# Asia Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program (AAKCP) Rural Community Development Sub-Program (RCDS)

Proceedings of Final Seminar

June 2006

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

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### **Foreword**

In March 2005, JICA launched Asia Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program (AAKCP), in order to provide the forum where Asian and African countries share each other's experiences and knowledge in development. Under AAKCP as an umbrella program, sub-programs are implemented in several sectors which are of high priorities in African development, and each sub-program consists of three seminars and implementation of Policy Research Project (PRP). First of all, Rural Community Development Sub-program (RCDS) has been implemented from March 2005 until August 2006, and it has successfully facilitated 6 Asian and African PRP teams to come up with practical outputs in rural community development, while deepening the networks between Asia and Africa.

The Final Seminar was held at Africa Institute for Capacity Development in Kenya in June 2006, for participating organizations, mainly, to share the results and processes of six PRPs. This report records the presentations and discussions in the Final Seminar. We believe that this report will be of good use for further promoting Asia-Africa cooperation, since its contents include several lessons for that purpose.

Finally, we would like to congratulate 6 Asian and African PRP teams for their successful implementation of PRPs, and fruitful results from the entire process of AAKCP RCDS. We hope that the results from this sub-program will lead to further tangible outcomes of rural community development in African countries in the future.

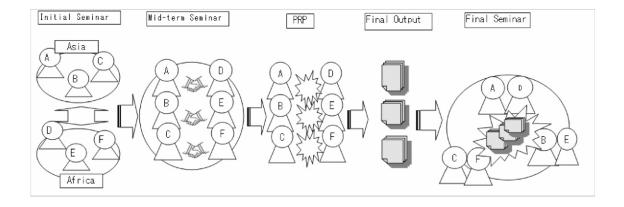
November 2006

Kimiaki YAMAGUCHI Director General Tokyo International Centre, JICA

## **Background of AAKCP RCDS Final Seminar**

Based on the importance of Asia-Africa cooperation reaffirmed at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) III meeting held in September 2003, the Government of Japan made a commitment to further promote South-South cooperation, through the TICAD process. Responding to high potential of sharing experiences and knowledge between Asian and African countries in several sectors including rural community development, found at the "Asia Africa Partnership Workshop" jointly held by JICA and Africa Institute for Capacity Development in November 2004, JICA decided to launch Asia Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program (AAKCP).

AAKCP aims to provide the forum where Asian and African countries share each other's experiences and knowledge in several areas of development including rural community development, and thereby to facilitate each country to create its own method of development which suits best to its contexts. At the same time, AAKCP is expected to function as a mechanism in which new projects/programs in Asia-Africa co-operations are formulated through its process. It has sub-programs according to several sectors, and each sub-program has three seminars and implementation of Policy Research Project, the process of which is summarized in the chart below. First of all, Rural Community Development Sub-program (RCDS) has been implemented from March 2005 until August 2006, and it has successfully facilitated 6 Asian and African Policy Research Project (PRP) teams to come up with practical outputs in rural community development, while deepening the networks between Asia and Africa.



The Final Seminar was held at Africa Institute for Capacity Development in Kenya in June 2006, for six Asian and African partner organizations to share the results and processes of six PRPs and discuss the future plans of utilizing PRP outputs. The Seminar was a fruitful opportunity for them to deepen learning from implementation of PRPs through the discussions and presentations, and to sophisticate understandings of concrete shapes of knowledge co-creation.

The Seminar consisted of three day sessions. In Day 1, at the Group Session, the participants analyzed PRP implementation process, referring to activities, outputs, knowledge co-creation, difficulties and lessons learned in implementation of PRP, and at the Country Session, they reviewed and revised the presentation slides based on the previous session. In Day 2 and Day 3, six PRP teams had the presentations on each PRP and they had Group Session 2 and 3. At Group Session 2, the focus-group discussion was conducted for JICA to get the feed-backs from the participants on the following points: outputs and results from this sub-program, possibility of future cooperation, comments regarding partners, and so on. At Group Session 3, participants discussed the concrete shapes of knowledge co-creation based on the experiences of implementing PRPs. Finally, the wrap-up session was held with comments from six PRP teams and Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency, and the Japanese academic panel.