Boosting cooperation: How to incorporate academic expertise into the work on the ground

(Comments as a discussant)

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Cooperation and free flow of information among scholars and research institutions

• Two levels—**institutions and individuals**
• Higher education plays an important role in Japan’s SDGs implementation policy.
• An increasing number of Japanese universities have established **courses and programs to develop human resources** who will be responsible for solving global issues, including the SDGs.
• As the international community promotes collaboration to solve global-scale issues under the SDGs, more **innovative forms of collaboration**, beyond the conventional framework of industry-academia collaboration, are being sought and implemented.
Research institution level: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)

- International joint research through international science and technology cooperation projects ([https://www.jst.go.jp/global/english/index.html](https://www.jst.go.jp/global/english/index.html))
  - The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the Agency for Medical and Scientific Research, Japan (AMED), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are collaborating to combine competitive research funding in science and technology with ODA to address global issues based on the needs of developing countries.

- SATREPS promotes international collaborative research to solve global issues based on the needs of developing countries and for future social implementation.

- It also promotes international joint research facilitating the partnership of universities and research institutions in Japan and developing countries for the development and application of new technology and the acquisition of new knowledge (SATREPS, 2021).
Research institution level: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)

- Researchers from Japan and each of the partner countries stand in equal positions and aim to contribute to solving problems by developing knowledge through research activities.
- By working in developing countries where the issues are present, researchers can properly understand the events firsthand and conduct cutting-edge R&D in the field.
- Some projects require the involvement of the private sector, such as companies in Japan and partner countries, to improve technological capabilities and transfer the new technologies developed.

As of September 2020, 157 global research projects have been carried out in 52 countries, and it is expected that this new form of collaboration will continue to contribute to R&D and human resource development in many developing countries.
### Research Fields and Areas

SATREPS projects typically share the following characteristics:

- To envisage their outcomes being applied to the benefit of broader society as well as in the developing country
- To cover topics in developing countries for which research and development to resolve an issue is particularly necessary, and for which capacity building of researchers is required
- To contribute to the resolution of global issues and scientific and technological progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Fields</th>
<th>Research Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Energy</td>
<td>1. Research contributing to the solution to global-scale environmental issues (Contribution to SDGs - conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources, pollution prevention and control, and response to climate change)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Research on the sustainable use of resources and energy with a view to achieving carbon neutrality (research contributing to SDGs concerning resources and energy, such as energy conservation, renewable energy, smart societies, and climate change mitigation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bioresources</td>
<td>3. Research contributing to sustainable production and utilization of bioresources (Contribution to SDGs - food security, health promotion, nutrition improvement, and sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries)</td>
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<td>Disaster Prevention and Mitigation</td>
<td>4. Research on disaster prevention and mitigation towards social sustainability (contributing to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, measures for adapting to disasters caused by climate change, and SDGs - from advance measures such as analysis of disaster mechanisms, building national resilience, strengthening social infrastructure, and appropriate land use planning, to recovery and reconstruction after a disaster has occurred)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious Diseases Control</td>
<td>5) Research on measures to address infectious diseases control attuned to the needs of developing countries</td>
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Cooperation and collaboration at the individual level

- Two positions: Scholars (researchers) in academia and Practitioners (experts) in the development field
- Low mobility between academia and the development field
- Practitioners are transitional in various development agencies and research institutions

*How do we realize an effective partnership and cooperation?*

- Promote collaboration by holding a place to discuss the issues (study sessions, seminars, Forums, etc.)
References
