

JICA-RI Director participates in a book launch event for the new Brookings-JICA RI research collaboration on “Leave No One Behind”



On October 18, 2019, the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution, together with the JICA Research Institute and the UN Foundation hosted a book launch for the publication: “Leave No One Behind: Time for Specifics on the Sustainable Development Goals.” The event brought together a wide range of speakers to discuss how stakeholders can work together to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular, ensure that UN Member States fulfill their pledge to “leave no one behind.”

Distinguished participants included Izumi Ohno, Director of the JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI); Homi Kharas, Interim Vice President and Director of the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution; John McArthur, Senior Fellow of the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution; Kathy Calvin, President and CEO of the UN Foundation; H.E. Ibrahima Guimba-Saidou, Minister and Special Advisor to the President of Niger; and H.E. Juan Ariel Jimenez, the Minister of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic.



*Panelists speaking about the Leave No One Behind agenda
JICA-RI Director, Izumi Ohno (far right)*

Following John McArthur’s overview of the new publication, Izumi Ohno, as one of the opening speakers of the event, explained that this new publication is the fifth research collaboration conducted by JICA-RI and the Brookings Institution on analyzing concrete actions the international development community can take to spur global development. In particular, Ohno expressed that this new publication is a joint intellectual and policy effort aimed at urging the international community to take much more specific actions for specific populations that will then enable them to address the unique problems that communities that are being left behind face toward achieving the SDGs. In explaining the context for this research collaboration, Ohno added that it is not only important to move beyond conversations about the SDGs to their actual implementation, but also make greater efforts to break down aggregated country-focused data to truly target those who have been left most behind.

Throughout her remarks, the JICA-RI Director also emphasized JICA and the Government of Japan’s commitment to achieving the “leave no one behind” pledge, demonstrated by the 2019 G-20 Osaka Summit Leaders’ Declaration that referenced development issues and the “leave no one behind” commitment. Additionally, she spoke about Japan’s continued efforts to promote the SDGs at its Tokyo International Conference of Africa’s Development (TICAD) 7 in August, and the UN SDGs Summit in September.

Director Ohno also touched upon JICA’s vision toward contributing to the SDGs, stating JICA’s dual mission of realizing “human security” and “quality growth” to contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. She also stated that by making use of Japan’s own experiences in socio-economic development and international development cooperation, JICA will

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play a pivotal role in achieving 10 of the SDGs through utilizing Japanese own knowledge, introducing innovations and effectively collaborating with local and international partners.



JICA-RI Director, Izumi Ohno, presenting on Japan's ongoing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

With the publication of the most recent research collaboration, Ohno also reflected on the lessons she learned through her engagement with the Brookings Institution. Here, she expressed her desire to see Japan further progress on working with a wider array of partners in a more innovative matter, including more partnerships with cities and the private sector.

In the panel session, moderated by Homi Kharas, the UN Foundation President, Kathy Calvin, called the next 10 years the “Decade of Delivery”, stating that this will only be possible if countries better identify where, and

who, they need to help. In order to achieve this, Calvin explained we must ensure data remains updated and disaggregated to a level where it can accurately identify left-behind communities. Additionally, she added that civil society organizations and independent media must hold governments accountable to its promise by reminding them to do more when they fall short of expectations.

For his part, H.E. Juan Ariel Jimenez stated that the international community must not only think about how to achieve the SDGs, but also look more critically at the types of policies that truly accelerate its implementation. In order to create effective policies, Minister Jimenez underscored that countries must be willing to revamp their policy-making processes to bring more people to the decision-making table. In particular, he highlighted the need to put those left behind at the center of the policy-making process by listening and learning about what they need to find solutions that really matter.

Following Minister Jimenez's comments, H.E. Ibrahim Guimba-Saidou, added the importance of leveraging technology to spur development progress via a citizen-centric approach that provides service delivery for all citizens. In speaking to this point, Minister Guimba-Saidou expressed that countries must find a way to bring all stakeholders together, including international development partners and the private sector, to enable every community to benefit from access to services.

As Japan looks ahead at hosting more global events in the years ahead, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and the World Expo in 2025, JICA remains determined to advancing collaborations with our partners to ensure we can all work together to accelerate our universal efforts to accomplish the promise to leave no one behind.

JICA would like to thank the Brookings Institution for organizing this wonderful event and for the nearly 10-year long partnership with our organization. We are very grateful for this invaluable friendship.

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To read more about the “Leave No One Behind” publication, please click on the following link:

https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/publication/booksandreports/201910_01.html

To watch the recorded video of the book launch event, please refer to the link below:

<https://www.brookings.edu/events/leave-no-one-behind-time-for-specifics-on-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

Please also view the following link to read the video blog published by the Brookings Institution:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/10/25/people-places-and-problems-time-for-specifics-on-the-sustainable-development-goals/>