

Summary of Day 2

Welcome Address

Mr. Yoshiaki Kano

**Resident Representative
JICA Kenya**

When Japan joined Colombo Plan and began providing technical assistance to other Asian countries in 1954, it was still rebuilding the nation in the wake of World War II. Based on this experience, Japan recognizes the importance of south-south co-operation on capacity development. In fact Japan's Medium Term Policy on ODA released in February 2005, also refers to south-south cooperation.

In the present global context, HRD plays an important role in planning and implementation of rural development programmes in the developing countries. Often, it has been realized that shortage of skilled manpower constrains developing countries to implement their development programmes effectively. No country can realize its full economic potential without fully harnessing the human resources. Therefore, HRD is one of the major contributors in accelerating economic growth.

With prospect for further development as a follow up to TICAD III, this program is intended to formulate plans of each country's future development programs by considering appropriate measures through discussions jointly with participants.

The main outcome from this seminar should therefore be suggestions on modalities for demand-driven approaches towards promoting and effectively realizing Asia-Africa cooperation.

Thank you.

Opening Speech

Hon. Peter Kyalo Kaindi, M.P.

**Speech by Assistant Minister for Agriculture
Republic of Kenya**

Representatives of the Japanese Government,
Representatives of the International Development Organisations
The Core persons from Asian Countries,
Representatives from the African Countries,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great please to be with you for the opening of this very important seminar. I am informed that this occasion forms a platform for representatives from various countries to present findings from policy research that has been going on for the last one year. I therefore consider it a great honour for my country to host this important function. I wish to convey our Government's gratitude to the organizers for this consideration.

Even though this final seminar on Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-creation Programme, Rural Community sub-programme (AAKCP) has been running for the last two days, I none the less take this opportunity to welcome all the participants from outside Kenya. I am told there are some of you who attended the Asia-Africa Partnership workshop held here in November 2004 to translate the commitments made by leaders at the Tokyo International Conferences on African Development (TICAD). It is my hope that whether you are visiting for the first or second time you will take the opportunity to sample the Kenyan hospitality during your stay, more especially during the field trip.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is gratifying that the Government of Japan, having recognized the inadequacies of donor collaboration in responding sufficiently to the needs of Africa, initiated through JICA the first Asia-Africa Partnership Workshop (AAPW) in November 2004 at this same institution. It is further gratifying to acknowledge that the workshop was fruitful as it offered an opportunity for both the Asian and African countries to learn and exchange their development experiences.

It also enabled you to discuss and consider concrete ways of Asia-Africa co-operation, based on the "demand-driven approach" to respond more effectively to

the needs and issues of high priority in Africa. Some of you who participated in the earlier workshop reaffirmed the importance of co-operation in knowledge sharing and facilitation of new operations through projects between Asia and Africa. I also note that all the six countries that are to present their PRPs here today collaborated with Thailand. It is indicative of the strengths that South-South Cooperation can achieve.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The South-South collaboration is of importance, as it has been realized that there are plenty of opportunities for both the Asian and African countries to learn and exchange their development experiences. I have learnt that through the Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-creation Programme process, you have been able to develop methods that are suited to your countries circumstances. Let us learn from each other. Japan's experience in having achieved high economic growth over the past 20-30 years can be explained largely by its own process of adapting foreign elements and selectively applying them to Japanese local circumstances. The same can be applicable to our diverse economic circumstances.

During your deliberations, I hope you will be able to suggest some recommendations on the way forward to alleviate the problems that have consistently constrained development in our countries.

With these few remarks ladies and gentlemen, let me declare the Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-Creation (AAKCP), Rural Community Development Sub-Program (RCDS) Final Seminar officially opened.

Thank you

Welcome Address

Prof. A. B. Gidamis

Executive Director

AICAD, Kenya

The Chief Guest, Hon. Kipruto Arap Kirwa(*), Minister for Agriculture, Kenya,
Mr. Yoshiaki Kano, Resident Representative, JICA Kenya Office,
Prof. Kouichi Sakamoto, Toyo University, Japan,
AICAD Chief Advisor, Mr. Inagaki,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen.

() (At the time the Welcome Address was made, the Assistant Minister, Hon. Peter Kyalo Kaindi had not yet arrived for the occasion. The Address was therefore read with the original Chief Guest, Hon. Kipruto Arap Kirwa in place)*

I am delighted to welcome you all to AICAD and to this occasion of the opening of the seminar on Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-creation on Rural Community Development programme. On behalf of AICAD I wish to express our deep appreciation to you all, for having found time to come to AICAD and participate in this important seminar despite your very busy schedule. We extend our special welcome to the participants who have travelled all the way from distant places from other parts of Africa and Asia. It is my sincere hope that you will find the seminar arrangements and our modest facilities to your satisfaction.

As most of you are coming to AICAD for the first time let me say some few words about AICAD.

AICAD was established in year 2000 primarily with the main objective of fighting poverty in African region through human resource development. The idea to establish AICAD originated from the TICAD Process in 1998. Following this TICAD Process, AICAD was established on the basis of ownership and partnership among the four Governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Japan through JICA. The three Governments of East African Countries support the AICAD Secretariat whereas the Government of Japan supports the main activities that are carried out through the three AICAD functional divisions; Research and Development, Information Network and Documentation and Training and Extension.

The membership to AICAD is now limited to the East African Countries, but will be expanded to other African countries in near future.

AICAD supports collaborative activities through South-South cooperation specifically through Asia-Africa cooperation. AICAD aims at achieving poverty reduction in African communities through human capacity development and socio-economic development. In order to realize this, AICAD finds it necessary to support and participate fully in forums such as this seminar for the promotion of Asia-Africa Cooperation, where our stakeholders can meet, share and exchange technical information on socio-economic development.

AICAD recognizes the importance of knowledge co-creation in bringing about poverty reduction and improving the quality of life. AICAD has participated in the earlier initiatives on knowledge creation by dispatching two delegations to Thailand, hosting the first seminar in the year 2004 and by participating in the seminar held in Thailand last year. This is a clear testimony of AICAD's commitment in support for Asia-Africa knowledge co-creation programme.

In this regard, AICAD feels honoured and privileged to have been given this opportunity to host the Asia-Africa knowledge co-creation seminar once again. AICAD will strive to provide a favourable environment that will avail the participants, the opportunity to share and exchange experiences with each other.

Let me conclude my remarks at this stage by thanking our supporters, the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Japan through JICA, for their continued support to AICAD for it to realize its mission. I also thank all those who have worked diligently to ensure the success of this seminar by making it a practical reality and finally to each one of you for availing time from your busy schedules to attend this important seminar. I wish you all very fruitful discussions.

Thank you for listening.

Opening Remarks

**Prof. Kouichi Sakamoto,
Toyo University,
Japan**

Representatives from various governments from African countries,
Representatives from Thailand,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to warmly welcome you to this historic Final Seminar of Rural community Development sub-Program (RCDS) under Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program (AAKCP). On behalf of the academic panel of this sub-program, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome all the participants to this seminar. We extend our special welcome to the participants who travelled all the way from Thailand and other African countries.

I am highly delighted to see so many of you are here today. The seminar brings together about 50 participants from six African countries of Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and two Asian countries of Thailand and Japan.

We are now at Final Seminar of AAKCP RCDS, which started in March 2005. The primary objective of this program is to provide the space where Asian and African knowledge and experiences would be shared, and thereby to facilitate each participating country's indigenous contexts. For that purpose, the approach of Asia-Africa co-operation is considered as effective because it is a very good example of south-south "horizontal" relations in the south-south co-operation rather than traditional "vertical" relations in the North-South cooperation and it utilizes Asian rich experiences in incorporating external knowledge into its own context.

Reflecting back on the one and a half year process of AAKCP RCDS, we have conducted four major activities. The initial seminar held in Thailand and Japan in March and April 2005 for sharing experiences and knowledge in the area of Rural Community Development, Mid-term seminar held at Thailand in July 2005 for matching partner organizations, Policy Research Projects implemented from November 2005 to May 2006 by partner organisations based on African participating organisations' action plans, and this Final Seminar. One of the highlights of these activities should be your study visits to Thailand and the visits to Africa. The whole

process of AAKCP RCDS is characterised by its endogenous features in the sense that project formulation and implementation has been conducted by participating organisations with their ownerships, which has seemingly contributed to pushing forward knowledge co-creation process between the two parties.

During these four days of Final Seminar, we are going to analyse and share the process and outputs of 6 PRPs which you have implemented for half a year with your partner. I hope this seminar will be beneficial for participating organisations to learn from each other's experiences, and to deepen the networks and friendship between Asia and Africa. Now, beyond the recognition that exchange of knowledge and experiences between Asia and Africa is important, we are coming to the stage where problems should be addressed concretely with Asia-Africa cooperation approach.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Thailand, which has cooperated for this program since its initial stage, the Government of Kenya, those of Uganda and Tanzania for giving us this opportunity to hold this seminar here in AICAD. My special thanks also go to Professor Gidamis and AICAD itself for giving us a comfortable stay on its premises. We should not forget to thank JICA and its consultants for their very significant contribution.

Thank you very much.

Reviewing General Information of AAKCP RCDS

Outline of Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-creation Program (AAKCP) and its Rural Community Development Sub-Program (RCD)

Ms. Sachiko Imoto
Programme Officer
JICA Tokyo International Centre
Japan

Program Concept

The AAKCP RCD is a unique program which has been ongoing for the last 18 months which focuses on the concept of knowledge co-creation – new knowledge garnered by both participants in the program and out of which comes a fresh approach to problem solving. This is different from the traditional technology transfer approach as it does not rely on the adoption of a technology or idea which can be contextually inappropriate.

Knowledge in Development

There are three resources necessary for development to occur. These are: physical and financial resources, the human manpower and skill and the knowledge necessary to make the technology or idea succeed. Knowledge for develop also targets three different levels; these are the societal level which takes the form of laws, regulations on a national level and policies. The next tier is the organisation level which involves procedures, manuals or guidelines targeted at a smaller audience, and the final tier of knowledge for development is the individual level which is knowledge pertinent specifically to an individual – some inherent, some inherited but most tacit and most difficult to transfer.

New Approach to Knowledge Creation

In order for transferable knowledge to be of use to more than one party, it must be “contextualised”. The process of knowledge creation a continual evolving process and development relies on the capacity to accumulate appropriate contextual solutions for solving problems at the individual, organisational and societal level. An example of this occurred in Japan’s development after the Second World War and is

encapsulated in the Japanese expression “Wakon Yosai” which means “western knowledge with a Japanese spirit”. Japan was able to rebuild its economy using some western ideas but modifying them sufficiently to suit the Japanese context.

This new approach for knowledge creation relies heavily on the use of external knowledge modified to suit a local context. In the past, the traditional transfer of knowledge approach has failed owing in part to the fact that external agents tend to create knowledge based on their own experiences sometimes providing solutions that are unsuitable for another context, and the indigenous society is often passively discouraged from pursuing locally appropriate solutions.

The basic concepts for knowledge creation are outlined below.

Basic concepts of Knowledge Creation

- Endogenous rather than exogenous
Knowledge should be created by those who need it based on their direct experiences, i.e. “Local Knowledge”.
- Improvement rather than replacement
External knowledge should be used as a catalyst for improvement.



From transfer to Co-Creation

Objectives

The objectives of the program are,

- ❖ to provide the forum for African and Asian experiences to be shared
- ❖ to facilitate each participating organisation to create its own knowledge for development within specific contexts
- ❖ to strengthen a network of key policy organisations in Africa and Asia in the area of rural community development (RCD) and,
- ❖ to establish a model for capacity development using knowledge co-creation that would replace the traditional transfer model.

Outcomes

At the end of the eighteen month program period, each participating organization was expected to have,

- ❖ a policy product for rural community development and,
- ❖ an enhanced understanding of the process of knowledge creation.

Activities

Four phases of activities took place during the program.

Phase 1

Initial Seminar

Phase 2

Formulation of Policy Research Projects (PRPs) to be undertaken jointly by Asian and African partner organisations

Phase 3

Implementation of the PRPs

Phase 4

Institutionalisation of the results of PRPs

Final Seminar

This final seminar was designed to allow all participating organisations the opportunity to share the outputs of the PRPs – the knowledge co-created, and to share the experiences garnered in the process of implementing and creating the PRPs. In addition, this seminar has provided the forum to discuss and identify future steps to utilise the PRP outputs.