolution in Africa, mentions, "I am convinced that rice is the most promising crop and can become a model for other crops. The production techniques and rice varieties of Asia can be easily transferred to Africa." He also added, "Nerica ("New Rice for Africa," upland rice) was initially the most conspicuous contributor. However lowland rice grown in bunded fields is far more sustainable and has much larger yield potential. Therefore we must put more effort into developing this lowland rice sector in the future."

Based on the findings and results of this preliminary study, formal farm household surveys will be conducted in Senegal to assess the potential of and constraints on rice production and the extent of poverty. In addition, the surveys will also try to grasp the role of group ("union") collaborative efforts which attempt to manage community irrigation systems and secure farm machinery services and chemical fertilizer.

Hanatani Investigates Malawi Irrigation Systems & Management

From mid-June to early July this year, JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Atsushi Hanatani traveled to Malawi to carry out the preliminary study phase of the research project entitled, "Social Dimensions of Irrigation Management Systems in Africa."

For African agricultural development, irrigation is one of the important policies for the improvement of agricultural productivity. Japan has been actively supporting irrigational agricultural development projects in several African countries. However, it is evident that there are certain differences in effective and sustainable management of African irrigation projects compared to those of Asian ones. The objectives of this study are to identify variables that contribute to sustainable use and management of irrigation facilities and water resources in several African countries including Malawi by analyzing institutions and the existing social values, norms and practices in those societies. The findings gathered during this study are expected to serve as the basis for future aid strategy for Africa.

Malawi, a land-locked country, is blessed with ample rainfall. Over 400,000 hectares of land has the potential to be effectively irrigated. Therefore, the Japanese government and JICA have been planning and developing various irrigational and technical cooperation projects. The purpose of the preliminary study in Malawi was to determine issues both at the official level and field level management, understand the structure and conditions of farmers' livelihood and how it relates to land tenure, and gain an understanding of the conditions behind water utilities organizations that govern usage.

In recent years, irrigated fields and water have come into focus as a new resource in Malawi. Hanatani has surmised that traditional clan leaders still have significant influence in both power and authority over land distribution and water supply provision up and downstream of rivers throughout the country. Undue influence by traditional clan leaders greatly affects the sustainability of irrigation associations for better or for worse and, ultimately, the water use of the country.

Because the local residents tend not to voice their real opinions, Hanatani expects to gain more trust from the local farmers during his next trip, and hopes to determine in what circumstances local people would actually get involved in the management process and other activities for equitable water distribution.

Hanatani intends to return to Malawi during the dry season in May of next year to launch a full-scale three-month study phase.



Hanatani in a Malawi village