

# Wrap-Up of Final Seminar

**Chairman**  
**Prof. Sakamoto**

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## ***Contents of the Wrap-Up Session***

1. Five minute presentation from 6 PRP teams with focus on
  - a) Important points in the process of implementation and generating results
  - b) Issues and lessons learned from AAKCP RCDS
  - c) Asia Africa cooperation in the future
2. Five minute presentation from TICA focusing on
  - a) General comments on AAKCP RCDS
  - b) Future cooperation between Thailand and Africa
3. Comments from the floor and the Academic Panel
4. Wrap up of Final Seminar by Prof. Sakamoto

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## **Kenya Presentation**

- a) Important points in the process of implementation and generating results
  - The approach taken for the AAKCP was much appreciated primarily due to the systematic process. Kenya was given options to choose the areas of co-creation, and this freedom of choice was greatly appreciated.
  - The communication between Thailand and Kenya was always smooth.
  - The facilitation by the JICA office in Kenya was excellent.
  - The willingness of the Thai community at all levels was good.

b) Issues and lesson learned from AAKCP RCDS

- We have realised our big potential to upscale the agro processing sector in Kenya.
- Local agro processing initiatives have been identified and there is now the need to coordinate these local activities.
- A rapport has been developed with the stakeholders through workshops.
- Kenya is currently in the process of revitalising the extension services programme. The lessons learnt from Thailand will be injected in this process to establish an effective extension system.

c) Asia Africa cooperation in the future

- A further collaboration of technical assistance is desired to first test the manual and then to expand it to include more areas.
- Through this process, the importance of value addition was realised. Since this is still a new area, a national policy on agro processing that includes this new area is desirable.
- Linkage with Kasesart University should be strengthened.

## **Uganda Presentation**

a) Important points in the process of implementation and generating results

- The involvement of the key stakeholders (the farmers) is important.

b) Issues and lesson learned from AAKCP RCDS

- There is local knowledge of farmers. The farmers have their own knowledge and practices, and what these farmers need is to create new knowledge by utilising new knowledge from Thailand and applying them locally to co-create knowledge.
- A rice-fish culture pond has been established as result of the PRP process.
- The existence of a strong group formation and support in Thailand. This model should be the basis of strengthening local groups in Uganda.
- Improvements in skills related to project document formulation.

c) Asia Africa cooperation in the future

- There is need for further cooperation between Uganda, Thailand and JICA to make sure that the results of the PRP continue.

## **Tanzania Presentation**

a) Important points in the process of implementation and generating results

- Working through different cultures is one of the achievements of the PRP.

- There has been improvement in awareness of the local knowledge as well as Asian knowledge through exchange visits.
  - Effective time management of all parties involved is key.
- b) Issues and lesson learned from AAKCP RCDS
- Social and cultural context are factors that influence development interventions. Knowledge has to be conceptualised and translated into local contexts.
  - In order to co-create knowledge, there must be good understanding of existing knowledge.
  - Effective time management was learnt in order to effectively implement the project.
- c) Asia Africa cooperation in the future
- Partnership between Africa and Asia need to be strengthened for impact evaluation of the PRP. Future collaborations will be necessary to develop new interventions.
  - Exchange visits should not focus on project implementers at the highest levels but incorporate both high and low level or grassroot level.

### **Zimbabwe Presentation**

- a) Important points in the process of implementation and generating results
- AAKCP has provided the opportunity to learn new knowledge from Asian organisation. African has been accustomed to knowledge transfer rather than knowledge co-creation, therefore this was a new experience. AAKCP has the potential to respond fully to the developmental needs of Africa.
- b) Issues and lesson learned from AAKCP RCDS
- The process took much longer than anticipated. It has been necessary for the two parties to familiarise with each other, before creating knowledge.
- c) Asia Africa cooperation in the future
- There is need for continued collaboration between Asia and Africa. The PRP process has shown the potential of true knowledge co-creation if more time could be given for the process.
  - Collaboration should be extended to include other Asian organisations to fully cater for Africa's developmental needs.

### **Senegal Presentation**

- a) Important points in the process of implementation and generating results
- PRP is a good approach to be used locally.

- Important and new actions have been identified. These could be applied in the local communities.
- b) Issues and lesson learned from AAKCP RCDS
- Responsibilities of local communities are vital.
- c) Asia Africa cooperation in the future
- Exchange network between the Thai organisation should be established.
  - One objective is to improve the capacity building of local communities, and in order to do this, a continued support from the Thai is desirable.

### **South Africa Presentation**

- a) Important points in the process of implementation and generating results
- In the future, there should be a clear indication as to the funding in order for the planning to be appropriately structured.
- b) Issues and lesson learned from AAKCP RCDS
- c) Asia Africa cooperation in the future
- Continuation of cooperation is necessary until concrete results or outputs are seen.

### **TICA Presentation**

a) General comments on AAKCP RCDS

During the past one and a half years, the AAKCP saw the formulation of PRP and implementation and revision of the PRP. Based on the adoption of Thai concept and adaptation to the local situation and environment, some new outputs were seen. This process or appropriate action can be seen as the start of knowledge co-creation.

Some important questions need to be answered in regards to the way forward from now, such as how to utilise the outputs of the project or how to disseminate the experience gained.

b) Future cooperation between Thailand and Africa

There are some modalities that Thailand has extended to Africa in terms of cooperation. We will continue to offer these modalities with the TICA resources and also together with other donors like Japan.

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## **Comments from Thai participants**

- There is a general feeling that the cooperation should continue and Thai side will be happy to collaborate further.
- Although the Thai side has not gained much in terms of knowledge from the African side, but Thai side has gained a lot in terms of experience and learning about the African culture. There is a general feeling that if the African side still desires Thai cooperation after the PRP process, the Thai side is willing to assist in any field, but this process goes through TICA.
- The Thai side has gained a lot of experience in terms of exchange between Africa and Thailand. In the future it might be recommendable for all parties to be involved from the beginning of the project so that the project runs more smoothly.

## **Comments from the Floor**

- (Africa) : It is not quite clear what the “Final” indicates in this “Final Seminar”, because this process is on going. Training, software issues are some of the critical areas of collaboration in the future. There is good knowledge that currently exists in Africa that would need assistance to spread such knowledge internally within Africa.
- (JICA) : What has been achieved through the AAKCP process can be considered to be a milestone. It is equally important to move forward from this milestone and make sure that follow ups are conducted.
- (JICA) : AAKCP has provided both Africa and Thailand to learn about each other.

## **Comments from the Academic Panel**

### **Prof. Kodamaya**

- AAKCP has provided multifaceted exchange (in many interfaces).
- AAKCP has given the African side, opportunity of formulating and implementing a project themselves. (“Learning by Doing”).
- Seeking for “How” and “Why” is important. It is important for the African side to seek further by asking oneself as to “why” things have developed “how” things have been maintained.
- AAKCP has given the opportunity to both the African side and Asian side to rediscover themselves. Through the project’s focus on indigenous knowledge in Africa and through identifying and teaching the positive aspects and skills in their development for Thailand, both sides were able to rediscover themselves.

### **Prof. Nishikawa**

- It is the tendency of the rural community to link development to becoming urbanised, disposing the old and traditional methods and replacing them with new technology; we must ask ourselves if this is true. There is also the tendency to think that highly educated and trained people are necessary to bring development to the rural communities; again, we must ask ourselves if this is true. There is the tendency to believe that what the outsiders have is better than what is available locally, and to believe that what outsiders bring is better than what is available locally. AAKCP has provided grounds to ask these fundamental questions.
- Capacity building is the common goal, and knowledge co-creation is one tool. Our presupposition is that, simple technical transfer does not work therefore knowledge suitable to respective environments need to be created based on indigenous knowledge with the help of external knowledge. The key question that needs to be answered is, “how can this knowledge be created?”, and this has been the focus of this workshop.
- AAKCP is a horizontal cooperation, therefore there should be new knowledge created in both Africa and Thailand, and also in Japan. Development processes in the rural communities do not have a linear course of advancement therefore the horizontal knowledge exchange is indispensable.

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### **Final Wrap-Up by Prof. Sakamoto**

The Wrap-Up was presented by Prof. Sakamoto, using the “Final Wrap-Up” PowerPoint slides.

Some of Prof. Sakamoto’s highlights on the country PRP’s were as follows.

- Prof. Sakamoto emphasised on the quality of knowledge, and asked each group to revisit what they have created as knowledge.
- Involvement of rural community (people) is important.
- The practicality of knowledge is very important.
- Knowledge created should be based on the demand of the beneficiaries.
- Community participation is vital in the success of projects.
- Good understand of the background and framework of the environment in which the practical knowledge should be transferred is vital.

Based on the workshop, each country should revisit their documents and make improvements on the quality of their PRP.

#### Future plan after PRP

Most countries have indicated that they would like a future plan that goes beyond the PRP.

Each country should look carefully at the impact of the project, looking not only at short term impacts but long term perspectives that will have great impact.

In conclusion, the AAKCP has been a successful exercise.

## **Closing Remarks**

**Ms. Rumpuey Pattamavichaiporn**

***Director of Countries Partnership Branch,  
TICA, Thailand***

Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

During the past few days we have had another opportunity to gather together and share information and experiences on the process of policy research within a project and outputs from each country.

Since the beginning of the programme in 2004, several activities have been undertaken. At the time that the level 3 seminars were arranged, including the one we are all attending this week and bringing in all the participating countries to discuss the issues of concern and provide opportunity to exchange information and new ideas.

At the country level the PRP was developed, training activities implemented both in Thailand and in the participating country, followed by dispatching Thai experts to work on the field which strengthens the working process to ensure there are tangible outputs.

All of you had the opportunity to participate in part, if not all the exercise during the period of the project's duration. The outcome of the exercise has proven to be fruitful. As Thailand is one actor of this program, we are pleased to learn that our contribution was well received, sharing our experiences with each other and working together has truly yielded positive results.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
AAKCP is an initiative that Japan introduced to the co-operation with Africa by bringing Asian countries to implement the project.

This program may need to be monitored whether it is an effective tool or there is room for improvement or whether it is just a one time program.



Another question we should ask ourselves is where do we go from here and how do we continue the work that is in progress. I do hope that our participating countries can find ways and means to be able to proceed and implement on the output you have developed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude my remarks, I would like to express our appreciation to JICA for arranging this seminar and to the Government of Japan in supporting this program. I would also like to congratulate all participating countries for the productive output derived from this programme. Finally, I thank the organizers of this seminar.

Thank you all very much.

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## **Closing Remarks**

**Mr. Yoshihide Teranishi**

***Representative***

***JICA Regional Support Office for Eastern and Southern Africa***

Representatives of Thai organizations,  
Professors from Japanese academic institutions,  
Representatives of African countries,  
Distinguished participants,  
JICA colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Japan International Cooperation Agency, it is my great honour and utmost pleasure to address you at the Closing of this Final Seminar of the Asia Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program Rural Community Development Sub-program (AAKCP-RCDS).

Since the Initial Seminar of AAKCP, all of you present here have journeyed enthusiastically to contribute to the success of this unique initiative. Asia and Africa have a lot of knowledge and ideas to share with each other and it is on the basis of this awareness that the Asia Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program was initiated in order to co-create new knowledge.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Rural Community Development Sub-program is the first of a series of sub-programs to be conducted under AAKCP. Subsequent sub-programs may be on private sector development, education, health and so on. Under this program, African countries were required to identify specific needs and collaborate with Asian countries to create new knowledge which will be used to address the African problems in a manner that fits into the African country's indigenous context.

At this final seminar, we have heard presentations of the six Policy Research Projects and we have shared the lessons learnt between Asian and African counterparts. It is encouraging to note that the Kenya and Zimbabwe teams have prepared manuals while the other countries have the intention to produce proposals or development plans as a result of the PRP.

We at JICA's Regional Support Office in Nairobi are hopeful that the AACKP will serve as a useful avenue to the promotion of Asia-Africa Cooperation for African development and are prepared to collaborate closely with our African counterparts towards the achievement of this goal.

There are various cooperation projects between African countries and Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines which are at different stages of consideration in the current fiscal year.

Last month, our office sent out questionnaires to JICA country offices in Africa enquiring about their needs and it was encouraging to note that we received numerous requests for cooperation projects with Asian countries. In this regard, we will work closely to identify matching training courses and projects in Asia in order to respond to these requests.

Most importantly, although this is the end of this AAKCP Seminar, it is my hope that for all of us, this will be the beginning of a continuous process of knowledge co-creation.

To our African colleagues, you have participated in AAKCP and we have heard your presentations including future program. From today you become ex-participants and you will be the key players if you think that it is good for your respective country to seek more collaboration from Asia.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) , Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Public Health, Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre, Kasetsart University, academic panel from Japan and our JICA colleagues from Tokyo, participants from Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Kenya for your cooperation and efforts towards the success of this Seminar.

I would also like to thank AICAD for accepting to host us during this Seminar.

Thank you for your kind attention.