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The post-conflict repatriation of Rwandan refugees is the topic of JICA-RI’s recently-published working paper. JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow and author, Shinichi Takeuchi, discusses the political ramifications of repatriation, a precarious land tenure system and what it means for the Rwandan government in this feature interview.

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Rwandans and their land—a contentious issue



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Fresh, preliminary field data provides insights on the micro-level impacts of the current financial crisis in Indonesia.

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Mika Ueyama, JICA-RI Research Fellow, discusses how a family planning handbook initiative is changing the quality of health and the face of society in Indonesia and Palestine.

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### Reviews

#### Enhancing Labor Markets and Promoting Regional Integration through Higher Education

Kazuo Kuroda and Takako Yuki are studying the impacts of cross-border higher education programs on the labor market of the ASEAN+5 region.

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## Working Paper on “Conflict and Land Tenure in Rwanda” Published

JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Shinichi Takeuchi has recently published a working paper entitled “**Conflict and Land Tenure in Rwanda.**” The paper focuses on the issues of post-conflict repatriation of refugees in Rwanda. We interviewed Takeuchi about his thoughts on the background of Rwanda, its current situation, and how this issue may evolve in the future. Below are excerpts of his comments.

Up until the mid-1980s, the international community had been trying to resettle displaced refugees in asylum countries through various means, such as granting plots of land. However, many problems started to emerge, including cases where refugees were politically used in those same countries. That is why the policies that enabled repatriation of refugees to their countries of origin became mainstream ones. Land tenure issues of the returned refugees, therefore, were among the policies that came under close watch.

In the case of Rwanda, Tutsi refugees had been fleeing the country since around 1962, when Hutu-led independence was realized. In 1994, the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) seized government control and subsequently, Tutsi refugees returned to the country in droves.

The RPF regime implemented a radical policy that divided the land owned by Hutus for use by the returning Tutsi refugees. This law has not appeared to create friction between both parties. However, some people, mainly the Hutu majority, are dissatisfied with the land tenure policies under the minority Tutsi regime. In other words, should the current government be destabilized, contention with land tenure could potentially surface. From this perspective, it is a precarious situation when the equilibrium in land ownership continues to rely heavily on the stability of the government.



Shinichi Takeuchi, Senior Research Fellow

To ensure stability in land ownership, government must be regarded as legitimate by its citizens in the long term. For this to happen, it is imperative that the ruling party not only encourages public participation in politics, but also addresses the issue of power sharing.

The inherent message conveyed in this working paper is “To not repeat the mistakes of the past, proper governance is necessary.” Beyond land tenure issues, I would like to continue my research, together with my Rwandan co-writer and researcher, Jean Marara (Institut de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, Rwanda) and other colleagues, focusing on the people’s life and the evolution of society in Rwanda.

**Related to this project, Takeuchi has recently published a book entitled *The Post-Colonial Patrimonial State and Conflict in Africa: Understanding the Genocide in Rwanda* (Akashi Shoten Co., Ltd. 2009). This book was nominated for the **31st Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities**, sponsored by the Suntory Foundation, and won in the **Politics & Economics** category on November 6.**

## Monitoring the Impacts of the Financial Crisis in Indonesia

For many, the global financial crisis came as a surprise last year. Near the onset, while the world was still unsure of what it was up against, the international community was seeking indicators to follow such as trends in remittances or migrant movement, commented JICA-RI Research Fellow Megumi Muto. During this time, her research project, entitled “Empirical Study of Growth and Poverty Reduction in Indonesian Farms: the Role of Space, Infrastructure, Human Capital and the Impact of the Financial Crisis,” was initiated in response to the need to monitor the depth of the crisis on a household level, particularly in Asia.

Muto presented her preliminary findings in two different sessions at the ASEAN+3 conference, entitled “Impact of the Global Economic Slowdown on Poverty and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” in Hanoi, Vietnam from September 28 to 30, 2009. The conference, sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the governments of Vietnam and China, and also jointly-sponsored by JICA, focused on micro-level impacts of the crisis.

In her first presentation, “How Education and Experience Impact Job Opportunities of Migrant Workers,” Muto’s preliminary findings suggest that education level, work experience, job status, age and location are all factors that affect whether a migrant worker will continue working or lose his or her job and return to a rural area, or whether new workers will decide to migrate at all.

In the second presentation entitled “Urban-Rural Transmission Mechanisms in Indonesia in the Context of the Crisis,” Muto examines the change in the composition of rural household income, including the transfer of remittances from urban migrants to relatives in the countryside. Both losses and gains in total household income were found, with the trend of supplemental, self-employment activities as a driving factor for the increases. Those dependent on agricultural income experienced either losses or gains depending on the crop produced.



Megumi Muto, Research Fellow

Because her research is still in the early stages, Muto plans to return to the field to adjust the surveys to address more industry-specific details of Indonesian migration in order to provide a more complete picture of the effects of the crisis on various segments of the population and economy.



## The Passport of Life: The Impact Analysis of Maternal and Child Health Care Handbooks



Mika Ueyama, Research Fellow

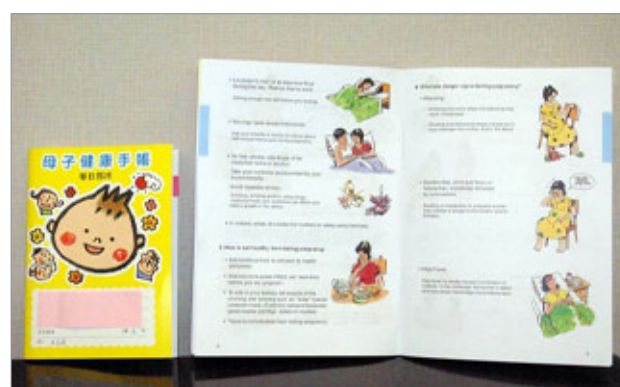
One of JICA-RI's studies analyzes the impact of projects in Indonesia and Palestine centering on the diffusion of "Maternal and Child Health Handbooks." The projects are intended to improve the quality of basic health services specifically for mothers and children. We interviewed Mika Ueyama, JICA-RI Research Fellow and principal investigator of the study.

Similar handbooks contributed significantly to the improvement of maternal and child health during Japan's post-war era. The diffusion of the handbooks to developing countries has drawn international attention as a means to reduce infant mortality rates and improve maternal health as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets. However, up till now, the effectiveness of such a project has not been systematically quantified. Aware of the importance of proving effectiveness from a more academic standpoint, the study was commenced using a micro-econometric approach.

In Indonesia, the handbooks have been introduced since 1998 and, in 2008 over 4 million out of a total 5 million pregnant women were in possession of a handbook. At present, the handbooks also serve as official medical

documents. Before the introduction of the handbooks, mothers typically kept separate records of only their prenatal periods or early nursing periods. The handbooks contain means to record both periods, and, when compared to before its introduction, it was found that the mothers' knowledge and behavior improved significantly with the handbooks.

In Palestine, where the maternal and infant mortality rates are alarmingly high, the handbook program has taken on national importance and is aptly dubbed "The Passport of Life." It has been confirmed that, through the handbooks, expectant mothers are able to communicate more effectively with their clinicians resulting in more thorough and comprehensive examinations.



A Japanese (L) and Indonesian (R) handbook

Ueyama is also analyzing how mothers' changing perceptions are improving maternal and child health services. Having observed increases in dialogue between parents that keep the handbook, Ueyama also expects household values and traditional gender roles in child rearing to change as a secondary project outcome. In this sense, the handbook is a tool that can change society itself by changing the paradigm of maternal and child health.

## Examining Cross-Border Higher Education Programs: Enhancing Labor Capacity, Promoting Regional Integration

Kazuo Kuroda, JICA-RI Visiting Research Fellow, and partner Takako Yuki, JICA-RI Research Fellow, are analyzing the effects of various higher education programs on the labor market in Asia. For this purpose, they are studying the evolving governance mechanisms of the region's various "cross-border higher education (CBHE)" programs. Their ultimate goal in the research is to assess the effectiveness of these CBHE programs in developing the capacity of the Asian region's higher education systems and eventually, to extract policy implications toward its further enhancement.



Takako Yuki (L) and Kazuo Kuroda (R)

The research started with the assessment of the status of various evolving CBHE programs within the ASEAN+5 region. From an extensive survey covering 300 universities, the team has found that there are two main types of programs, which can be categorized as "conventional" and "newer." "Conventional" programs are those that simply allow the movement of students, like usual study-abroad programs, while "newer" programs, like virtual universities, allow the

students to have enhanced accessibility to various institutions and programs across the region. Recognizing that "newer" programs have become more available in recent years in the region, Kuroda and Yuki are analyzing whether there is any salient difference in the graduates' performance in the labor market between the conventional and newer programs.

Malaysia provides an ideal case for this purpose because the country has both conventional and newer programs; the government has been supporting the conventional programs to which "newer" programs have been added on in the last decade. For both types of programs, the team will compare graduates' employability, upward mobility, and the likelihood of "brain-drain." The main method of research is through tracking down the graduates of the programs in the last decade, and conducting detailed surveys and interviews on them. The team believes that obtaining individual-level data in the field, however challenging, is an absolute necessity for the research to have an added-value given the scarcity of empirical data on CBHE programs in Asia.

While it will take half a year to complete the survey and analyze the data, the team has already begun to prepare a background paper based on the data currently available from various Malaysian and Japanese sources. The paper is intended to be an input to the ongoing preparation and assessment of the Malaysian Government's next five-year plan. The team also intends to prepare a policy brief for decision makers in Japan and in Asia.