

Human Security in East Asia

An Evolving Series of JICA Projects

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Overview of 3 Phases

- Comprehensive assessment of theory and practice of human security in East Asia (ASEAN Plus Three)
- Two phases from 2013 to 2019, and an additional phase since 2019
- Nearly 50 scholars based in East Asia
- Combination of document research, stakeholder interviews, and fieldwork
- Theory-oriented Phase 1 (by country)
- Practice-oriented Phase 2 (by issue)
- Phase 3: Empowerment beyond COVID-19

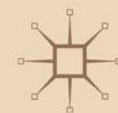
Phase 1 Book



HUMAN SECURITY NORMS IN EAST ASIA

EDITED BY
Yoichi Mine, Oscar A. Gómez, and Ako Muto

SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN EAST ASIA



Research Questions of Phase 1

To examine how human security has been accepted, criticized and transformed in East Asia

1. What are general perceptions of threats to human security in East Asia?
 2. To what extent has the idea of human security taken root in East Asia?
 3. How do East Asians understand the concept of human security?
- Surveys in 11 countries



Fig. 1.1 Countries where case studies were conducted (Japan, China, South Korea, and several ASEAN countries: Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Myanmar)

What are the major threats?

- Climate change, typhoons and cyclones, floods, volcano eruptions, earthquakes, tsunami, infectious diseases, food crises, lack of basic health and education, environmental pollution, urbanization, extreme poverty, unemployment, migration, human trafficking, violent conflicts, military conflicts, religious intolerance, crime, etc.
- The comprehensive UN definition of human security accepted in East Asia: No confusion with R2P

Is the idea taking root?

- Slowly
- Elements of human security taking root (freedoms from fear and want, dignity, protection and empowerment)
- Human security can be “a jigsaw puzzle, in which the pieces are identified, but have not been put together” (Vietnam)
- An extra push needed

How is the idea understood?

- State security expected to contribute to human security
- “Government as a ‘necessary evil’ is very much a Western invention ... One revealing example is the use of the term ‘parent officials’ (fumu guan) to refer to government officials, and people expect them to play a paternalistic role.” (China)
- Civil society as a counterbalance? Different emphasis

Phase 2 Book



HUMAN SECURITY AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EAST ASIA



EDITED BY

Carolina G. Hernandez, Eun Mee Kim, Yoichi Mine, and Ren Xiao

SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN EAST ASIA



Research Questions of Phase 2

In Human Security practice in East Asia, several challenges have emerged:

1. How should we cross national borders in emergency?
2. How should we coordinate protection activities?
3. How should we empower people?

We need to answer these questions in promoting human security practice regionwide

Classification of Threats

The Earth (the physical system)

2008 Sichuan Earthquake, China

Great East Japan Earthquake

Conflict and Tsunami in the Aceh, Indonesia

Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar

Typhoon Haiyan in the Phiippines

Life (the living system)

China in the Fight Against the Ebola Crisis

Humans (the social system)

Land Grabbing Crisis in Cambodia

Conflict in Mindanao, the Philippines

South Korea's Refugee Policies

Trafficking of Fishermen in Southeast Asia

Findings of Phase 2

1. International assistance is accepted only when mutual trust has been consolidated in peacetime.
2. Horizontal coordination between stakeholders is important, but vertical communication to listen to grassroots voices also matters.
3. Practitioners should pay attention to the sequence: speedy protection and the resurgence of empowerment.

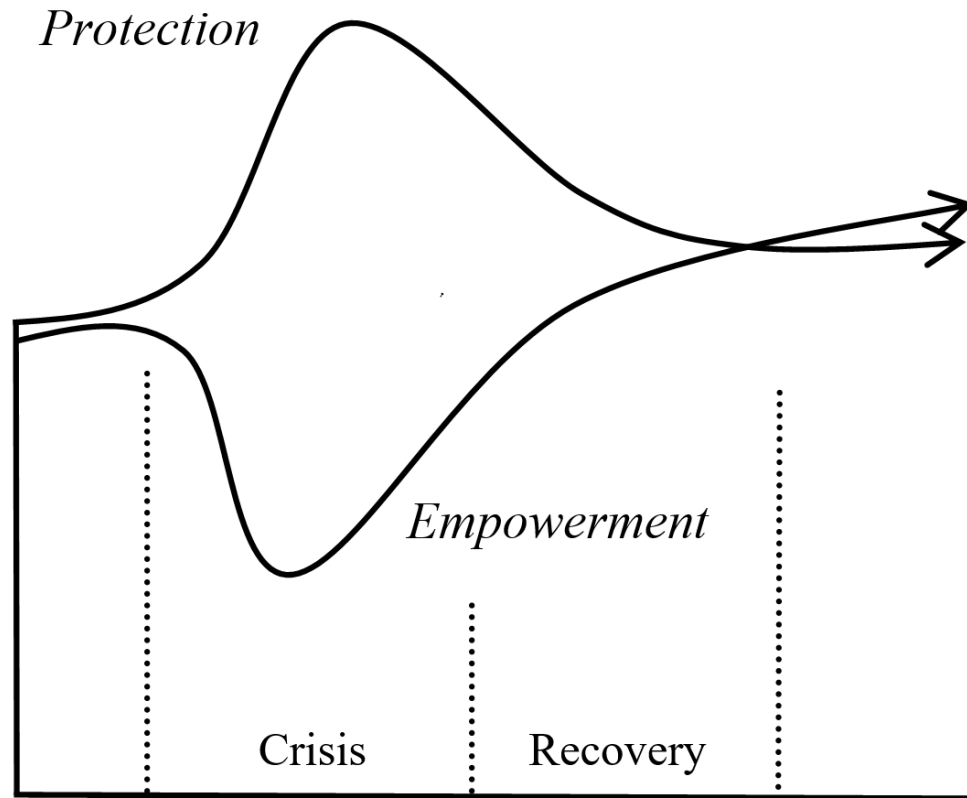


Figure 1.3 Resilient Recovery

Source: Adapted from Hernandez et al. (2019: 280)

- Then, the outbreak of COVID-19
- Salience of protection in the practice to cope with the pandemic
- Elements of empowerment should be carefully incorporated in the protection strategy

Phase 3
Book,
The Latest
Contribution!



POLITICS IN ASIA

HUMAN SECURITY AND EMPOWERMENT IN ASIA

BEYOND THE PANDEMIC



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ROUTLEDGE