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JICA-RI Visiting Fellow Yasuyuki Sawada tells of a study that analyzes the impacts of JICA projects. Having recently visited Burkina Faso for the study, he explains his intent to conduct research in a way that proactively disseminates field knowledge as public goods.

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Children of Burkina Faso

Photo: Kenshiro Imamura (JICA)



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JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Presents on Diversity and Complementarity of Development Aid

Senior Research Fellow Mitsuki Furukawa attended a seminar in Paris, France, where he emphasized the importance of “thinking together with a hands-on approach” – a collaborative approach which draws on countries’ development experiences.

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Reviews

JICA Hosts Symposium on Future of State-building in Asia

“Challenges of State-building in Asia: Global Responsibility in Development Cooperation of Japan and Germany” was the topic of this symposium. Attendees from around the world discussed human security and state-building, among other topics.

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“The School for All Project” – An Impact Analysis in Burkina Faso

In late October 2009, JICA-RI Visiting Fellow Yasuyuki Sawada traveled to Burkina Faso, West Africa, in preparation for a research project on the JICA-conducted “The School for All Project.” This research incorporates micro-econometric methods to strictly verify the effectiveness of JICA projects, and is a part of the broader research titled “Application of Improved Impact Analysis Methods to JICA Operations,” of which Sawada serves as head.

This research project is primarily concerned with measuring and ascertaining the effectiveness of the “School Management Committee” development model, also known as “Comité de gestion des établissements scolaires” (COGES). COGES is a concept that forms organizations of parents and community members to get involved in school management, and is an effort to improve management and education quality while, at the same time, fostering trust between schools and the local community, specifically parents. The committee consists of the school principal and representatives for teachers, parents, and mothers’ organizations.

With JICA’s support, this development model, which caught the attention of the World Bank and other organizations, was first piloted in Niger, West Africa. Now COGES is being introduced throughout the whole country. Encouraged by this experience, the program is now being employed in Burkina Faso as well from 2009, under the name “The School for All Project,” again with support from JICA.

With cooperation from the project team, Sawada’s goal is to bring to light any difficult points in management or effectiveness of the model by collecting and analyzing multidimensional data as the project advances. Specifically, he intends to examine and compare the situation before and after COGES



Visiting Fellow Sawada (L) at a Burkina Faso school

is implemented; i.e., how the behavior of teachers, parents and children have or have not changed, and how/whether students’ abilities have improved or not.

This research will involve systematic data collection and analysis by using a cutting edge analysis method known as “randomized program evaluation technique” to analyze policy impacts. To do so, the baseline investigation has already begun. This involves selecting first to sixth grade students, their parents, school principals and teachers from approximately 280 schools.

To measure the community trust level, Sawada plans to conduct an experimental economics technique called “The Public Goods Experiment” next year.

“Simply assessing things for the sake of assessment is not enough—my goal is to conduct forward-looking research in a way that contributes to improving future projects, and proactively disseminate the knowledge gained through field experience with JICA projects as international public goods,” said Sawada, “This type of research and project collaboration were impossible in the past, but thanks to JICA-RI’s establishment, now we can do it.”

JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Presents on Diversity and Complementarity of Development Aid

On October 19, the French Agency of Development (Agence Française de Développement (AFD)) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH) hosted the “Seminar on Diversity and Complementarity of Development Partnerships” in Paris, France.

This seminar was a continuation of the discussions of the “Accra High-level Forum” held in Ghana in September 2009. In the Accra forum, delegates first decided to open discussions on the international division of labor among donors concerning development aid. JICA-RI Senior Research Fellow Mitsuaki Furukawa attended the Paris seminar to speak about his views on the present state of development aid complementarity and diversity in the world and its future direction.



Mitsuaki Furukawa, Senior Research Fellow

Furukawa said that, up till now, the comparative advantages of donor nations are not being employed enough, and that the diversity and complementarity of aid activities are being impeded. Furukawa emphasized that, going forward, not only is a “framework approach” which drives the administrative and financial reform of developing countries’ governments important, but also a collaborative approach which capitalizes on both donor and recipient

countries’ experience. Furukawa calls this mindset “Thinking together with a hands-on approach.” In doing so, more priority will shift to upholding ownership of developing countries and optimizing the characteristics of the local systems with which each recipient country is endowed.

Reviews

JICA Hosts Symposium on Future of State-building in Asia

A symposium, entitled “Challenges of State-building in Asia: Global Responsibility in Development Cooperation of Japan and Germany,” was held at JICA-RI on November 7. The event was co-organized by JICA, the Japanese-German Center Berlin and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

JICA President Sadako Ogata, in her opening speech, highlighted the close linkage between the human security concept and state-building. JICA-RI Director Keiichi Tsunekawa presented his views on the factors that may contribute to successful state-building, based on his observations of East Asian experiences.

Discussions by participants of various backgrounds covered a wide range of subjects, from experiences of state-building in Cambodia and Indonesia, to the daunting tasks of the government and the international community for state-building in Afghanistan.

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