Building Resilience: Human Security Approaches to AIDS in Africa and Asia

SUSAN HUBBARD and TOMOKO SUZUKI

Despite various efforts over the past decades to deal with the overwhelming challenges of AIDS, as of 2007 there were an estimated 33 million people around the world infected with HIV, according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Of that number, 1.7 million people in sub-Saharan Africa and 440,000 people in Asia had been newly infected in the previous year. In addition to the individual human suffering that it causes, AIDS takes a considerable social and economic toll on hard-hit communities in countries around the world. There is hope, however, that the emerging field of human security—with its emphasis on human-centered comprehensive approaches—might prove effective. This report analyzes five projects—two in Asia and three in Africa—funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security that deal with AIDS from various angles, such as the intersection between AIDS and issues of poverty, migration, education, and gender inequality. The case studies offer insight into the potential for human security approaches to help respond to the challenges of AIDS.

(English: JCIE 2008)
Global Action for Health System Strengthening: Policy Recommendations to the G8

G8北海道洞爺湖サミット・フォローアップ: 保健システム強化に向けたグローバル・アクション: G8への提言

Seguito al Vertice G8 Hokkaido Toyako: Azione Globale per il rafforzamento del Sistema Salute: Raccomandazioni di politica al G8

Following the 2008 Toyako G8 Summit, JCIE’s Working Group on Challenges in Global Health and Japan’s Contributions was encouraged by the Japanese government to translate the summit recommendations on how G8 member countries and stakeholders should be working to strengthen health systems in developing countries into concrete proposals. Three possible areas for health system strengthening that were proposed at the G8 Summit were analyzed: the health workforce, health information, and health financing. The final report was submitted in January 2009 to the Japanese government, which in turn submitted the report to the Italian government as the latter prepared to chair the July 2009 G8 L’Aquila Summit.

(English, Japanese, Italian: JCIE 2009)

PhILaNTHyPry AND ReCONCILiATioN: REBUiLDiNG PoSTWAR US-JAPAN RELATIONS

戦後日米関係とフィランソロピー: 民間財団が果たした役割1945〜1975年

TADASHI YAMAMOTO, AKIRA IRIYE, MAKOTO IOKIBE, editors

The US-Japan relationship has undergone many changes since the end of World War II, but perhaps the most dramatic and least understood transition was the change in perceptions and values that allowed these two former enemies—countries which shared substantially fewer ties of kinship and culture than did the United States and Europe—to become the closest of allies in a remarkably short period of time. This study examines the critical role of civil society, and particularly of American and Japanese philanthropy, in rebuilding the US-Japan relationship in the postwar period.

Foundations and individual philanthropists set out to promote democracy in Japan, reconstruct the foundations of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States, and encourage a continuing dialogue on the future of the relationship. To do this, they provided generous support for strategic institution building, the development of human resources through support for individual study and training, the promotion of American studies in Japan and Japanese studies in the United States, and a broad range of international exchanges and dialogues. This groundbreaking study analyzes the context and implications of this support, both for understanding the past and for improving the way in which we address post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation in the future.

(English: JCIE 2006; Japanese: Minerva 2008)
PERIODICALS AND REPORTS

Civil Society Monitor
JCIE’s Civil Society Monitor newsletter serves as one of few sources of English-language information on the current state of the Japanese nonprofit sector. It seeks to link Japan’s nonprofit sector with the international community by reporting on current events and noteworthy activities and organizations in Japan’s emerging civil society. The 13th issue was published in November 2008 and analyzed recent developments in Japanese civil society, including the high levels of civil society mobilization surrounding the July 2008 G8 Summit held in Toyako, Japan.

Dialogue and Research Monitor
The Dialogue and Research Monitor (DRM), available in print and online, surveys policy-relevant dialogue and research at both the governmental and nongovernmental levels dealing with the East Asian region. It focuses specifically on multilateral dialogues and research that relates to security (traditional, nontraditional, and human security) as well as to regional community building. In 2008, JCIE released an issue of the DRM covering the period from January to December 2006.

East Asia Insights: Toward Community Building in East Asia
JCIE publishes policy briefs reporting on and analyzing the long-term community-building process in East Asia. Current and past issues are available on JCIE’s website. Five issues were published in FY2008:
• A Japanese Perspective on the China Question (May 2008)
• Prospects for Japan’s Domestic Politics and Implications for Its Foreign Policy (July 2008)
• The Crisis of Global Governance and the Rise of East Asia (September 2008)
• Revisiting the North Korea Issue (October 2008)
• Getting China Policy Right (December 2008)
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