

Towards Stronger Japan-UK Research Linkages on International Development

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Executive Summary

Introduction and Background

The aim of this initiative is to increase the interaction between researchers from Japan and the United Kingdom who work on development issues. Current interaction between researchers is surprisingly limited and further collaboration would be beneficial as both countries are major donors and have different comparative advantages. Increased interaction fits well with current moves to increase information sharing and enhancing aid effectiveness.

Based on a range of approaches – including web searches, desk reviews, interviews and visits – the purpose of the initial phase was to assess: current interactions between researchers; interest in the initiative; demand for different products; and how the initiative might be coordinated and funded.

UK Context: The context for development research has changed significantly due to reforms within DFID and in the funding of research in the UK. New initiatives have also simplified communication of research (Eldis and id21) and information on research institutes (UK Development Studies Association). These issues make coordination of the initiative from the UK side much more straightforward.

UK Researcher Views: The vast majority of UK researchers see research from Japan as potentially relevant as Japan is a major player with considerable experience, particularly in Asia. However they are mostly unaware of who is doing what and where, and are unsure whether it is any good. Little Japanese research makes it into UK-read journals; websites of Japanese development research organisations often do not have much substantive content in English; and researchers are not sure how to engage with Japanese colleagues. UK researchers are interested in having a window on Japan's development research community (i.e. a website that provides information on, and links to, the main institutes in the country); a selective who's who; summaries of good quality research papers; and information on funding opportunities.

Japan Context: The growth of development studies in Japan and the narrowing gap between research and policy is clearly noticeable. These provide a positive context for this initiative. Challenges include reduced public funding and the related increasingly competitive environment.

Japan Researcher Views: Many researchers in Japan are aware of UK development research and institutes. Japanese researchers are extremely interested in increasing their international exposure – and this initiative is seen as one potential avenue for this. In the short term, there is great demand to access UK development research, researchers and publication opportunities more easily (i.e. a website with institutions, outputs, individuals and publishers). In the longer term, there is specific interest in policy discussions, publication opportunities, joint projects or meetings and news bulletins.

Findings on Key Questions

- The nature of **current interactions** between development researchers in Japan and the UK is generally rather limited, informal and ad hoc.
- There is **interest in** this initiative from both sides – but demand is certainly stronger from Japan (and this is a concern for some). There is perceived value in greater interaction between development researchers in Japan and the UK, and there are a number of simple initiatives that could be carried out relatively easily and cheaply.
- The main (interlinked) **barriers** relate to issues of language, lopsided demand and funding.

- Issues of longer term *coordination and funding* are still to be fully resolved. From the UK side, ODI and the Development Studies Association are probably best placed. From the Japanese side, this will depend on issues of legitimacy and willingness.

Conclusions

It would help both communities if they had chances to interact more – both virtually and face-to-face – on pressing issues of development policy. Any network will need to proceed in a stepwise and organic manner. It should pick ‘low hanging fruit’ and take opportunities where they appear, with an eye to building towards something more ambitious.

It would certainly help UK researchers if:

- The major development research organisations in Japan placed more of their material on the web in English.
- More key reports in Japanese were translated.
- There was a single clearing house of the most useful development reports in English produced in Japan – and more information on the key organisations and people.
- A research reporting service was set up – providing short digests of key documents.

It would certainly help development researchers in Japan if:

- A research reporting service of UK research (on topical issues) was available in English or Japanese (this exists, but is not well known – and not focused enough).
- Information on UK researchers, organisations and publications outlets was more easily accessible.
- Their work was publicised more outside Japan.

Specific Recommendations

1. ODI should continue to host the initiative from the UK side. This should include: (i) developing the website to provide useful windows on development research in the two countries; (ii) fielding inquiries; (iii) coordinating e-discussions or putting together a research reporting service; and (iv) fundraising in the UK for developing the project further.
2. The website should have two windows – one for each research community with information on institutions and research outputs. In the longer term, the website would meet the different needs, but should include individual profiles and discussion topics.
3. UK DSA should be asked to be a partner in the initiative from the UK side. This should include; (i) providing a note to DSA members on the initiative; (ii) mirroring the UK website; and (iii) contacting experts in specific areas to find out who might be willing to field specific inquiries.
4. It will be necessary to agree on the most appropriate counterparts for the initiative on the Japanese side. The institution or consortium needs to have legitimacy, a strong network and a desire to contribute. The main functions in terms of this initiative would be similar to the roles of ODI and DSA from the UK side – namely the website, fielding inquiries, coordinating and fundraising.
5. The next UK DSA annual meeting is being organised by ODI on the topic of Bridging Research and Policy (6 November 2004). DSA should invite Japanese partners in this initiative / anyone else interested to attend, although DSA could not cover costs.

6. The networks should try to identify two to three topics of interest to the aid ministries, and then set up task forces to produce joint reports.
7. A strategic consideration: The Government of Japan may want to consider supporting a Japanese research reporting service and web portal on development issues similar to id21 and Eldis. This is probably an idea that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is best placed to consider.

1. Introduction

The aim of this initiative is to increase the interaction between researchers from Japan and the United Kingdom to address development issues of pressing global concern. This initial phase involved preliminary discussions with institutions in Japan and the UK. The aim is to set up a website to increase the ‘virtual’ exchanges of information on development issues. Preliminary discussions also assessed the feasibility of more extensive network activities. It is important to emphasise that this initiative has no desire to ‘reinvent the wheel’, but rather the aim is to connect existing networks and organisations as well as individuals in each country.

There is rather limited contact between development researchers from the UK and Japan – this is a missed opportunity for two reasons. First, the two countries have very different comparative advantages and differing aid philosophies¹ – thus the dialogue would be enriching to both sides. Second, the UK and Japan are both major donors and thus joint action could have an accentuated impact on development policy and practice. This relates to Simon Maxwell’s notion of ‘policy code sharing’ – i.e. that collaboration on research into development policy processes would benefit participants in a similar way to benefits that arise when airlines form alliances.²

The purpose of this research was to assess four issues related to the initiative:

- To gain information on the nature of *current interactions* between UK and Japanese researchers on development issues.
- To assess Japanese perceptions of the *value* of, and *interest* in, the Initiative.
- To gauge the *demand* for specific products.
- To gain insights into issues of *coordination* and *funding*.

Sources of Information

The project consisted of the following research:

- Web-based research of UK and Japanese institutions (as of Autumn 2003).
- Informal discussions at the UK Development Studies Association (DSA) Annual Meeting, 10-12 September, 2003 in Glasgow (Julius Court).
- A study visit to Japan (focused on the Tokyo region) by Julius Court, 24-30 September 2003. See Annex 1 for list of people interviewed.
- Attendance at the Civil Society Organisations Forum, Tokyo, 8-9 September 2003 (Debbie Warrenner), as part of Links Japan organised delegation. Other interviews in Japan – see Annex 2 for list of people interviewed.
- Interviews and informal discussions with UK researchers.
- The findings are also informed by Julius Court’s experience of working on development issues in Japan for over five years (at the United Nations University) and Debbie Warrenner’s experience working for JICA and in facilitating Japan-UK NGO dialogue over the last two years.

This document reports the research results so far.

¹ See Nishigaki, A., and Shimomura, Y. (1999) ‘The economics of development assistance: Japan’s ODA in a symbiotic world’, Tokyo: LTCB International Library Foundation.

² Simon Maxwell (2003) RAPID Meeting Series, Does Evidence Matter? http://www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/Meetings/Meeting_5.html.

2. Background

UK Context

The development studies sector in the UK is among the world's most vibrant and has been growing in recent years. There are a number of recent developments that are relevant to note for this study:

- Since the change of government in 1997, DFID has been made a Ministry represented in Cabinet and has undertaken a range of reforms – see the forthcoming paper by Tim Conway on the changes within DFID.
- Department for International Development, UK, (DFID) Research: DFID has reformed its policy division and set up a new Central Research team, with a budget of £75 million per annum. Although based on the DFID Research Policy Report,³ the contours of the programme are not yet formally approved (as of March 2003). Emphasis is shifting towards research with policy relevance and all tendered research will be untied.
- The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): ESRC seems to be giving increasing emphasis to development issues (www.esrc.ac.uk). There is an emphasis on multi-disciplinarity and on cross cutting work.
- Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE): HEFCE is undertaking a review of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) – the mechanism used to assess the performance of research staff in higher education in the UK. The HEFCE review has been completed (Roberts Report, 2003) and the Development Studies Association (DSA) has called for a development studies sub-panel to be established in the next research assessment exercise (this seems likely to occur). In the last round development studies were under Geography which was seen as sub-optimal.
- UK Development Studies Research Guide: The DSA is developing a new guide to research capacity in the UK and Ireland (this currently includes 86 institutions). See <http://www.devstud.org.uk/researchguide/institutes.htm>.
- There have been significant developments in the way research is communicated in the UK with the initiation of the Eldis (www.eldis.org) and id21 (www.id21.org) research reporting services. These might be useful for researchers in Japan and perhaps provide a model for what can be done.

These changes are likely to mean that more research funding will be going into the development studies sector and that the emphasis will be on bridging research and policy.

UK views on Japanese Development Research

This section is based on the discussions at the DSA 2003 annual meeting in Glasgow – as well as individual interviews by the project team in the UK. There seem to be three positions that researchers in the UK can be clustered into:

- *Not interested*: There is a small group who have no interest at all. This tends to be researchers who work on specific issues with developing country partners. These people have not seen any relevant work from Japan and see no real point in linking with researchers in Japan.
- *Unaware or unsure*: The vast majority of UK researchers see research from Japan as potentially relevant, but are simply unaware of who is doing what and where, and are unsure

³ Surr, M., A. Barnett, A. Duncan, and M. Speight (2002) 'Research for Poverty Reduction: DFID Research Policy Paper', Development Committee Meeting, 24 October 2002.

whether it is any good. Comments included that: (i) little Japanese research makes it into UK-read journals; (ii) websites of Japanese development research organisations do not have much substantive content in English; and (iii) people are simply not sure how to engage with Japanese colleagues (and are worried about transaction costs). While people know the agencies Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) or individual researchers, most researchers in the UK are unable to name any development-related research institutes in Japan. The JBIC Institute and Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) are best known.

- *Actively interested*: A very small minority have worked with Japanese partners. These were either invited to Japan, have worked with Japanese researchers in developing countries or are interested in doing so for a variety of reasons.

The best known book on Japan's development views is *Japanese Views on Economic Development: Diverse Paths to the Market*, edited by Kenichi Ohno and Izumi Ohno (London: Routledge, 1998). This publication provides the first systematic outline of Japan's approach to economic development in English by many of Japan's leading development economists (see Annex 3).

What do UK researchers want from this initiative?

- A window on Japan's development research community – a website that provides information on, and links to, the main institutes in the country.
- A selective who's who (e.g. who should they work with on African development or PRSPs).
- Summaries of the best research papers – and access to full text versions (e.g. Japan's views on the issue of growth and PRSPs was often mentioned).
- Information on funding opportunities.

There are two additional points that deserve mention here:

- It is important to note that there is now a very large number of Japanese students coming to the UK for BA, MSc and PhD courses on development issues. Japan provides the greatest number of overseas students to development studies in the UK. The British Council also state that Development Studies is the most popular postgraduate subject in the UK for Japanese students. Rough estimates indicate an intake of at least 150 students per year. Many interviewees in Japan commented that the increase in 'development spirit' and expertise was partly due to the number of students studying in the UK.
- Informal networks of Japanese who have studied in the UK are potentially relevant to this initiative. The alumni groups of UK universities (especially SOAS and IDS where the majority study) contain many people who work on development studies issues.

Japan Context

In the last few years, there has been a noticeable growth of development studies in Japan. Many experts, including experienced NGO practitioners, are now grouping in graduate schools. Interviews pointed to a mixed picture – a challenging context in which there have been a number of interesting developments in recent years. Key issues include:

- The new Official Development Assistance (ODA) charter does explicitly mention Japan's intellectual contribution – 'the government will encourage regional studies relating to developing countries and research on development policy, to promote accumulation of Japan's intellectual assets in the development sphere.' (<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/>)

oda/reform/revision0307.html) However, many Japanese researchers felt the statements were probably rhetoric rather than representing a major change in policy.

- JICA and also IDE, as part of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), have recently become independent and will need to become more corporate-driven given the troubled situation regarding public finances.
- Within JICA a cadre of younger staff with a strong ‘development spirit’ are emerging. The choice of Sadako Ogata as the first non-MOFA President of JICA is likely to give emphasis on development issues over foreign policy.
- University reform will occur in 2004 meaning that universities will be less constrained and will have more freedom to make contracts and work with researchers from overseas.
- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has set up the Support and Coordination Project for University Cooperation in International Development (SCP) with the aim of linking Japanese universities to development agencies (within Japan and to multilateral institutions).
- There is a more competitive environment for universities and think tanks due to funding challenges. These pressures are enabling them to become more flexible and forward-thinking. Staff at IDE and International Development Centre of Japan (IDCJ) both mentioned that senior management are now more open to new ideas, including increasing interaction with overseas institutions.
- It was commented that there are no real professional standards, such as blind peer reviews, for publishing in development studies in Japan.
- There has been a narrowing of the gap between the research and policy communities with regard to development issues (e.g. GRIPS and SCP).

3. Main Institutions in Japan Conducting Development Research and Output in English

UK researchers really wanted to know: Who are the main institutions undertaking development research? What outputs or information are available in English?

Who are the main institutions undertaking development research?

Below, an outline is provided of the main centres / networks on development research in Japan (which overlap to some degree). These include:

Agencies

- Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC): As part of its work JBIC carries out and commissions research and surveys on development topics through the JBIC Institute and the Sector Strategy Development Department. A large amount of output is in English, including JBIC review, research reports, discussion papers and the Journal of Development Assistance (until 1998). Much more information is available in Japanese.
For English, see: <http://www.jbic.go.jp/english/research/report/index.php>
- Global Development Network (GDN) Japan hub: JBIC hosts this initiative where the most useful product for research purposes is a search engine of development-related studies produced or organised by Japanese institutions. (www.gdn-japan.jbic.go.jp).
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): As part of its work JICA carries out and commissions research on development topics. The units that carry this out are the JICA Institute for International Cooperation (IFIC), the First Research and Development Division and the Second Research and Development Division. There is a large amount of output in English, including Country Study Reports, Topical and Sectoral Studies, and the Journal Technology and Development, all of which are fully downloadable. English Publications page: <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/publication/studyreport/index.html>

Research Institutes

- Institute of Developing Economies (IDE): IDE conducts research on developing countries and produces a range of publications. For English speakers, IDE has the most accessible web page and the most content on development issues. IDE produces books, reports and papers and also produces the quarterly journal *The Developing Economies* – abstracts of papers are available online. Each year the Institute grants awards for outstanding publications – while currently in Japanese, this would seem to be a good start for translation into English.
Research page in English: <http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Research/index.html>
Publications page in English: <http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Publish/index.html>
- National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS): The International Development Strategies programme at GRIPS is an important new addition to the development studies scene in Japan. The Development Forum project, led by Izumi Ohno, specifically seeks ‘innovation in Japan’s intellectual aid.’ The GRIPS website has access to publications on development issues in English.
GRIPS Development: www.grips.ac.jp/research/internationaldevelopment.html
GRIPS Development Forum: www.grips.ac.jp/forum-e/ (especially *Download* section)

- International Development Research Institute (IDRI): IDRI within the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID) conducts policy-oriented and theoretical research and surveys to contribute to policy-making. The directory of development specialists in Japan, research, database and email functions are clearly very developed and important for the development community within Japan. Much less information is available in English. FASID holds regular seminars and serves an important function within the development community in Japan as a forum for discussion and bringing people together.
<http://www.fasid.or.jp/english/surveys/index.html>
- International Development Centre of Japan (IDCJ): IDCJ, founded in 1971, was Japan's first think tank specialising on development and cooperation. It conducts research, training and consulting activities. Very few publications are available online in English. Activities page in English: http://www.idcj.or.jp/4Publications_e/41_pub_e.htm

Networks

- Japan Society for International Development (JASID): JASID (kokusai kaihatsu gakkai) has 898 regular members and 272 student members. It consists mostly of researchers but also includes some practitioners. It holds annual meetings and publishes the Journal of International Development Studies every six months. Presently hosted by Hiroshima University.
Basic information in English: <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/jasid/>
- Japan Evaluation Society (JES): JES provides comprehensive information on evaluation activities in Japan and has a development focus. The English website was not working when access was tried (October 2003). IDCJ hosts this organisation.
Japanese: www.idcj.or.jp/jes/
English: www.idcj.or.jp/jes/index_english.htm
- Society for Researchers in International Development (SRID): Founded in 1974, and with about 200 researchers currently involved, SRID holds monthly meetings, publishes a newsletter every month and holds a symposium every summer. It is a closed group requiring recommendation by two existing members to join.
Japanese: <http://hal2001.itakura.toyo.ac.jp/~ikedada/SRID>
English: <http://hal2001.itakura.toyo.ac.jp/~ikedada/SRID/eng01.htm>
- ODA Reform Network: This is an informal network of about 55 organisations and 400 people with offices in Tokyo and Osaka. Currently lobbying for an ODA Law, to correspond with the 50th anniversary next year of Japanese ODA.
www1.jca.apc.org/oda-net (No information in English)
- DC Forum: DC Forum is a very active email discussion list for Japanese working in development that focuses on development policy issues. The Forum holds seminars in the US and the list is run from Washington DC.
www.developmentforum.org (No information in English)
- Development World Mailing List: This is a very large email mailing list with about 2,000 to 3,000 members working in development, many overseas. Main mailing list is in Japanese but an English version is being established.
www.dwml.net/english/index.html

Universities (with Development-related Information in English)

We did not find any universities with a substantial amount of development research publications available on their websites in English. Kobe, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Nihon Fukushi and Ferris have some of the strongest Development Studies departments in Japan. For a list of graduate schools offering development studies in Japan, please go to: <http://www.fasid.or.jp/english/link.html>

International Organisations

- The three main international organisations with research capacity in Japan are:
 - United Nations University (UNU): www.unu.edu
 - Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI): www.adbi.org
 - United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD): www.uncrd.or.jp/
- World Bank, Tokyo Office, also has many papers and documents: www.worldbank.or.jp

Box 1: Some Leading International Development Researchers in Japan

- Yonsuke Hara writes on Economic History and East Asia.
- Yujiro Hayami is an expert on rural development issues.
- Akio Hosono, now an Ambassador, is the best known researcher on Latin America.
- Shigeru Ishikawa is one of the founding fathers of development studies in Japan.
- Fukunari Kimura is seen as one of leading writers on economic issues.
- Kennichi Ohno is widely seen as Japan's leading development economist.
- Izumi Ohno is one of leading scholars, currently focusing on PRSPs in East Asia.
- Yasutami Shimomura, formerly at JBIC, is now leading on governance as well as aid issues.
- Kan Sato is one of the leading researchers on agriculture and social development.
- Motoki Takahashi and Katsumi Hirano are seen as key people for Africa.
- Toru Yanagihara, works on Latin America, and led the JICA study group on PRSPs.
- Hideki Esho is seen as one of the leading writers on poverty.

What outputs are available in English from Japanese organisations?

There are a number of points to be made here.

Quantity and Accessibility: There is clearly a large amount of development research material in Japanese that might be of interest to researchers in the UK and around the world; there is much less that is available in English. Overall, given the breadth of the topics relevant to development, coverage in English is rather thin. It is recognised that many organisations would like to increase their English output but lack funding for the required translations. Also, organisations in Japan, as elsewhere, are preparing many more studies in English than are being put on the internet. Currently, only IDE, JICA, JBIC, GRIPS and FASID have material on their websites that are accessible and of interest to researchers in the UK. For those interested in the findings of Japanese researchers, there is therefore a high transaction cost in accessing relevant material. The three implications for Japan to have a greater intellectual contribution in development studies are: (i) translate more work into English; (ii) publish in English-language books or journals and / or put more work in English on the

internet; and (iii) consider an effort at research agglomeration in English (such as Eldis or id21 in the UK).

Quality: It is difficult to make a judgement here without an extensive review (which has not been done). It was commented in interviews that there was only a certain amount of work being produced of quality that would attract a UK research audience. It would seem that: (i) there are obviously many good researchers in Japan; (ii) quality assurance mechanisms for the sector as a whole are not particularly well developed; (iii) the situation has improved significantly over the last decade; and (iv) the development studies sector as a whole has reached a critical mass of good researchers (though remains somewhat fragmented) and has crossed a threshold of good studies each year. While the broader strategic issues are not to be discussed here, again the recommendations seem to be that it would help to ‘*select, collect and promote*’ – rigorously select a number of development research reports from different sources each year, agglomerate them in one place and make them accessible (summaries and full text in English).

Comparative advantage: It is clear that Japan’s *comparative* advantage in development research concerns work on Asia. This is not to say that work on other areas is not good, but interviewees noted that: (i) there is much more good work being done on this region in Japan; and (ii) there is *relatively* less good work being done in the UK (with emphasis on Africa and South Asia) and USA. In terms of disciplines, economics is seen as the strongest – as elsewhere – but anthropology is also relatively strong. In terms of sector, respondents saw agriculture as well as transport and communications infrastructure as areas where Japan was relatively strong. It is clear that there are some real ‘selling points’ here, particularly given the development performance of East Asia and the desire for researchers and policymakers around the world to learn from it.

Other online information in English: There is rather little detailed information on ongoing projects or on specific staff interests on organisation websites. To promote greater interaction between Japanese and UK researchers (or any other country), it would help to have greater project and staff information in English on relevant websites in Japan. The ReaD database of Research and Development activities in Japan in English and Japanese holds a little of this sort of information. The site does contain Japanese-English and English-Japanese translation assistance tools. However, as this site is not just focused on Development Studies; a more focused database would also be most useful to enable access by researchers from overseas. (<http://read.jst.go.jp/EN/>).

An new initiative called ‘Single Source Europe’ (SSE) may provide a model here. An online portal provides a ‘single source’ for all English language publications, whether policy papers, reports, journals or books, produced by think tanks and research institutes from Central and Eastern Europe. In addition it will offer a variety of services including integrated information index/database, standardised acquisition procedures and advice on how Central & Eastern European think tanks can more effectively influence European policy debates. (www.singlesourceeurope.com)

4. Synthesis of Findings on Key Questions

The Scoping Study focused on a number of key issues:

Current interactions:

The nature of interactions between development researchers in Japan and the UK is generally rather limited, informal and ad hoc. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Gaimusho), JBIC, JICA, FASID, and the United Nations University (among others) do organise international conferences on development themes which provide opportunities for interaction for UK researchers that are invited to attend. There are some exchange programmes whereby Japanese development-related researchers spend time in UK and vice versa. For example, see the 2003 book co-edited by Chris Alden (LSE) and Katsumi Hirano (IDE) titled *Japan and South Africa in a globalising world: a distant mirror*.

At the institutional level, FASID and IDE have agreements with the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) at the University of Oxford. At the individual level, it seems that researchers from JBIC, IDE and FASID have developed links to counterparts in the UK. There do not appear to be any collaborative development research projects between UK and Japanese research institutions.

From the UK side, there are a number of individuals who have worked with Japan. For example, from ODI, apart from Julius Court, Simon Maxwell (ODI Director) remains actively interested. Tim Conway has done work for JBIC. Machiko Nissanke at SOAS and Kenneth King at the University of Edinburgh are two of the most active.

There is already interaction between UK and Japan at the policy level – between DFID, FCO and the treasury and the corresponding Ministries and agencies in Japan. Many Japanese researchers mentioned the people they knew from DFID, particularly Peter Grant, formerly Deputy Director, Asia-Pacific, and now Director, International Division. GRIPS have recently been working together on research with DFID in Vietnam on the role of large-scale infrastructure in poverty reduction. A workshop on aid effectiveness jointly supported by DFID and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also recently held in the Asian region. DFID has an apparently growing interest in Asia and are actively taking a strategic approach to engagement with other donors, including Japan.

There is also an ongoing initiative, coordinated by Links Japan to bring together UK and Japanese NGOs. Dialogue events have been held in both countries over the past 2 years with the most recent event being participation by British NGOs in the CSO Forum held in Tokyo in September 2003. Papers relating to the dialogue and information in English on Japanese NGOs can be found on the website established following the inaugural conference in November 2001 at: www.japan-uk-ngolink.org. Debbie Warrener has been involved in the facilitation of this initiative from the beginning. INTRAC, an NGO support organisation based in Oxford, was commissioned this year to undertake training for Japanese NGOs.

Value of / Interest in the initiative

The general view was that the initiative could be useful and various people had specific interests in it. Japanese researchers are very interested in increasing their international exposure – and this initiative is seen as one potential avenue for this. Some doubts were expressed about the sustainability of a network without a clear goal. From past experiences with similar initiatives the network should emphasise the common goals that all are working towards rather than being framework focused. The network needs to be clearly *mutually* beneficial to be sustainable.

The people interviewed noted a number of topics of specific interest that the initiative should focus on. These were:

- PRSPs
- Aid Effectiveness – including aid modalities and NGO effectiveness
- Donor coordination
- Africa – Asia as complementary strengths

There is concern that interaction will be one-way – from the UK to Japan. This is due to the different strengths of development studies in the two countries and the language issue leading to a flood of information in English from the UK and little emerging from Japan.

There were also some questions about why only Japan-UK and the value of a wholly ‘North-North’ perspective. This is largely for reasons of practicality – a start has to be made somewhere and this was where the initial idea and interest lay. It is likely that the initiative could generate interest around the world for those interested in Japan’s research sector and that useful joint seminars could be held in ‘Southern’ third countries with input from researchers there.

Demand for products

The key question here was: *What products would you be interested in?*

The responses gave quite a clear indication where there was demand. In the *short term* (12-18 months), there was great demand to access UK development research and identify relevant researchers more easily. There was also strong demand for information on publication opportunities. The initiative should particularly emphasise policy or practice-relevant research. Specifically, there was interest in:

- A *Website* that would provide a window on UK research – this should highlight institutions, research outputs and publishers.
- A *Categorised Who’s Who* – i.e. which researchers are working on which topics.
- *Publications site* – there was specific demand for a site that brings together all of Japan’s development research outputs – initially in Japanese (see www.eldis.org and www.id21.org in the UK).
- *Research reporting service* – an activity that would promote Japanese development-related research in the UK.
- *Notice board* – for items such as projects, conferences and seminars requesting input by Japanese researchers.
- JASID and UK DSA *annual meetings* – invitations could be extended to each other.
- *Joint projects* – two concrete proposals were mentioned that could potentially occur sooner rather than later. The first of these was to hold training in Japan on aid coordination with input from UK experiences (IDCJ were prepared to organise). The second proposal, from Links Japan, was joint research on the effectiveness of Japanese NGOs, possibly comparing them with British organisations in order to extract best practice (this would link well with the Japanese NGO-proposed new research capacity).

In the *longer term*, there was specific interest in:

- ***Policy Discussions*** – E.g. discussions around TICAD, the Vietnam PRSP, etc. This should be dynamic and have place for op-ed type comments.
- ***Summaries in Japanese*** – of key UK research papers.
- ***Publication opportunities*** – for Japanese researchers in English and modes of communicating them in the UK.
- ***Joint projects or meetings*** – The networks should try to identify two or three topics of interest to the aid ministries or other donors, and then set up task forces to produce joint reports. Meetings could potentially be held in third countries.
- ***News bulletins*** – seen as more effective than visiting websites for news as researchers have limited time resources.

Concerns and Barriers

The main (interlinked) barriers can be seen in terms of *language, lopsided demand and funding*.

- Given the divergent capabilities in each others language, it is realistic that English will dominate the network interactions at the individual level. However effort should be made to have as much substance as possible in Japanese, as understandably Japanese researchers often feel overwhelmed by too much information in English.
- Currently there is more demand for UK research in Japan than for Japanese research in the UK. Lack of UK demand is partly due to a lack of knowledge. Greater information about and access to Japan's research should generate demand in the UK and this would be a key function of the UK coordinators.
- There is also a difference in philosophy between Anglo-Saxon approaches and Japanese approaches. While this provides a great rationale for interaction, it also creates challenges. Many Japanese researchers push an approach stemming from Japan's experience, which many in the UK see as not necessarily being transferable to developing countries. As these differences in approach could lead to a 'reality gap' between researchers it was suggested in one interview that it may be best to focus on more concrete issues, at least in the initial stages of interaction.
- As with many activities, finding funding will be a challenge – this is discussed below.

Coordination and Logistics

The *first* key question here was: Who should coordinate any initiative – to ensure efficiency and legitimacy? From the UK side, ODI has initiated the idea and is well placed to continue this role. Greater legitimacy can be achieved by cementing partnership with the UK Development Studies Association. From the Japan side, it was argued that it was better that institutes rather than a government agency should coordinate. Realistically, there are only a few options: IDE, GRIPS, GDN-Japan, IDCJ and FASID. For legitimacy, it seems that JASID is well placed. The issue of a coordinating institution in Japan was not discussed in concrete terms. For simplicity it would seem to be best to have one central coordination point, preferably located within a development research organisation, on both sides.

The *second* key question here was: *How should the network be constituted (individuals or institutions?)* The answer was both. The network coordination function on both sides should preferably be carried out at an institutional level and if interest or need arose stronger tie-ups between institutions could emerge. It was felt however that many researchers tend to work

individually and that this would be the level where interaction would be most fruitful. The network can play a useful role through identifying individuals on each side who can help facilitate dialogue on specific topics. It was also mentioned that JICA and JBIC should be involved in the network, preferably through an institutional relationship due to the frequency of staff rotation. DFID should likewise be made aware of the initiative if it is to have policy impact.

The *third* key question here was: *Do you have any suggestions for who might fund any initiatives in the long term?* The main finding here is that there will need to be specific strategies for funding specific activities (these are mentioned below linked to specific recommendations). In terms of general funding there are a number of ideas. From the UK side, it seemed clear the Japan Foundation was the most likely source of funding for covering activity costs although the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation may also be able to provide some funding. From the Japan side, it would seem that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be the most appropriate source, perhaps through a coordinating partner in Japan (and perhaps UK).

Box 2: Interesting News

- In April 2003 a high-level meeting took place between DFID and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs at which it was agreed to carry out a joint visit to a country of mutual interest, increase communication and initiate staff exchanges. A joint visit has since been made to Vietnam and joint support given to a regional workshop on aid effectiveness, also held there. Renewed commitment has again been made to continue this Japan-UK collaboration in government level development activities with a further visit to Japan by the DFID Permanent Secretary in November 2003.
- The Nordic countries are conducting collaborative work with Japan on aid policy.
- JICA's budget is going to be cut by 20% over three years as it becomes more independent and privatised.
- Evaluations (traditionally internal) are becoming outsourced due to scandals. New consultancies are emerging to fill the gap. It must be noted that there is still little experience within Japan of evaluation above the project level.
- DFID had its biennial Asia meeting in Tokyo.
- Japanese NGO staff are looking into establishing an NGO focused research capacity to enable them to extract and analyse their experiences.
- The work of Robert Chambers has been translated by Naoto Noda and others.

5. Conclusions

This brief review has a few main conclusions.

1. In general, it would help if there was greater interaction between development researchers in Japan and the UK – especially on matters of pressing topical relevance. There is value in trying to promote such interaction. There are a number of simple initiatives that could be carried out relatively easily and cheaply.
2. It would certainly help development researchers in UK (and other non-Japanese-speaking researchers) if more of the work on development from Japan was available or accessible. This could be achieved better if:
 - a) The major research producers on development in Japan put more of their material on the web in English.
 - b) More key reports in Japanese were translated.
 - c) There was a single clearing house of the most useful development reports in English produced in Japan – and more information on the key organisations and people.
 - d) If a research reporting service was set up – providing short digests of key documents.
3. It would certainly help development researchers in Japan if:
 - a) A research reporting service of UK research (on topical issues) was available in English or Japanese.
 - b) Information on UK researchers, organisations and publications outlets was more easily accessible.
 - c) Their work was publicised more outside Japan.
4. It would help both communities if they had chances to interact more – both virtually and face-to-face – on pressing issues of development policy.

The network will need to proceed in a *stepwise* manner and *organic* manner. It should pick ‘low hanging fruit’ and take opportunities where they appear with an eye to building towards something more ambitious.

6. Specific Recommendations

1. ODI should continue to host the initiative from the UK side. This should include: (i) developing the website to provide useful windows on development research in the two countries; (ii) fielding bridging inquiries (via Julius Court, Debbie Warrenner and Keiko Okawa) – i.e. where should I look or who should I contact for work on a topic; (iii) coordinating E-discussions or putting together research reporting service, and (iv) fundraising in the UK for developing the initiative further.
2. Regarding the website: The aim would be to have two windows – one in English about Japan and one in Japanese about the UK (eventually hosted in Japan). In the short term, this would provide information on institutions and research outputs. In the longer term, the website should include individual profiles and discussion topics (e.g. Is the East Asian miracle replicable?). The UK and Japan sites would be developed to meet the slightly different demands (e.g. Japanese scholars were interested in information on publishers whereas UK researchers were more interested in information on sources of funding).
3. UK DSA should be asked to be a partner in the initiative from the UK side. This could include: (i) providing a note to DSA members on the initiative; (ii) mirroring the UK website; and (iii) contacting experts in specific areas who find out who might be willing to field specific inquiries.
4. It will be necessary to agree on the most appropriate counterparts on the Japanese side for the initiative. The institution or consortium need to have legitimacy, a network and a desire to contribute. The main functions in terms of this initiative would be similar to the roles of ODI and DSA from the UK side – namely website, fielding inquiries, coordinating, fundraising.
5. The next UK DSA annual meeting is being organised by ODI on the topic of Bridging Research and Policy (6 November 2004). DSA should invite Japanese partners in this initiative / anyone else interested to attend, although DSA could not cover costs.
6. The networks should try to identify two or three topics of interest to the aid ministries or other donors, and then set up task forces to produce joint reports.
7. A strategic consideration: The Government of Japan may want to consider initiating its own research reporting service and web portal on development issues similar to id21 and Eldis. This is probably an idea that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is best placed to consider.

Annex 1: Interviews in Tokyo – Julius Court

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

- Ryozo Hanya, Director, 2nd Research and Development Division
- Shigeki Furuta, Deputy Director, Donor Coordination Division, Planning and Evaluation Department
- Koji Makino, JICA Institute for International Cooperation (JICA-IFIC)

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

- Kaoru Hayashi, Director General of Sector Strategy Development Department
- Satoshi Iijima, Deputy Director General, JBIC Research Institute
- Hiromi Okada, Deputy Director, JBIC Research Institute
- Mami Sakuma, Researcher

Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)

- Katsumi Hirano, Researcher
- Takahiro Fukunishi, Researcher
- Sato Kan, Researcher

GRIPS

- Kenichi Ohno, Professor, GRIPS
- Izumi Ohno, Professor, GRIPS
- Asuka Suzuki, GRIPS Development Forum
- Yumiko Niya, GRIPS Development Forum

UK Embassy

- Tom Burn, Second Secretary Political, British Embassy, Tokyo

UNDP

- Prof Akiko Yuge, Resident Coordinator (former Prof. Ferris University)

National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA)

- Terumi Hirai, Senior Researcher (telephone discussion)

Support and Coordination Project for University Cooperation in International Development (SCP) – Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

- Masaru Osanai, Managing Director, SCP
- Yuriko Miyao Director, SCP
- Miho Funamore, Deputy Director, SCP

FASID

- Junko Ohara, IDRI FASID (via email)

Researchers

- Yasutami Shimomura, former JBIC Board
- Toru Yanagihara, Hosei University (and JICA study group on PRSPs)
- Akira Nakamura, Dean, Graduate School, Meiji University

Annex 2: Interviews in Tokyo – Debbie Warrenner

International Development Center of Japan (IDCJ)

- Hisaaki Mitsui, Senior Economist
- Shinichi Okubo, Senior Researcher

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

- Izumi Ohno, Professor

Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID)

- Naonobu Minato, Acting Director, International Development Research Institute (IDRI)
- Toshio Nakamura, Director, Department of Graduate Programs' Management (JICA secondee)
- Junko Ohara, IDRI-FASID

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

- Shigeki Furuta, Deputy Director, Donor Coordination Division, Planning and Evaluation Department
- Akiko Nanami, Donor Coordination Division, Planning and Evaluation Department

Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)

- Tadahiro Jujo, Director-General, Research Administration Department
- Yuzuru Moriwaki, Deputy Director-General, Research Administration Department
- Akifumi Kuchiki, Director-General, Research Planning Department

Japan Centre for International Exchange (JCIE)

- Hideko Katsumata, Managing Director

Researchers

- Yuto Kitamura, Associate Professor, International Development, Nagoya University
- Yasu Shigeta, Associate Professor, International Cooperation / NGO Studies, Kyushu International University (in London)
- Taemyong Kim, Visiting Professor, Asia-Pacific Partnership, Osaka University of Economics and Law

NGOs

- Satoshi Hirata, Representative, Kansai NGO Council
- Kiyoko Karatsu, Oxfam International Japan
- Kiyotaka Takahashi, Research Section, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Kim Kyung-Mook, Research Fellow, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Kaori Kuroda, Executive Director, CSO Network
- Katsuji Imata, Development Officer, CSO Network
- Makoto Nagahata, NGO Consultant, preparing for 'NGO think-tank'
- Toshiya Takahashi, Niigata NGO Network
- Wayne Ellesworth, Co-Director, Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA)

- Shina Okaichi, Executive Board Member, Institute for Himalayan Conservation (email and telephone)
- Phillida Purvis, Links Japan (in London)

Annex 3: Book Outline: Japanese Views on Economic Development

Japanese Views on Economic Development: Diverse Paths to the Market

Editors: Kenichi Ohno, Izumi Ohno

Originally Published: 1998

Japan – a major provider of development aid – is challenging conventional wisdom in economic development. This book is the first systematic exposition of the Japanese approach to economic development and systematic transition in the English language. Eminent development economists who shape Japan's massive economic aid policy are assembled in this one essential volume.



Japanese economists generally believe that long-term vision and phased real sector strategies are lacking in the policy recommendations of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. They argue that development of a market economy requires many conditions which do not automatically arise by hands off economic policy; these conditions must be built by conscious efforts of the government with international help. Therefore to promote a market economy, development economists should design comprehensive and long term development strategy tailored to the realities of each country.

This book will be a revelation to those who thought that the Japanese approach was simply to recommend universal industrial policy; they will be surprised by the broad scope of *Japanese Views of Economic Development*, touching on history, economic anthropology, and political development. Students of development economics, asian studies, international relations as well as professional policy makers will find this perspective both controversial and stimulating.

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