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## **The Many Faces of Sustainable Development**

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The articles in this issue of the *Journal of Global Development and Peace* focus on issues pertaining to sustainable development and social progress. In 2015, the United Nations adopted a new set of goals that hope to achieve poverty reduction, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. These goals are known as the Sustainable Development Goals, or more frequently referred to as the SDGs, with a target date of 2030. The SDGs provide 17 aspirational goals with 169 targets for countries to meet. The work in this journal aims to assist in the process of reaching those targets. There is much work to be done around the world to ensure that we provide a planet that is healthy for the generations that follow our own. These goals, and thus these articles, do not only focus on the environment but on the social construct of nations; ensuring that good governance, women's empowerment, safety, and innovative farming techniques are harnessed to create a healthy and sustainable nation and planet. These articles focus on areas around the globe from China to Nigeria to Colombia, yet share the common thread that approaches related to sustainable development and providing stronger opportunities for personal and national growth can heal the wounds of past conflicts.

In her article, Rie Sano, who is a recent graduate of the East Asian and Pacific Rim program and is currently working in Japan, seeks to explore the opportunities for positive sustainable development in China by empowering Chinese farmers through providing them training in innovative farming techniques led by Japanese counterparts, who understand the importance of their similar agricultural backgrounds, at a grassroots level. Such initiatives hold the potential to perhaps repair bonds broken by conflict.

Paola A. Rengifo is currently a student in the Global Development and Peace program and works at the United States Department of State. Her research focuses on two different approaches to solving the problem of drug trafficking and violence in Medellin, Colombia and San Pedro Sula, Honduras; one program harnessed the ability of people's empowerment by providing needed services to the poorest of the city's citizens, while the other used the criminal justice system to attempt to stem continued violence. According to Rengifo, Social Urbanism in Medellin, Colombia can be considered successful, though there is still work to be done, while the Iron Fist of San Pedro Sula, Hondu-

ras has ultimately failed. Through her research, Paola A. Rengifo provides us with the conclusion that perhaps a project modeled on Colombia's Social Urbanism can assist the people of Honduras to limit violence and drug trafficking.

Rina Matsuura is a current student in the Global Development and Peace program and has recently completed an internship at the Japanese Embassy. In her work, Matsuura focuses on the need to improve the rate of women's engagement in positions of political and economic leadership in Japan. As Japan's birthrate falls, it is important to harness the power from all members of society and provide the ability to empower women who have often faced discrimination in their lifetime due to cultural stereotypes. Rina Matsuura is focused on the need to meet target goals for gender equality, as Japan has a track record of falling short of rates of gender parity typical of a developed nation.

Kelley McGregor is a current student in the Global Development and Peace program, aiming to gain her Master's degree to transition from philanthropic support to programming for international non-profits. Her work focuses on Nigeria and the challenges related to sustainable development tied to its growing urban populations. McGregor focuses on the need to create better programs and plans for the people of Nigeria while finding ways to ensure good governance and mitigate corruption, issues that have often held Nigeria back. Kelly McGregor posits that no one organization can solve the problems plaguing Nigeria alone but that there should be a combined effort through a strategy of collective impact that brings multiple groups together to plan and implement strategies for growth in Nigeria.

Together, these papers hope to provide solutions to a broad range of global problems through various sustainable development strategies.

## **Japan's International Assistance to China as an Effective Strategy for Positive Sustainable Development: The Empowerment of Chinese Farmers and Establishment of an Asian Sustainable Agriculture Model**



Rie Sano, Graduate of the M.A. East Asia and Pacific Rim Studies Program

### **Introduction**

In recent decades, China and Japan have become increasingly influential actors in relation to critical global issues such as global climate change and sustainable development. As the two top leaders of the East Asian market, they consume the second and third largest amounts of oil in the world.<sup>1</sup> Considering the severe situation of the environment, both the Chinese and Japanese governments have placed sustainable development as one of the most important issues in their political strategies. After the Chinese government signed an international environmental treaty, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, during the 1992 Earth Summit, China has developed many regulations and institutions for environmental protection. China's State Environmental Protection Administration was upgraded and reformed as the Ministry of Environmental Protection in 2008 in order to promote Chinese environmental management.<sup>2</sup> The most recent Chinese National Congress held in March 2015 declared that China was shifting from large-scale economic development to sustainability and better quality of life initiatives. During the Congress, Chinese government officials announced a reduction of the economic growth target and the "new normal" model of economy that prefers quality over quantity.<sup>3</sup> Japan has continued to show its commitment to sustainable development since the concept appeared in the 1970s. In 1997, Japan held a world conference on climate change and contributed to the Kyoto protocol, which regulated carbon dioxide emissions of developed nations. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama launched the Hatoyama Initiative, or Fast-Start Financing, which was committed to spend \$15 billion USD from 2009 to 2012 in financial assistance to help developing nations reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>4</sup>

### **Biography**

Rie Sano was born in Japan. She received an M.A. in East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies from the College of Public and International Affairs at the University of Bridgeport in 2015. She joined Kamaishi-city Council of Social Welfare Council, Iwate, Japan, in 2013, as an official rapporteur of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Since 2015, she has been in charge of Public Relations in the Kamaishi Regional Coordinators Council (KAMAENTAI), which consists of semi-public supporters for recovery from the 2011 tsunami disaster as a bridge between many stakeholders, including local government officials, non-profit organizations, and local residents. Her main areas of research interest are environmental protection, sustainable development, international cooperation, and global peace.

On the other hand, both nations face various obstacles in their sustainable development, which they cannot overcome on their own. In China, people more directly suffer from environmental problems. Chinese farmers in poor rural areas are especially exposed to environmental destruction, while their unsustainable agricultural practices cause further environmental problems. In Japan, a combination of frequent earthquakes in the past few years and environmental issues have significantly increased people's anxieties. Also, Japan's energy security is vulnerable. Japan has limited natural resources and heavily depends on imported fossil fuels. In addition to that, nuclear energy, in which Japan had primarily invested in as an important renewable energy resource, drew significant domestic protest after the severe tsunami disaster in 2011 that resulted in nuclear power plant accidents in Fukushima prefecture.<sup>5</sup> These facts reveal that policy makers have strong incentives to promote international cooperation between Japan and China. International cooperation towards sustainable development is one way in which these nations can conduct efficient win-win diplomacy in the coming decades, while efficient strategies for handling environmental problems would directly benefit the citizens of both nations.

### ***Important trends in sustainable development***

The first published definition of sustainable development was created in 1980 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In the report *World Conservation Strategy*, IUCN states, "for de-

velopment to be sustainable, it must take account of social and ecological factors, as well as economic ones; of the living and non-living resource base; and of the long-term as well as the short-term advantages and disadvantages of alternative action."<sup>6</sup> As the discussion of sustainability has become increasingly more popular in the world, the definition of the concept has been expanded. The Brundtland Commission report *Our Common Future*, which was submitted during the 1987 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, created a new definition, which defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."<sup>7</sup> This definition emphasizes that equality is the key to sustainable development in several ways. The first one relates to existing national and regional gaps between the rich and the poor. *Our Common Future* particularly emphasizes the essential needs of the people in the poorest nations as those to which priority should be given. Another important aspect is the equality between generations, as the report emphasizes that our decision-making needs to ensure that human needs, including economic, ecological, social, and cultural elements, can be met for the next seven generations.<sup>8</sup>

The concept of sustainability has further developed in the last ten years. First, the world has become more anxious about environmental crises. In 2014, the United Nations established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which each nation is advised to follow. The SDGs succeed the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs), which were in effect from 2000 to 2015. The MDGs represented an increased consciousness about the relationships between poverty reduction and international cooperation towards sustainable development. Second, people started to see a sustainable society from a more comprehensive perspective. For instance, though MDG 1 treated hunger and poverty as one issue, the SDGs noted that the solution for malnutrition does not always equal the end of poverty and separated the two issues into SDG 1 and 2. In addition, the SDGs emphasize the importance of including broader stakeholders in the political process. While a top-down approach was taken in making the MDGs, the SDGs were created through a bottom-up approach by including academia, grassroots organizations, and marginalized communities. Furthermore, besides quantitative improvement, qualitative satisfaction began to be prioritized in building a sustainable society. The SDGs reflect this type of change. An example of this shift in thinking can be found in relation to education; while the MDGs focused on quantitative indicators such as enrollment rates, the SDGs emphasize the evaluation of learning from a more qualitative perspective.<sup>9</sup>

Another more holistic analysis of sustainability is the idea of positive sustainability, which argues that merely economic and ecological elements are insufficient in order for a human being to have a good life. A leading proponent of this issue is Paul James, who was the Director of the UN Global Compact Cities Programme (GCCP) from 2007 to 2014. Within a discussion about the sustainability of urban

living, James points out that, while the term sustainability is increasingly used, most cities have not achieved positive sustainable development.<sup>10</sup> Even if governments and citizens are well aware of environmental issues, they have evaluated sustainability only in terms of economic and ecological aspects by using superficial indexes. For instance, the UN-Habitat 2012 report *State of the World's Cities* indicates that one of the MDG targets, improving the lives of 100 million people, was achieved 10 years earlier than scheduled. China is said to have achieved the biggest improvement towards this target. However, the decrease in slums is often achieved by a method called bulldozer slum clearance, which can lead to a number of deaths among the poorest populations. Such problematic solutions can also lead people to overlook authoritarian disregard for disenfranchised people. Moreover, while governments have prioritized urbanization, this focus often makes people increasingly suffer from infrastructure stress. These paths of development cannot be called positive sustainability.<sup>11</sup>

Circles of Sustainability have been utilized by some international organizations, including the GCCP. A community's or region's sustainability can be evaluated in four domains: ecology, economics, politics, and culture. They define politics as "the practices and meanings associated with basic issues of social power as they pertain to the organization, authorization, legitimation and regulation of a social life held-in-common," and culture as "the practices, discourses, and material expressions, which, over time, express the conti-



nities and discontinuities of social meaning of a life held-in-common.”<sup>12</sup>

Sustainable agriculture is a significant element of human sustainable development. While food security is vital for human sustainability, agriculture uses natural resources and inevitably affects the environment. The most popular types of agriculture in the world today feature a heavy dependence on petroleum; this type of agriculture was established in Western nations during the 1920s. In contrast, the Asian model for agriculture was traditionally based on small-scale and diverse crop production, and thus was more ecological. While modern Western agriculture emphasizes how to regulate nature, traditional Asian farmers always paid attention to ecological principles, recognizing that people could not live without nature.<sup>13</sup> In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Franklin King studied the development of sustainable agriculture in East Asia, in which people maintained farming practices that were harmonious with nature for more than 4000 years. His research revealed that East Asian nations, including Japan and China, had established a recycling system of agriculture by utilizing organic waste instead of chemicals.<sup>14</sup> In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as the environmental crisis became prominent, many international scholars started to point out severe ecological impacts of Western agriculture; for instance, petroleum-based farming resulted in pollution of water and land, and monoculture production reduced natural biodiversity. Consequently, a more sustainable agriculture and food system is required, and, to address this problem, increasing attention has been given to the ways of thinking of

traditional Asian farmers. The International Society for Sustainable Science, which consists of high profile academics from the US, Italy, Japan, and the UN, encourages Asian nations to promote international dialogue and cooperation in order to establish a new model of sustainable agriculture based on their traditions.<sup>15</sup>

Agriculture has been one of the most important cultural aspects of Asian society. According to Nisbett, the East Asian way of thinking was developed around ancient Chinese agricultural society.<sup>16</sup> East Asian farmers were engaged in rice cultivation in a homogeneous society, which developed a culture and identity much different from those of the Western world.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, modern Asian society features less clear boundaries between urban and rural areas than in Western nations. Farming areas often exist much closer to urban areas, and the state tends to plan urbanization in a way that also includes farmlands.<sup>18</sup> Thus, in East Asian countries in particular, the role of agriculture has greater importance in terms of building a positive sustainable society.

### **China's Sustainability Challenges**

Chinese environmental problems have a very long history. People have struggled with environmental management since the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE, and Chinese civilization was enabled by deforestation and conversion of grasslands into agricultural fields. In addition, Chinese development was based on rice cultivation. Rice farmers needed massive irrigation projects and large infrastructure, which also signifi-

cantly impacted nature.<sup>19</sup> Moreover, Chinese environmental strain has been aggravated by the rapid growth of the population. Between 1400 and 1840, the entire population became five to six times larger. During the three Qing emperors' rule in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the population is said to have grown from 100 million to 320 million. This fact resulted in large scale environmental devastation throughout the nation. A significant increase in the Chinese population has continued until today. The population doubled between the years 1950 and 2000. By 2014, the Chinese population had reached 1.4 billion and stands today as the world's largest. Consequently, the greatest challenge to Chinese sustainability is that large numbers of citizens depend on limited spaces and natural resources.<sup>20</sup>

Besides population growth, Chinese modern policies have accelerated environmental devastation. When the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, Mao Zedong adopted policies that prioritized economic development with unrestrained exploitation of natural resources. The government mobilized Chinese citizens, most of whom were farmers, and greatly intensified agricultural as well as raw-material industries. Almost all cultivated lands were planted with grain in a way that ignored the ecosystem, resulting in the increase of unsustainable agriculture in areas which had previously been used to grow other crops. Also, as Mao set a goal to industrialize China within fifteen years, steel factories based on the Western model were constructed throughout the countryside. These factories consumed significant amounts of fuel

and emitted severe air and water pollutants. It is estimated that as much as 10 % of forests in China were converted to ash during this period.<sup>21</sup>

The modern rapid economic growth in the 1980s promoted urbanization and industrialization all over the nation, which has continued for the last 30 years. It has caused Chinese citizens to live with water resources at the lowest levels in the world, as little as 28% of the global average. While 20% of the world's population lives in China, they have less than 7% of freshwater on the globe. More than 100 million citizens lack access to drinkable water. Another 200 million citizens live without access to quality sanitation, and mortality among Chinese children has increased. This situation is especially severe in the countryside, where the government does not regulate the industrial dumping of toxins into water reserves. Inefficient and unsustainable agricultural practices consume two-thirds of the national water resources, and agricultural fertilizer and livestock waste cause half of water pollution in China. Furthermore, unsustainable farming practices hasten the depletion of the groundwater that Chinese citizens depend on; 70% of drinking water in northern regions of China and more than 40% of the water resources for agriculture comes from groundwater. From 1974 to 2000, groundwater levels in the north decreased by a meter per year. Urban areas are also consuming groundwater by creating wells that are often as deep as one kilometer.<sup>22</sup>

Chinese industry has heavily relied on solid fuels, coal and biomass which is creat-

ing severe issues related to air pollution. Coal accounts for 70% of China's energy, or half of the global coal consumption. Also, rapid population growth and economic development have increased the usage of automobiles. The Chinese automobile market is growing, such that experts estimate that 60% of the population in urban areas will own an automobile in the next 20 years, which will emit more air pollution. In addition, China has emitted the biggest amount of greenhouse gases since 2007, when it surpassed the U.S. The amount of emissions per capita in China is bigger than both that of the global average and that of some developed Western countries. Greenpeace reports a dreadful situation, that Chinese coal burning in the past 10 years has been responsible for half of global carbon dioxide emissions growth.<sup>23</sup>

Within this cycle, polluted water evaporates and increases air pollution, and polluted air also pollutes the land through rain. The polluted sewage from factories is also absorbed by the soil, contaminating the land as well. In 2007, the Chinese government reported that more than 10% of land for farming had become polluted and useless. Also, China has exposed as much as 60% of the sown farmland to 85% of the heavy metal discharge in the country. The contamination of land greatly reduces arable land and threatens food security as well as farmers' health in China. In addition, Chinese farmers have increased the land loss by depending on unsustainable agricultural practices, such as deforestation, over-cultivation, overgrazing, and the over-use of groundwater, which result in wind erosion and increas-

ing desertification. The issue of expanding deserts has been prominent since the 1980s, particularly in the northern and central regions of China.<sup>24</sup>

Moreover, the Chinese environmental crisis results in the loss of a significant amount of the world's biological assets. China has some of the greatest biodiversity in the world; more than 17,000 kinds of creatures exist in the nation, and some species such as the giant panda, the golden monkey, and the crested ibis have globally high value since they only exist there. Contaminated water and soil have endangered 35% of the vertebrates and 70% of non-flowering plants in China. Changing temperatures and rainfall distribution caused by environmental pollution have also affected the Chinese ecosystems, depriving animals of their habitats and food. The poverty of Chinese farmers aggravates the issue, since they often must resort to illegal logging, mining, and hunting.<sup>25</sup>

### **Obstacles for Both Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approaches for Environmental Protection**

Chinese citizens as well as the government have become aware of these critical issues. However, Chinese environmental management has never been successful in either top-down or bottom-up approaches. First, China has not organized environmental governance in order to take an effective top-down approach despite the intense efforts by the central government. Since China signed the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, it has tried to

demonstrate its efforts of environmental management to the international community. In 1973, China held their first national conference on the issue and published a blueprint for environment law-making called the Rules on the Protection and Improvement of the Environment. The Chinese Constitution included environmental protection in 1978, and the first environmental law was established in 1979. The number of related laws and regulations has increased year-by-year. China currently has six laws about comprehensive environmental protection and nine laws about natural resource protection. China has created twenty-eight administrative regulations, twenty-seven standards, and over 900 local rules in order to manage China's environment.<sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, these laws and regulations are rarely sufficiently implemented at the local level. The major reason is that the country has, in practice, prioritized economic development more than focusing on environmental considerations. In international conferences, China has emphasized that they are a developing nation that needs to be industrialized first. Many scholars point out that the Chinese government has made insufficient efforts to organize environmental governance by promulgating regulations or encouraging establishment of monitoring institutions.<sup>27</sup> Furthermore the political structure in China has made its top-down approaches of environmental management ineffective. In China, each local government has a strong connection with local factories and firms. Accordingly, in order to solve environmental pollution, it could be important for a local authority to take initiative towards environmental manage-

ment. Nevertheless, local officials in most cases prioritize their economic benefits by insufficiently regulating local industries. In spite of its authoritarian regime, the Chinese central government often fails to make local governments enforce environmental laws and regulations because of the lack of transparent monitoring systems. This also results in the government hardly being able to make effective strategies for environmental management at the national level. Even though China has reported significant progress in environmental protection in the past few years, especially in terms of energy intensity,<sup>28</sup> the information collected by each local institution is not fully credible. In fact, Chinese citizens increasingly suffer from pollution.<sup>29</sup> Such difficulties of top-down management are caused by China's decentralized political system. The political structure in China has increased delegation of fiscal and administrative powers to provincial and local level authorities.<sup>30</sup> China's regional authorities and their jurisdictions are established so clearly that one can describe China as "United Provinces of China," in which each state has strong characteristics, just like the U.S. (Kawashima, 2010). This does not mean that the central government has reduced its control over subnational institutions; local authorities tend to be obedient to the central government about economic development, at least superficially. However, in terms of environmental management, such a decentralized power structure has given significant difficulties to top-down approaches of Chinese environmental management.

The decentralization in China prevents

bottom-up approaches to environmental protection from being successful as well. China's environmental problems often occur at local levels, and people are becoming more and more conscious of this. According to Jing, 278 environmental disputes have been officially recorded from the mid-1970s to the early 1990s,<sup>31</sup> and forty-seven of these cases occurred in rural areas<sup>32</sup>. However, these local level movements have hardly lead to bigger and more effective movements in China. Hess articulates that strong local authorities in China prevent establishment of effective grassroots networks that would connect several regions.<sup>33</sup> In addition, Chinese NGOs are, in practice, governmental organizations that take cooperative attitudes with the authorities. Since they need government approval in order to start their activities and be given government support, they tend to hesitate to confront the state.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, Chinese citizens find difficulties in resorting to legal actions against industrial polluters. A lawsuit often costs too much time and money for ordinary citizens to pay. More than that, it is hard for citizens to win against enterprises, since most of the projects which devastate the environment are sponsored by the state. Even when a local factory loses in a low level court and is required to pay reparations, a higher court may easily reverse the judgement to be more favorable towards enterprises.<sup>35</sup>

The most popular definition of sustainable development created in the Brundtland Commission report emphasizes equality among people as discussed in the introduction. Solutions for environmental pollution and resource scarcity are not

sufficient for Chinese sustainability, and the development at the expense of the majority of poor people can not be called positive sustainability. However, the gap between the rich and the poor in China has remained a significant and unresolved problem. Inequality is predicted to be aggravated in the coming decades. The Gini index, or the Gini coefficient, is the measure that shows the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among citizens. A Gini coefficient of 0 implies perfect equality, while that of a 1 means perfect inequality. According to the World Bank, the Gini coefficient of China was 0.47 in 2004, surpassing the United States which had a Gini coefficient of 0.41 in 2000. It is an ironic fact that a communist nation, China, has a bigger economic gap than the world's biggest capitalist nation, the U.S., which has been recently known for inequality among its citizens. On the other hand, Japan's Gini coefficient was 0.25 in 1993. This fact indicates that Chinese citizens face more severe economic inequalities than Japanese citizens experience during periods of economic growth. While the Chinese government stopped publishing an official nationwide Gini coefficient in 2000, many academic institutions in China point out that inequality in China as shown by their data has increased. The Southwestern University of Finance and Economics located in Chengdu, China, reported that China's Gini coefficient reached 0.61 in 2010.<sup>36</sup> In 2012, Peking University's Institute of Social Science Survey reported that the number was as high as 0.73. As such, we see that Chinese academia has consistently warned that these figures exceeded the 0.4 mark, which is widely as-

sociated with social instability and frequent violent outbreaks.<sup>37</sup>

Kawashima describes Chinese inequality from other aspects rather than income distribution.<sup>38</sup> First, the amount of national investment describes the geographical inequality in China. In 2007, the nationwide average of investment per person in urban areas is 6.9 times bigger than that of those in rural areas. The urban areas of Beijing have received the biggest investment, which was thirty-nine times bigger than that of the rural areas of Hainan province. In addition, the depth of rural-urban gaps varies among eastern coastal, inland, and western areas. The rural areas of relatively rich coastal provinces, such as Beijing and Shanghai, have received the same amount of investment as the urban areas of inland provinces.<sup>39</sup> Second, the China Statistical Yearbook reports that the electricity supply per capita in Shanghai is five times greater than that of Jiangxi province in 2007. Comparing this situation with Japan in 1995, the largest amount of electricity consumption per capita was found in Toyama prefecture (home of Toyota industries), which was only two times bigger than the smallest per capita consumption, in Nagasaki prefecture.<sup>40</sup>

The Chinese government has declared their intention to increase investment in rural areas. However, they still seem to prioritize urban development over solving rural poverty.<sup>41</sup> Moreover, the Chinese government has invested more of their budget in poverty reduction in other developing nations in Africa and Southeast Asia, whom they hope will be important

partners of China in the future, than in their own domestic farmers. Although the central government releases little data about the issue, the largest public database of Chinese development finance in Africa, which was launched by US researchers, estimates that almost 1,700 projects were conducted by China in 50 African nations from 2000 to 2011, with spending of US \$75 billion.<sup>42</sup> The Chinese government also suggested establishing the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in 2013, which purpose is to provide financial aid to improve infrastructure in developing nations in Asia. China has put a significant amount of investment towards the establishment of the AIIB.<sup>43</sup> These facts imply that inequality inside China will not be resolved soon.

Chinese society is still deeply connected to its agricultural traditions and is influenced by farming communities. While the current most popular image of China would be of a rapidly industrializing nation with a large number of factories, only a few decades have passed since China began its significant economic growth. Until the 1980s, China had been an agricultural nation, in which most citizens were farmers and the national economy depended on agriculture. In addition, the modern policies of the Chinese government consistently prioritize the mobilization of farmers. For instance, the Chinese Revolution that resulted in the creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949 was initiated by farmers under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.<sup>44</sup> Also, after the revolution, Chinese society continued to be organized with a central focus on agricultural villages. The peo-

ple's commune of China, which was part of the Great Leap Forward program initiated by Mao Zedong, was originally established in order to mobilize farmers.<sup>45</sup> Furthermore, when Chinese policies shifted to economic reform in 1978, the most fundamental change was made in agricultural areas, with such initiatives as the development of the Household Responsibility System. With the support of the central government, the households of farmers began to be able to make operating decisions independently within the limits which were set by a contractual agreement, and could freely sell surplus production above national and collective quotas. This system supplanted the people's commune, and demonstrated the value of unified management combined with the enthusiasm of the peasants farmers. It contributed to the development of the productivity in rural areas.<sup>46</sup> These historical events as well as the period of industrialization have occurred in only a short period of time. Accordingly, it is a reasonable guess that current Chinese society still has memories and feelings related to agricultures more than foreigners may expect.<sup>47</sup> Mallee supports this fact from another aspect in his study about Chinese migration.<sup>48</sup> During the 1950s, when China was internationally isolated, their policy required a heavy focus on agriculture as an essential part of its industry-led development strategy. The Chinese government systematically distributed rural products into urban areas and converted rural farmers into an industrial workforce. The surplus of rural labor enabled China to survive through very difficult times.<sup>49</sup> In the 1980s, Chinese society witnessed a rapid increase of rural labor mi-

gration. Farmers from the countryside formed large migrant populations in the cities and throughout the coastal regions, and they have continued to play the central role in the development of Chinese cities, by providing cheap and sufficient labor.<sup>50</sup> An important factor is that most migrants depend on networks based on kinship ties.<sup>51</sup> A study shows that 95 % of 500 workers at the Beijing railway station in 1989 were given information or assistance from these migrant organizations. After they started to live in cities, organizations of fellow village migrants helped them to establish relations with authorities and to obtain jobs.<sup>52</sup> There are still many migrants from rural areas who live in cities while maintaining strong connections with agricultural areas. Therefore, contemporary Chinese society is still influenced by agricultural cultures in urban and rural areas directly and indirectly.

Other statistics also illustrate how large the number of farmers in China is in comparison to other nations. The current working population of China is said to be around 820 million, while 500 million people were engaged in farming in 2010. Since the world's working population in 2010 was 3.3 billion, 15 percent of the world's working population consists of Chinese farmers. Furthermore, according to FAO, 1.3 billion people in the world are working in agriculture, and 38 % of those live in China.<sup>53</sup> These numbers imply that Chinese farmers provide a large amount of support to the Chinese economy as well as to those of other nations, including Japan, in terms of exporting agricultural products.

At the same time, persistent discrimination against farmers is a problem in terms of positive sustainability in China. The *hukou* system, or household registration system (HRS) has played an important role in Chinese society for more than 50 years. In the 1950s, the Great Leap Forward failed to achieve agricultural and industrial goals while the urban areas rapidly grew. Consequently, China faced a severe economic crisis and a famine of great scale, followed by social turbulence and poverty. A number of farmers sought food and jobs in the cities. In 1958, the government tried to maintain social order by implementing the HRS, which regulated the internal migration of farmers. In addition, the government tried to keep farmers in rural areas in order to ensure agricultural production. The regulation successfully reduced the number of migrant farmers through the 1970s; in the 1980s, the government saw that they could not continue to control the situation, and many migrant farmers again started to live in urban areas. However, those who had a rural *hukou* were often exploited in cities. Since most of them were illegal migrants, they faced a number of social restrictions and discriminations. Even marriage between people who had different *hukous* was not originally allowed. Though many changes to the HRS have been made so far, the different *hukous* and the resulting discrimination against farmers still exists in Chinese society. Chinese farmers have been forced to accept a status that is inferior in many aspects to that of urban citizens. Mallee (2000) says:

Despite all the changes, the core of the *hukou* system

has not changed. The division along rural-urban residence lines is no longer clearcut, but Chinese society by and large can still be divided into an 'agricultural' segment and a 'non-agricultural' one, and glaring differences remain in entitlements between the two (p.99).<sup>54</sup>

Such a separation of civic identities is a problem for Chinese positive sustainability.

### **Vital elements of Japan's positive sustainability**

Japan's ecology and economy have traditionally depended on China, implying that China's sustainability is vital for Japan's sustainability. China has been Japan's biggest trading partner since 2007. China has also accounted for around 20 percent of Japan's entire trade since 2009, while its second largest trading partner, the United States, has accounted for 11-13 percent during that time.

The environmental problems in China also influence Japanese citizens. For instance, as vehicle emissions and coal consumptions have significantly increased, the people of China suffer from PM 2.5 level of pollutants, which cause asthma, heart disease, and an increased risk of death. This polluted air reaches southwestern regions of Japan every year. In 2013, Nagasaki prefecture in Japan faced a PM 2.5 concentration level which surpassed the standard daily average set by the Basic Environmental Law. Japanese



residents and local governments started to conduct international cooperation with China in order to solve the this issue.<sup>55</sup>

Each national culture has its own unique set of characteristics, which are reflected in a distinct style of government action, called diplomatic style. Policy makers

sal values. When other nations try to oppose US ideologies, such as open markets and respect for national sovereignty, the US government does not hesitate to take actions against them.<sup>60</sup> Furthermore, China has never abandoned its core beliefs. No matter how severe the international criticism has been, the Chinese govern-

**Table 4.1** Top three trading partners and their percentage of Japan's trade (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>China</b>	17.7	17.4	20.5	20.7	20.6	19.7	20.1
<b>America</b>	16.1	13.9	13.5	12.7	11.9	12.8	13.1
<b>South Korea</b>	6.1	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.0

Source Ministry of Finance of Japan, n.d.

should take into account their strengths and weaknesses when examining their own diplomatic experiences in order to make effective strategies.<sup>56</sup> To this regard, one should recognize that Japan's foreign policy advantages are its flexibility in corresponding to external circumstances.<sup>57 58</sup> Pyle says, "Japan's international behavior has been marked by its pragmatic, often opportunistic pursuit of power."<sup>59</sup> Japan has never been motivated by utopian visions of the future or by transcendent and universal ideas, such as the victory of a classless society or the spread of democracy. From a Western perspective, such a national characteristic may be considered unique. The Japanese government has often been characterized as more realistic and pragmatic than other nations. For instance, US diplomacy has been idealistic, though it depends on the president to some extent. The US government would never change their stance on advocating for human rights and liberalism as univer-

ment has kept one-party rule. Even though their economic policy follows the idea of capitalism, the government continues to regard itself as socialist. As the economy has successfully grown, the Chinese government has worked to establish the Chinese model of economic development in other parts of the world, as Joshua Cooper Ramo described in *The Beijing Consensus*.<sup>61</sup> Contrary to other nations' policies, Japan has modified its stance according to the international order, sometimes by adopting strategies which other nations would not. The most prominent example would be the Yoshida Doctrine after the Second World War. Under the security umbrella of the U.S., Japan abandoned its military force and focused on economic activities in the global market.<sup>62</sup> One can also see Japanese pragmatism from the strategic usage of Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA was started according to the San Francisco Peace treaty after WWII. Many scholars, including John W. Dower and Kimie Ha-

ra, point out that the treaty was created under the strong initiative of the U.S. government, which sought the expansion of capitalism against the Soviet Union.<sup>63</sup> Japan's ODA was also "recommended" by the US government in order to establish a new capitalist market in Asia. Accordingly, the assistance programs of Japan featured development of economic infrastructure.<sup>64</sup>

There exist several explanations for Japan's national style. From a cultural perspective, Nisbett attributes the East Asian way of thinking to their way of life from ancient times.<sup>65</sup> The East Asian perspective was basically developed around intensive rice cultivation, which needed intensive cooperation among people. In addition, the homogeneity of East Asian society helped people develop a holistic view, with which people perceived the world as consisting of constituent elements that interacted with one another. Thus, it was vital for East Asian farmers, including the Japanese, to be sensitive and adaptive to various environments.<sup>66</sup> The influence of Shinto may also account for the nature of Japan's diplomacy. Shinto is a religion which focuses on visible phenomena rather than invisible matters such as the world after death. The dogma of Shinto emphasizes flexibility instead of an absolute ideal. This religious belief is not irrelevant to the pragmatism of Japan. Furthermore, Japanese people have inherited a persistent sense of insecurity because of their vulnerability as an archipelagic nation with limited resources. These national characteristics make Japan pragmatic and skillful in adaptation and accommodation.<sup>67</sup>

Outsiders often see Japanese diplomacy as lacking its own ideology and principles. On the other hand, the underlying reason of the flexibility is that Japan has always sought the best way to achieve its national interests.<sup>68</sup> In the case of international cooperation, most Japanese assistance was conducted as tied aid, or assistance given with certain conditions. For instance, a developing nation may be mandated to spend a bilateral loan or grant on goods or services imported from the donor nation. This has enabled Japanese firms to export to these developing Asian nations. Consequently, the increase in ODA significantly contributed to Japanese economic development.<sup>69</sup> However, when Japan has become aggressive in its pursuit of its national interests, results have often been characterized by disaster. Japanese imperialism in the twentieth century is an example of aggressive diplomacy and has had tragic outcomes for Japan. The Japanese military government during the World Wars attempted to establish a Japanese empire in East Asia. The rationale for those behaviors was the idea that Japan needed to become self-reliant to be a high-ranking nation in the international system, just like the Western developed nations were. Japanese culture, which significantly values the acquisition of honor, also led to such behaviors. However, once the Japanese military government became uncontrollable, it led to numerous deaths as well as their loss in WWII.<sup>70</sup> Ironically, harsh memories of these attempts to build honor have reduced the honor of the Japanese government through the present day.

Recently, the situation in East Asia has dramatically changed because of China's rising influence. There are several possible ways for Japan to react to the rise of China, which includes being rivals, competing economically and militarily, and reducing cooperation with China. However, the current most important national interest of Japan should be their positive sustainable development. Ecological and economic stability in China will ensure Japan's future security and financial stability. Moreover, Japan's positive sustainability should require resolving the current conflicts that are present with neighboring nations. Accordingly, Japan is currently expected to rethink their diplomatic actions by recognizing their flexibility as a strength instead of becoming aggressive. An example of this flexibility is their cooperation with a previous enemy, the US, after WWII. Japan again should modify their diplomatic style to be more harmonious with the rising power in their neighborhood.

One goal of conflict management should be transforming the actors in the conflict from rivals to partners, by making them recognize their common interests and the benefits of ending the conflict.<sup>71</sup> While both Japan and China are taking conflicting positions towards each other, their national interests are actually compatible, as illustrated above. As a way to achieve perpetual peace between and within nations, Immanuel Kant emphasized the importance of being reasonable enough to recognize the benefits from ending wars.<sup>72</sup> In the case of China and Japan, both nations should understand that cooperation is the most reasonable way to

survive and prosper in the long term. From the perspective of positive sustainability, Japan actually shares a destiny with China. Considering these facts, a possible flexible strategy of the Japanese government could be to promise assistance to Chinese citizens and appeal to a common identity as part of one Asian community.

Since Japan does not have its own military and has extreme limitations on the use of the Japanese Defense Forces, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has emphasized ODA as a vital instrument of its diplomacy. After Japan began ODA in 1954, it continuously increased the amount of ODA available throughout the 1970s and 1980s. From 1989 to 2001, Japan continued to be the largest ODA contributor in the world.<sup>73</sup> In 2014, Japan was the second-largest shareholder of the World Bank Group,<sup>74</sup> which is one of the largest sources of funding and research for poverty reduction in the developing world.<sup>75</sup> Furthermore, instead of military contributions, Japan has continued to pay the second-largest share of the budgets of the United Nations and UN Peacekeeping Operations.<sup>76</sup>

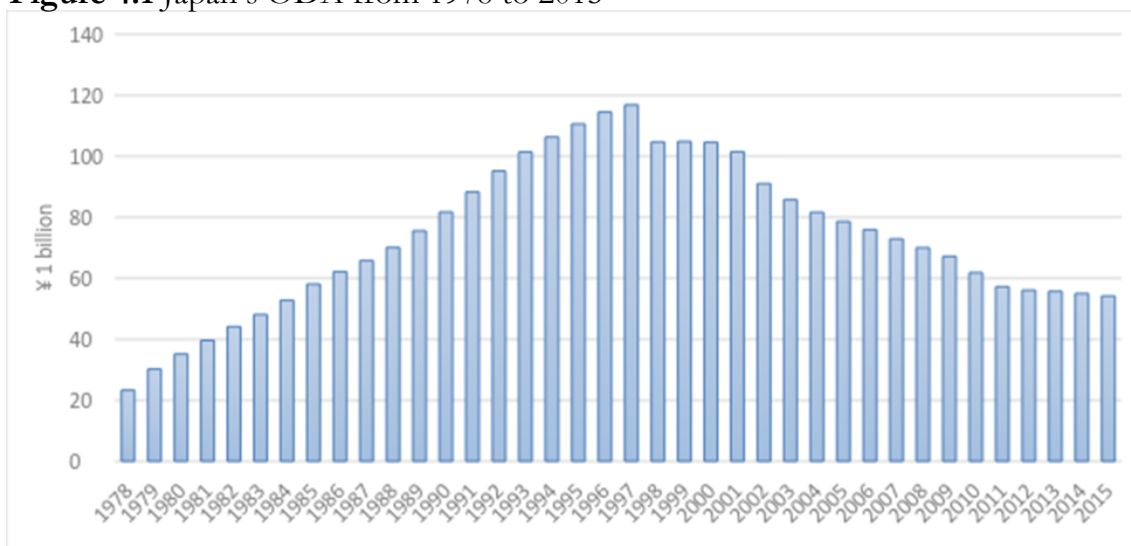
This high financial contribution, including ODA, has been possible as Japan is the most developed nation in Asia and has one of the most advanced economies in the world. Though Japan is now only the fifth largest donor among nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an annual ODA budget of \$10 billion gives the impression that Japan still remains a significant donor to the international community and will keep this status for the coming

decades.<sup>77</sup>

While ODA has historically played a vital role in Japan's diplomacy, the nature of Japan's diplomacy using ODA has changed as a response to changing economic and environmental situations in the world. During the 1990s, Japanese ODA has been focused on establishing diplomatic and economic relationships with East Asian nations. In the 2000s, Japan began to reduce assistance to these nations, including China, and to include programs for environmental protection. In 2003, the Japanese government made the first revision to the Charter as a response to the emergence of global economic and environmental problems. In the 1990s, the center of the world order shifted from the ideological wars between capitalism and communism to competition within the global economy. Private capital started to flow increasingly to Asian markets, causing significant economic gaps among developing nations. Due to this, Japan decided to expand its

focus on poverty reduction to the poorest nations, especially in Africa. Also, Japan started to reduce ODA to some recipients which had achieved economic growth by themselves. The severe economic stagnation of Japan was another major reason for the decrease of ODA to these nations. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which was the ruling political party in 2002, took initiative to revise the ODA charter, especially in terms of reduction of international assistance to China.<sup>78</sup> In addition, global environmental problems became much more prominent in the 21st century. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, nations reached a consensus that international cooperation towards environmental protection cannot be achieved without poverty reduction and confirmed that the poorest people of the world would become most vulnerable to natural disasters. Accordingly, Japanese development programs began to emphasize the importance of broad stakeholders' inclusivity and recipients' participations in assis-

**Figure 4.1** Japan's ODA from 1978 to 2015



Source Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2015

tance programs. When seeking to accomplish poverty reduction for sustainable development, coordinated approaches among donor nations as well as between donor and recipient nations are critical. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2002 further encouraged the world to organize an efficient system of international cooperation, by sharing the same slogans, goals, and objectives. Furthermore, the Japanese government, following the Comprehensive Development Framework advocated by the World Bank, shifted the principles of Japan's ODA from macroeconomic approaches to promotion of inclusivity of various stakeholders in development programs.<sup>79</sup>

In this context, Japan's current diplomacy promotes international assistance towards sustainable development, including poverty reduction and promotion of environmental education in poor regions. While Japan promises to show respect for the strategies of each nation, key principles of Japan's ODA (as shown in Table 4.2) emphasize human security and social fairness, which the Chinese government has struggled with. This disparity gives a rationale for Japan to provide focused assistance to Chinese farmers. Furthermore, the Japanese government emphasized utilizing its own experiences in reconstructing its society and economy after WWII.<sup>80</sup> In terms of positive sustainable development, Japan has many useful experiences to share with China. The Japanese situation in the 1940s and 1950s was as severe as the Chinese situation was a few decades ago. On the other hand, Japan succeeded in rapidly developing their economy, and

has been able to maintain their high GDP while overcoming environmental pollution and reducing social unrest, issues with which the current Chinese government is struggling. Japan's economic development occurred without increasing income inequality among citizens, and this resulted in long-term economic development with social stability.<sup>81</sup> While the situations and conditions in China are very different, the goals of the Chinese government are similar to Japan's outcome.

While Japan is a highly developed and industrialized nation, agriculture is an important part not only of the economic but also the social and cultural domains in Japan. Japan had been a nation of farmers, in which almost all people lived by agriculture, especially rice cultivation, until the late the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The differences between Japanese agriculture and that of the Western world include the fact that Japanese agriculture was often connected to the worship of nature. The ancient religion of Japan, Shinto, highly values the relationship between nature and human beings, with rituals aimed at harmonious co-existence. In comparison to the Western God, Shinto has a number of gods related to each element of nature, such as water, forests, and rice. While the Western tradition has often aimed to conquer nature, Japanese citizens preferred to protect nature as much as possible. For instance, cities during the Edo era from 1603 to 1867 are famous for the Japanese philosophy of nature conservation. The city of Edo, which is now Tokyo, developed the infrastructure for recycling. The values of efficiency and eco-friendliness

**Table 4.2** Basic Policies and Priority Issues of Japan's ODA

<b>Basic Policies</b>		<b>Priority Issues</b>	
1	Supporting self-help efforts of developing countries	1	Poverty reduction
2	Perspective of "Human Security"	2	Sustainable growth
3	Assurance of fairness	3	Addressing global issues
4	Utilization of Japan's experience and expertise	4	Peace-building
5	Partnership and collaboration with the international community		

*Source* Japan's ODA Charter, 2013

are said to have permeated civic daily life. Azby Brown, an associate professor at the Kanazawa Institute of Technology in Japan, describes the term "the zero-waste ideal" in Japan. Not only farmers but also urban citizens in the Edo era recycled almost everything and wasted almost nothing, as they treated natural resources with care.<sup>82</sup> The recent Japanese government has paid increasing attention to the fact that Japanese philosophies and views on life today were created by ancestors from cultures that valued environmentalism. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Environment National Strategy published by the first Abe Cabinet in 2007 emphasized three important principles towards sustainable development: the sound material-cycle society,<sup>83</sup> an idea derived from Edo society, the harmony of society with nature, derived from Shinto, as well as the creation of a low-carbon emission society.<sup>84</sup>

Moreover, the Japanese government has promoted the *Satoyama Initiative* since

2007 in order to extend to other nations the Japanese ideas of agriculture and co-existence between nature and human-beings. *Satoyama* is a Japanese term that means agricultural landscapes; in *satoyama*, woodlands, grasslands, paddy fields, farmlands, irrigation ponds, canals, and human settlements are maintained in an integrated manner featuring a mosaic usage of land.<sup>85</sup> Japan has many such *satoyama* areas throughout the nation and some of them are located around urban areas. The Japanese government has emphasized this feature of Japanese society in comparison with developed Western nations. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, an advocate of the *Satoyama Initiative* and the vice president of United Nations University, has a similar idea to the positive sustainability of Paul James. He created the basic logic of the *Satoyama Initiative*, arguing that agriculture and co-existence with nature are vital elements for citizens to achieve healthy social lives. The Japanese government took his idea and advertised it dur-

ing international conferences on sustainable development, including the tenth meeting of the Conferences of the Parties in 2010.<sup>86</sup>

In addition, the Japanese government has actively participated in the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) program, which was initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2002. GIAHS are unique land use systems and landscapes in which people protect biological diversity in accordance with their agricultural and social lives. By registering the areas as international heritage sites, the GIAHS program aims to encourage inhabitants to promote sustainable agriculture and social lives in harmony with nature. Within the campaign of the GIAHS program, agriculture is not defined merely as production of crops, but also includes cultural elements, such as festivals, social rules, and indigenous rituals, which developed alongside prior systems of agriculture.<sup>87</sup> The Japanese government has acknowledged the importance of sustainable agriculture in terms of Japan's strategy towards sustainable development. Thus, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries of Japan has made efforts to increase the number of GIAHS while promoting the *Satayoma Initiative*. As of June 2013, five of the twenty-five GIAHS sites in the world have been registered in Japan. Also, the Japanese government arranged for the 2013 International Forum on GIAHS to be held in Ishikawa prefecture.<sup>88</sup> China has also shown a very proactive attitude towards this movement, having 8 areas registered as GIAHS. Takeuchi points out

that the agricultural mindset as a common cultural element should be a good tool in order to improve diplomatic relationships with East Asian nations, including China. From their shared understanding and cultural values, Japan, China, and South Korea established the East Asia Research Association for Agricultural Heritage Systems.<sup>89</sup> Their first conference was held in April 2014 in China, where more than 200 government officials and scholars from the three nations exchanged their opinions about sustainable agriculture in East Asia.<sup>90</sup>

### **Japan's International Assistance to Chinese Farmers**

Despite the reduction of the amount of ODA in the 2000s, the Japanese government has continuously placed significant importance on international assistance to China as an important diplomatic and strategic tool. The second ODA Charter of Japan has an independent section which describes ODA usages for China. In *Chapter I, Section 4 Important areas (2): China*, the charter says that Japanese assistance shifts its focus from economic infrastructure to environmental protection, human empowerment, and poverty reduction.<sup>91</sup> Though the Japanese government reached an agreement with the Chinese government to stop loan aid as ODA in December 2007, the financial grant aid and technical cooperation has since been continued. According to the annual ODA White Papers, published by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Japan, the total amount of grant aid and technological assistance to China had surpassed \$30 billion, and, until 2011, China had

been the largest recipient of technical cooperation from Japan.

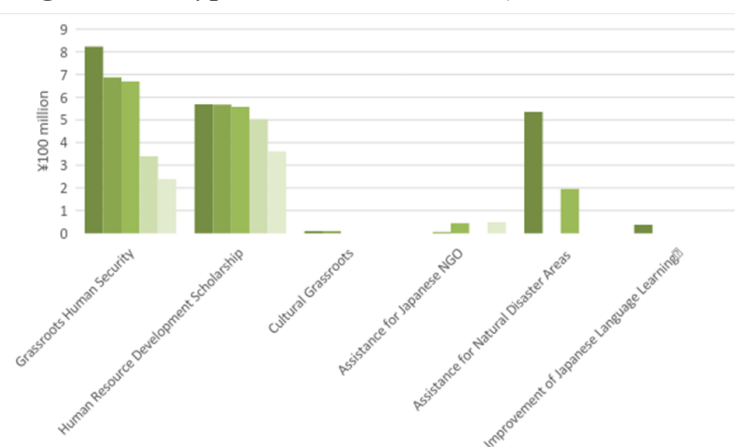
The usage of non-loan ODA is divided into technical cooperation and grant aid. As Figure 5.1 shows, much of Japan's ODA to China has been used in technical cooperation. Figure 5.2 illustrates that most grant aid has been used for grassroots assistance and human resource development in China.

tainable agriculture has decreased since 2009. The costs for other projects, such as for improvement of health care and government are higher, meaning that sustainable agriculture is insufficiently emphasized within Japan's international assistance to China.

The two projects related to sustainable agriculture are shown in Table 5.1. The

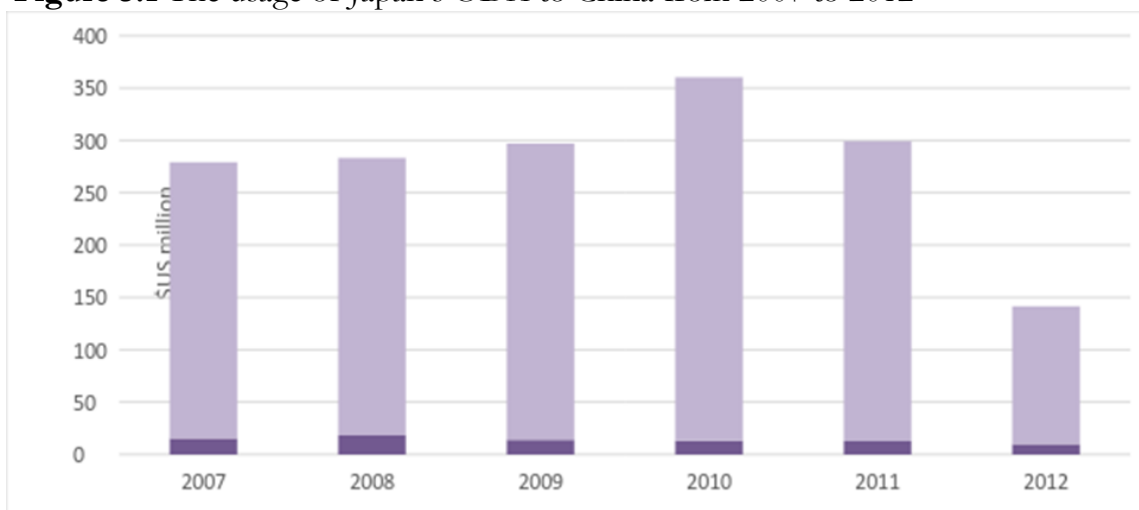
Japan has conducted many projects of technical cooperation in China so far primarily focusing on environmental protection according to the principles described in their ODA charter. Figure 5.3 shows the types of technical cooperation projects, revealing that 22 of 32 projects in China from 2007 to 2016 are related to environmental issues. At the same time only two projects have been conducted for the development of sustainable agriculture. Figure 5.4 shows that the cost of technical cooperation for sus-

**Figure 5.2** Types of Grant Aid Projects from 2008



Source Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2014

**Figure 5.1** The usage of Japan's ODA to China from 2007 to 2012



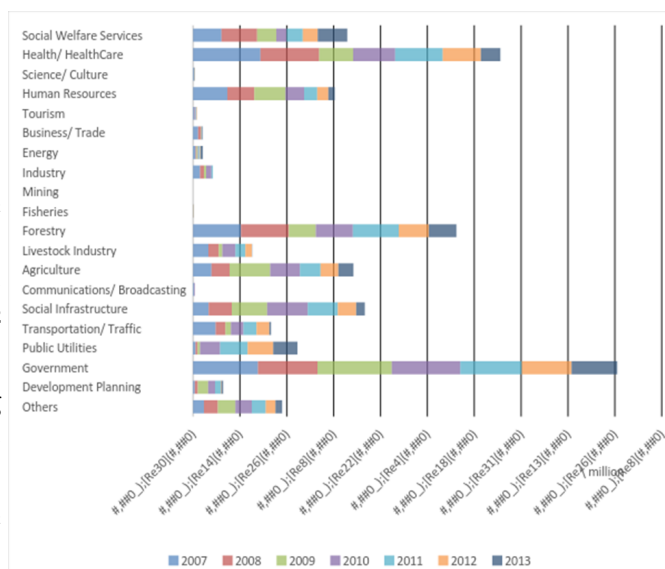
Source Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2014



first project, Sustainable Agricultural Technology Research and Development Phase 2 was conducted from 2002 to 2007 and was aimed at the improvement of agricultural productivity as well as the development of eco-friendly agricultural methods in Beijing. This project was planned based on the requirements of the central government of China, which seeks the development of sustainable agricultural technology. Making use of Japanese farmers' skills of resource recycling, four Japanese experts dispatched by the government helped Chinese scientists to develop their skills to 1) reduce the amount of chemical fertilizer, 2) save water resources, 3) recycle waste from animals as fertilizer, 4) reuse abandoned paddy straws in farm lands, and 5) improve the pollution monitoring system. These Japanese experts focused on conducting studies by communicating with government officials and scientists from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Academy of Agricultural Sciences in China.<sup>92</sup> This project was aimed at the long-term empowerment of farmers in China. The other project, the Integrated Development Model Project for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture in the Jin Sha River Basin, addressed farmers in poverty more directly. The project researched the lives of several farming families who depended on inefficient agriculture and established a model for farmer empowerment. Japanese experts gave those farmers environmental education, such as how to improve agricultural productivity without burning forests and arable land.<sup>93</sup> These projects ended in 2014, and there are no projects related to sustainable agriculture as of the end of April 2015.

Another type of technical cooperation project from the JICA is grassroots technical cooperation.<sup>94</sup> In addition to government-based technical cooperation, grassroots technical cooperation also includes many projects related to environmental issues. Figure 5.5 shows the number of projects that grassroots organizations conducted from 2010 to 2015 funded by Japanese official international assistance in China. Of twenty-eight projects, thirteen were related to environmental issues, and six were related to sustainable agriculture. Importantly, all six sustainable agriculture projects emphasized poverty reduction of Chinese

**Figure 5.4** The cost of technical cooperation from



Source Japan International Cooperation Agency China Office, 2013

farmers through agricultural education by making use of their unique skills (as shown in Table 5.2). For instance, a Japanese NGO provided more ecological agricultural methods to nomadic farmers in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, who relied on unsustainable traditional farming and grazing. In Zhejiang province, a Japanese non-profit organization

provided workshops to local farmers so that they could effectively sustain the habitats of the ibis, the national bird of Japan, while simultaneously prioritizing sustainable agriculture. The Asia Environmental Laboratory, which consists of several Japanese universities and firms, cooperated with local farmers in Henan Province in order to invent more ecological

**Table 5.1** Names of projects related to environmental issues and sustainable agriculture in China from 2007 to 2016 (as of April 2014)

Project Names / Cooperation Period
The Project on Eco-environment Rehabilitation and Poverty Reduction in Yanmenguan Region, Shanxi Province / 07.3-11.3
The Model Project for Water-saving Irrigation of Environmental Conservation Type in Grassland / 07.6-11.5
Project on technical improvement of Housing Energy Saving / 07.6-09.5
The Project for Protection of Natural Grassland and Nomad Settlement in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region / 07.6-13.3
Model Planning Project for Water Saving Society in China / 08.6-11.6
Promotion of Circular Economy / 08.10-13.10
China-Japan Training Project on Policies of Climate Change & CDM / 08.12-09.12
<u>Sustainable Agricultural Technology Research and Development Phase 2 / 09.4-14.3</u>
<u>Integrated development model project for nature conservation and sustainable agriculture in Jin Sha River Basin / 09.6-14.5</u>
Training project for promoting the institutional building on compensation for health damage by environment pollution / 09.6-12.6
Project for Capacity Development of Environmental Protection in Tianjin / 09.9-12.3
Capacity Development Project for management plan of dam in China / 09.9-13.9
Project for Upgrade and improvement of Wastewater treatment system / 09.11-13.2
Training Course on Environmental Exhibition and Energy-saving Technology / 10.1-10.1
Project on forest restoration after the earthquake in Sichuan Province / 10.2-15.1
Environment Construction at Co-existent Areas of Human Beings and Crested Ibis / 10.7-15.9
Dissemination of New Forestation Technology in Loess Plateau / 10.10-15.10
The project for promotion of municipal solid waste recycling / 10.10-15.1
Technical Project for Hygiene / 10.11-15.10
Seminar on China Environmental 12th 5years Plan Policy / 11.3-11.9
Project on Capacity Building on Climate Change and Public Participation / 11.12-14.3
The Project for Development of the Capacity on Water Environmental Management in Heihejinpen Dam River Basin / 12.3-15.3
The Project for Capacity Development of planning for pollution control of O3 and PM2.5 in Atmosphere / 12.9-15.3
The Project for Total Emission Control of Nitrogen Oxide in Atmosphere / 13.3-16.3

**Table 5.2** Grassroots technical cooperation projects related to sustainable agriculture in China from 2010 to 2015 (as of January 2013)

Contents of Sustainable Agriculture Projects/  
Cooperation Period

Environmental education of farmer leaders in Zhejiang / 10.6-13.3

Improvement of livestock farming skills in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region/ 10.7-13.3

Education of sustainable agriculture in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region / 11.3-13.2

Environmental technological transfer in agricultural areas of Shanxi Province / 11.5-14.3

Education of sustainable agriculture and poverty reduction in Henan Province / 11.9-13.8

Improvement of Compost agriculture technologies in Heilongjiang province/ 12.4-15.3

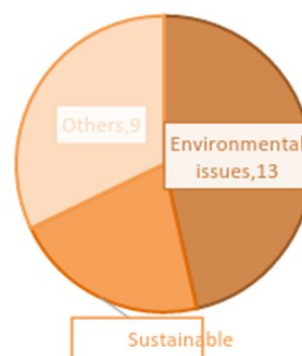
*Source* Japan International Cooperation Agency China Office, 2013

and economical fertilizers, and to create better business based on sustainable agriculture. The other three projects conducted in China, two by Japanese local committees and one by a scientific institution, had similar purposes.<sup>95</sup>

While Japanese local governments rarely suggest such projects related to sustainable development, they often conduct grassroots technical cooperation with Chinese municipalities in terms of environmental protection. As of 2013, local authorities in Ishikawa, Fukuoka, Kochi, Tokushima, Wakayama, and Yamagata prefectures have conducted technical cooperation with communities in China, promoting mutual understanding at the grassroots level.<sup>96</sup>

Overall, the Japanese government has spent funds on international assistance to China, especially for environmental protection, with a focus on technical cooperation. Nevertheless, the contribution has not been fully acknowledged by Japanese or Chinese citizens. While their diplomatic dialogue focuses on territorial disputes and issues related to historical memories, the meaning and necessity of such international cooperation are rarely discussed. A possible reason could be that the targets of international cooperation projects are too broad in scope for the Japanese government to efficiently advertise, as

**Figure 5.5** The number of grassroots technical cooperation projects from 2010 to 2015 (as of January 2013)



*Source* Japan International Cooperation Agency China Office, 2013.

environmental issues embrace subjects too various to see clear progress in a short time. The Japanese government should narrow their targets to more specific areas, so that they can more easily advertise their activities and outcomes. To this end, empowerment of farmers for the improvement of bottom-up environ-

mentalism in China can be effective, as the previous chapters has proved. The analysis in Chapter 5 also reveals other important facts; sustainable agriculture projects are insufficient to meet current needs, and projects by grassroots organizations have more direct interactions with Chinese farmers than government-based projects. In addition, interactions at the grassroots level will promote cultural understanding between Chinese and Japanese citizens, who currently lack direct communications. Moreover, in Japan, each local government advertises their successes or features as related to agriculture, such as specialized agricultural product or cultivated natural scenery. Therefore, those local authorities should have the potential to promote the aforementioned international cooperation projects.

## **Conclusion**

Sustainable development is the most crucial issue for the international community in the 21st century. Environmental crises are increasingly aggravated, creating an unprecedented situation in which no nation can survive without serious cooperation with other nations. Simultaneously, human beings continue to seek an ever-higher quality of life. The concept of sustainable development is expanding from merely environmental protection to the satisfaction of social and cultural human needs. As well as material sustainability, people strive for a life that is "socially desirable, fulfilling people's cultural, material and spiritual needs in equitable ways."<sup>97</sup>

The rising nations in East Asia have sig-

nificant roles in the world's sustainability, and as the two dominant nations in East Asia, China and Japan are especially responsible for this global need. However, both China and Japan have certain limitations to their environmental management. Without resolving the persistent antagonism and establishing new diplomatic relationships between these two nations, future generations in both nations will not be able to have a high quality of life. Sustainable agriculture can be a key to uniting these nations culturally. Moreover, the Asian traditional model of agriculture increasingly gathers international attention. The Japanese government is engaged in creating a new model of a sustainable society that is based on this traditional Asian agriculture. Empowerment of farmers can be effective for improving environmental management in China, since farmers are very influential actors in their society.

This analysis concludes that the Japanese government should increase its international assistance to China with a focus on empowerment of farmers and promotion of sustainable agriculture. The rapid economic growth of China and the long-lasting Japanese economic stagnation has recently decreased Japan's ODA to China. Instead of fueling a contentious atmosphere, the Japanese government should make use of its national strengths, its flexibility and adaptability, to respond to new challenges. Japan could benefit from articulating mutual benefits with China and emphasizing their partnerships rather than rivalries. While the complicated challenges between China and Japan remain, these ODA projects are im-

portant if often overlooked areas of co-operation.

As a possible strategy, the Japanese government can increase their international cooperation with China, with a focus on grassroots technical cooperation. Interactions at the grassroots level will cultivate common cultural identity, which is key to both nations' positive sustainability. While receiving international assistance, the Chinese government is expected to cooperate to resolve disputes over historical memories of WWII and to help Japan restore its international reputation. As their cultures become more positive towards one another, both governments will be able to take the initiative of holding international dialogues in order to establish an Asian model of sustainable agriculture, which will contribute to and assist global sustainable development.

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## **Social Urbanism: A Light at the End of the Tunnel?**

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### **Abstract**

Medellin, Colombia and San Pedro Sula, Honduras have suffered the same sickness of insecurity caused by drug cartels and gang violence. Each government has taken a remarkably opposite approach to dealing with these problems. Medellin implemented a “Social Urbanism” program dedicated to improve the quality of life of its residents by building a new transportation system, creating public parks and libraries, and improving the public image of the city. In contrast, San Pedro Sula implemented “The Iron Fist” dedicated to punishing real and perceived gang membership based on young men’s baggy pants and choice of hip hop music, as well as, extensive use of curfews. This paper uses the theory of Development as Freedom pioneered by Amartya Sen and the Human Development theory created by the United Nations to demonstrate that a counter violence approach directed to improving life and economic conditions can reduce homicide rates. Today, Medellin is considered one of the most innovative cities and a world example in human development initiatives, because it reduced its homicide rates by more than sixty percent since the 1990s. San Pedro Sula however continues to rank as one of the deadliest cities in the world since 2011.

### **Biography**

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## **Introduction**

In 1991, Medellin, Colombia had the highest murder rate in the world. According to the Inter-American Development Bank,<sup>1</sup> the city had a homicide rate of 381 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. Medellin was home to Pablo Escobar, the leader of a drug cartel whose violence deeply affected the city's residents especially in the poorest neighborhoods. Today, despite the fact that there are still many social and economic issues, these neighborhoods have seen an improvement in security and public area access as well as in its homicide rates which have decreased by more than two-thirds from its highest point since 1991.<sup>2</sup> After Escobar's death, the city's government implemented a plan known as Social Urbanism designed to promote the development of urban and rural areas with the creation of a cable-propelled transit system that connected Medellin's wealthiest neighborhoods with its poorest. The Social Urbanism project also improved the access to public spaces such as parks and libraries, promoted the creation of new jobs, and transformed the residents' image of the city and government authorities.

In contrast, San Pedro Sula, Honduras has been one of the world's most violent cities since 2011 with 111 homicides per 100,000 residents.<sup>3</sup> Gangs, extreme poverty, and illegal drug trafficking are the main causes of violence. In 2002, the Honduran President Ricardo Maduro launched operation Iron Fist (*Mano Dura*) as a program to decrease and control violence in the country.<sup>4</sup> The strategy included identification and arrest of alleged

gang members by their dress (baggy pants, T-shirts) and tattoos.<sup>5</sup> Despite the implementation of operation Iron Fist, murder numbers in Honduras are currently the second highest in the world after Caracas, Venezuela.<sup>6</sup>

The purpose of this paper is to analyze and compare Social Urbanism and Iron Fist as violence-reduction strategies and to identify their advantages and disadvantages as measures to reduce violence using the theory of Development as Freedom proposed by Amartya Sen and Human Development as implemented by the United Nations.

## **Violence, Unemployment, Poverty, and Drug Trafficking in Honduras**

There are different factors that affect the economic development and population in Honduras. According to the World Bank, the annual cost of violence in the country constitutes ten percent of its GDP and its homicide rate is one of the highest in the world with 111 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. Sixty percent of the population lives below the poverty line and about one third of the people are underemployed.<sup>7</sup> The nature of Honduras' crime has changed over the past decade. Poverty, unemployment, urban migration, political and economic crises, and transnational drug trade have worsened the country's social and economic development.<sup>8</sup> In 1990, the government's creation of Export Processing Zones<sup>9</sup> in industrial cities such as San Pedro Sula accelerated domestic migration and urbanization which reflected the government's poor planning that led to an infrastructure and

public services crisis. Additionally, the lack of employment opportunities in these growing industrial cities and the mass deportation of youth from the United States in the 1990s resulted in the formation of popular gangs throughout Central America influenced by gang members from Los Angeles, California.<sup>10</sup> The most popular gangs in Honduras are the *Mara Salvatrucha* (MS) and the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Gang (*Barrio 18*).<sup>11</sup> Gang violence has always been part of Honduras' history. However, the country in recent years has experienced a change in the nature of these "perverse social organizations"<sup>12</sup> due to the presence of transnational organized crime. Gang violence is often motivated by identity and peer pressure.<sup>13</sup> Transnational crime is characterized by its organization randomized locations, lucrative economic activities, and sophistication. Studies within the deadliest Honduras' neighborhoods show that most of the crimes are perpetrated anonymously and in secret, and that drug trafficking and contract killing (*sicariato*) are more common than they were previously. Police and the civil population claim that these new criminal organizations are controlling and shifting the nature of traditional Honduran gang violence.

Transnational crime has created a sense of fear and uncertainty within some Honduran communities. Before, residents knew the gangs' territories and in certain ways had learned how to live with them. Today, residents do not know where the violence is coming from and therefore they do not know how to manage it. This trend of violence is affecting Hondurans access to public transportation, since bus

and taxi operators are fearful and avoid these neighborhoods. Employment is also affected as residents in these areas are discriminated against and perceived as violent.<sup>14</sup>

The 2000 and 2008 global economic crises affected Honduras' economy, shifting its reliance on agricultural to manufacturing and services exports. In 2007, Honduras' poverty rate increased from 58.3 percent to 66.2 and youth unemployment increased from 4.9 to 8.2 percent in 2012. The political history of Honduras has not been of any help either, as in 2009 the coup d'état during Manuel Zelaya's presidential term paralyzed the state's institutions and created a fiscal and international investment crisis.<sup>15</sup>

Today, the combination of Honduras' geographic location plus its economic, political, and social difficulties reinforce its participation as a main port for all drug trafficking within the continent. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 87 percent of all cocaine that comes from South America first lands in Honduras. Statistics on violence show that the highest murder rates in the country outside of San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, the two main domestic drug markets, are associated to the cities of La Ceiba, El Progreso, and Choloma.

According to the World Bank research report "Crime, Violence and Community-based Prevention in Honduras," the type of violence in Honduras has changed. Homicides are no longer perpetrated in public, seem to be better planned, and are

executed by professionals (*sicarios*). Motives for murder are less frequently related to gang battles and instead more often revolve around political or social conflicts and many times involve the police and journalists; furthermore, there is some thought that police officers participate in some of these killings. Drug trafficking and consumption has increased in the northern part of the country as these cities are located along the transit route used to ship drugs from Central America to the United States. Drug consumption is popular in public areas including parks and schools, greatly affecting children. Extortion has also increased, impacting small and medium-sized businesses. Victims of these crimes live in fear for their life and their families and choose not to report these crimes, making the official data unreliable and complicating law enforcement's ability to respond.

### **Violence, Unemployment, Poverty, and Drug Trafficking in Medellin, Colombia**

Medellin, the capital of Antioquia, a Colombian province located in the northern part of the country, was founded in the mid-1600s as a commercial center and gold mining town.<sup>16</sup> Since its foundation, Medellin has been an example of successful development and progress in Colombia, despite its violent history.

The 1940 Colombian civil war *La Violencia* between the Liberal and Conservative parties affected the population and economic development of Medellin known for its coffee exports and hard-working population. Economic opportunities and

violence in the countryside due to the civil war increased migration to the city. People displaced from their hometowns saw Medellin as a safe heaven. However, the city was not prepared for this rapid urbanization, and hundreds of shantytowns were created in the outskirts of Medellin without following a proper urbanization plan. Between 1951 and 1985, the city's population grew from 350,000 to 1.5 million and, by 1972 fifty percent of its residents lived in informal settlements.<sup>17</sup>

Youth unemployment, lack of public schools to retain the growing population, and an absence of law enforcement triggered income inequality, social unrest, and gang violence. State authorities, local communities, traffickers of narcotics, and paramilitary groups interacted daily in an ungovernable environment. The formation of the Medellin drug cartel, which started with smuggling clothing and cigarettes using the tax-free Panama Canal Zone, presented the perfect scenario for Pablo Escobar and other traffickers to introduce Colombian cocaine into international markets.<sup>18</sup> This chain of events took Medellin to a level of unprecedented violence. By 1991, the city was the most dangerous in the world with 381 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants and a 14 percent unemployment rate. Drug smuggling became the main income source for many families, and, through his cartel, Pablo Escobar became one of the richest men in the world. During Medellin's most difficult times, Escobar spent millions of dollars creating schools, hospitals, and recreational facilities. At the same time, he funded political campaigns and hired

local gangs to carry out assassinations of politicians and law enforcement agents who obstructed his illegal activities. Some of Escobar's victims included a minister of justice, a presidential candidate, an attorney general, and at least 500 police officers. In total, Escobar is believed to have killed an estimated 5,000 people.<sup>19</sup>

After a long search, Colombian police killed Pablo Escobar in 1993. His death did not end the drug trafficking that is still present in Medellín but rather transformed it into one defined by "baby cartels."<sup>20</sup> Medellín "baby cartels" no longer have one "capo" or single commander; instead, they protect local gangs who are responsible for engaging in the drug business and distribution. They are difficult to target and their operations are more sophisticated making the local and international law enforcement operations harder. These new cartels engage in crimes such as extortion and the micro-traffic of marijuana and other synthetic drugs, thereby increasing drug consumption in Colombia. They also seem interested in other markets besides the U.S., as there is ample evidence that Colombian cocaine is reaching cities in Europe and Latin America.<sup>21</sup>

### **Iron Fist in Honduras**

In 2002, during Ricardo Maduro's presidency, the Honduran government implemented its Iron Fist policy and created an anti-gang law. Maduro's zero-tolerance policy intended to decrease the violence in the country by prohibiting and punishing the formation of illicit associations (gangs) and to restore the state's authority

within urban areas impacted by violence. The Iron Fist policy affected all Hondurans. During its implementation, Honduran residents required permission of the municipal authorities to host parties and everyone had to be in their homes by two in the morning.<sup>22</sup>

The implementation of the anti-gang law in Honduras had a strong territorial component. It aimed to control and target illicit group associations acting in specific areas within marginalized neighborhoods by deploying military and police forces who searched for gang members in the streets and in their homes. During these raids, police targeted people dressed in "hip-hop or rapper" styled clothing, wearing tattoos, or walking with "style or swing" (*tumbao*). The anti-gang law prescribed that "membership of a gang was a motive [for] arrest and incarceration"<sup>23</sup>

There are several studies that demonstrate how counterproductive and socially inappropriate the zero-tolerance strategy in Honduras was. Current violence and poverty rates show the devastating effect that the "ironfisted measure"<sup>24</sup> had on society. First, in order to avoid identification by the police, gang members changed their dress code and prohibited tattoos for new members, which made the job of the police and military forces more challenging. They also changed their locations constantly and used sophisticated methods to commit their crimes, which created greater fear and insecurity within society. Second, since the anti-gang law prescribed that membership in a gang was enough reason for arrest and incarceration, the penitentiary system in Honduras col-

lapsed because of overcrowding. Incarcerated members maintained their ties and businesses outside jails, created new strategies for continuing their illicit activities, and controlled a new order in prison spaces. According to Lirio Rivera, an anthropologist at the National University of Columbia, “imprisoned gang members lacked the mobility of those in the streets. However, restricted mobility not only reinforced the territoriality of imprisoned gang members, but also enabled the emergence of new territories within the confined space.”<sup>25</sup> In 2004, the ratio was 1,200 prison guards for more than 10,000 inmates.

The Iron Fist operation also increased corrupted practices within public institutions including the police and the military. Honduran public institutions are weak and the poor public employees’ compensation system encourages their participation in illicit activities. During an interview, a community leader in El Progreso municipality stated:

They captured a man in Choloma, he was a police officer and a member of the Cobras [special police unit]. They arrested him, and suspected that he participated in at least 50 assassinations as a hired killer. But how did they not capture him until he had committed 50 assassinations? Why didn’t they detain him after three or five? They detained him, but the question was whom he has been working for.<sup>26</sup>

### **Social Urbanism in Colombia**

The Medellin Social Urbanism concept finds its roots in the Integral Program for Subnormal District Improvement (*Programa Integral de Mejoramiento de Barrios Subnormales en Medellín*, or PRIMED) created in 1990 as a result of the Colombian federal government’s transfer of power to municipal governments. PRIMED’s main objectives included the improvement of the city’s quality of life and its unification. Due to rampant violence and income inequality, residents of informal settlements were segregated and left out of the city’s development. A lack of political support limited PRIMED’s success and the program did not reach the second phase of implementation. However, the few improvements achieved proved PRIMED’s principles to be effective and served as a starting point in 2004 for Sergio Fajardo, who was Medellin’s innovative mayor.

Since 1990, Sergio Fajardo worked for the city’s improvement along with other community leaders, businessmen, women’s groups, and academics. When he arrived in office, he represented different social communities and was supported by a large majority of the city’s residents. “Fajardo was elected with more votes than any mayoral candidate in Medellin’s history.”<sup>27</sup> Sergio Fajardo’s Social Urbanism started by creating Integral Urban Projects (*Proyectos Urbanos Integrales* or PUI) in areas with the lowest Human Development Index scores. His main goals promoted coexistence and democracy, as well as social housing, transportation projects, and economic development through alliances with private and international civil societies and NGOs.<sup>28</sup>



*Empresas Publicas de Medellin*, a public utility provider, funded the Social Urbanism project, which was further supported through municipal taxes. During Fajardo's term, Medellin built twenty new parks and libraries in secondary school complexes designed by architects selected in local competitions. Fajardo also supported cultural activities and literacy programs to inaugurate these facilities.<sup>29</sup> The Metrocable was Fajardo's most famous project. With the goal to promote social inclusion and urban development, he created a cable-car transit system that connected the city center to marginalized neighborhoods located in the mountainous periphery.<sup>30</sup> Around 67,000 people use the system daily, improving the quality of life of residents living in previously isolated neighborhoods. New employment opportunities and easier access to schools and hospitals are only a few of the advantages of the Metrocable system.

The Integral Urban Projects also implemented programs to develop local entrepreneurship. For example, the city established microfinance institutions (*Banco de las Oportunidades* or Bank of Opportunities) and business development centers (*Centros de Desarrollo Empresarial*) that served as opportunities for empowerment for those living in Medellin's poorest neighborhoods. Microfinance institutions have offered more than 50,000 loans that have helped small and medium-sized business owners.<sup>31</sup>

Social Urbanism as a social integration plan involved the creation of community committees that shared their opinions regarding urban life and sustainability of

urban planning. Members of communities, therefore, felt included and part of the decision-making process, which created a sense of shared ownership over these community projects.<sup>32</sup>

One of the causes that led PRIMED to fail was the lack of political and social support. In contrast, Fajardo and his Social Urbanism project successfully integrated all parts of society, causing "an unorthodox coalition of business people, grassroots community organizers, and the middle class" to sign on to his "radical political agenda."<sup>33</sup> During his term, people actually felt that he was on the streets every day promoting transparency, communication, and collaboration. Furthermore, teams working on the project included young professionals and academics, which helped alleviate the rampant corruption that had characterized previous governments.<sup>34</sup>

Social Urbanism created short- and long-term results and the fact that residents in Medellin were able to experience these changes created an unprecedented sentiment of pride and love for their city. The creation of parks and libraries not only supported educational projects but also served as locations to gather and enjoy the beauty of the city without the fear that had been experienced in the 1990s. The empowerment of low-income citizens through microloans and supporting them through business development centers provided a way out of poverty that was not previously available. The building of a reliable and safe transportation system such as the Metrocable connected the poorest neighborhoods with the

wealthier parts of Medellín which created new employment opportunities and made social inclusion more possible.

Social Urbanism is a model for social and economic development to emulate around the world as it changed the path that Medellín was following. Despite all of these improvements, however, like many Latin American cities Medellín still suffers from high rates of poverty, inequality, narcotraffic, and violence.

### **Development as Freedom and the Capabilities Approach**

In his book *Development as Freedom*, Amartya Sen provides a different approach to the traditional theory of development. Traditionally, a nation's development is narrowly defined by its Growth Domestic Product (GDP); instead, Sen sees development from two different perspectives. First, according to Sen, freedom is itself the primary end of development. Second, Sen sees freedom as the main instrument and the principal means by which to reach development. When Sen refers to freedom as the primary end of development, he is referring to freedom as the basic set of capabilities that we require to enhance our life and that freedoms should be expanded in order to achieve further development. When Sen refers to freedom as instrumental to achieve development, he is referring to the use of "political freedoms, economic facilities, social opportunities, transparency guarantees, and protective security"<sup>35</sup> as the primary means by which to develop.

Political freedoms or civil rights provide

people with the choice to decide who should or should not govern and to actively participate in the decision making process of public policies. For Sen, people should have the opportunity to decide about their present and future and not just be the recipients of orders. These freedoms also include freedom of expression and freedom to choose between different political parties.<sup>36</sup>

According to Sen, "economic facilities refer to the opportunities that people enjoy to utilize their economic resources for consumption, production or exchange ... the freedom to participate in economic interchange has a basic role in social living."<sup>37</sup> This freedom includes access to financial instruments such as micro-finance regardless of a person's socioeconomic status.

Social opportunities refer to access to education and health care such that the individual can live a healthy life and is able to enjoy other instrumental freedoms. Social opportunities such as health care, education, and social security contribute directly to the individual's ability to live a better and longer life even if the individual is not wealthy. Additionally, the enhancement of quality of life positively influences the individual's productivity and thereby contributes to economic development. Transparency guarantees refers to social trust, which can be violated by practices characterized by corruption. Lastly, by protective security, he refers to taking preventive measures in order to prevent starvation or misery. These protective measures include unemployment benefits or income supplements to the

indigent.<sup>38</sup>

These two perspectives on freedom are essential in understanding the concept of human capability, which he refers to as distinct from the concept of human capital. According to Sen, “human capability concentrates on the ability of people to live the lives they have reason to value and to enhance the real choices they have.” In order for an individual to be capable of living a life he or she has a reason to value and to enhance his or her choices, it is necessary that the aforementioned freedoms are accessible to the individual. Human capital, on the other hand, refers more to the potential of an individual to expand production possibilities through education or good health.<sup>40</sup> For Sen, the concept of human capabilities is inclusive of the concept of human capital, as an individual that has the potential of becoming more productive due to his or her human capital will attain the life he or she has a reason to value. Additionally, Sen indicates that the role of human beings goes beyond economic production and includes political and social development.<sup>41</sup>

Amartya Sen’s theory of development and capability approach serves as the basis to understanding the nature and causes of deprivations of freedoms and to establishing the parameters to develop effective public policies. The author gives us the example of poverty as one kind of deprivation of freedom and states that public policy aimed at poverty reduction must consider vulnerable individuals, such as children, those that require special care such as the elderly, and those that are

handicapped, as their human capabilities are reduced and limited. In this sense, the capability approach prevents public policy from focusing solely on the increments of income as a way to reduce poverty and instead focuses on providing the freedoms that people value to satisfy their needs and provide them a path out of poverty. For example, public policy that extends access to basic education and schooling increases the probabilities and opportunities for people to find employment in the future.

### **Human Development**

In the second half of the twentieth century, the economist Dr. Mahbub ul Haq created the development theory of Human Development along with the Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI today is used by the United Nations to measure Human Development progress across countries. Haq’s Human Development theory establishes that the wealth of nations cannot be determined by their GDP and should instead be based upon human beings’ wellbeing and opportunities to flourish in life.

The United Nations Human Development Report Office (HDRO) has, since the 1980s, adopted the HDI to measure human development and uses the capabilities approach developed by Sen in which he frames development “in terms of whether people are able to “be” and “do” desirable things in life.”<sup>42</sup> The United Nations Human Development Report presents the Human Development theory as follows: human development is about “expanding the richness of human life,

rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live.”<sup>43</sup> From this perspective, human development within societies depends on how much attention and importance is given to people, opportunities, and choices. The Human Development approach focuses on people because their wellbeing depends on the life they want to live and value, not on their income growth. To explain this point, Amartya Sen provides the example of Gabon, Namibia, and Brazil, which in terms of per capita GNP are much richer than Sri Lanka or the state of Kerala in India yet in terms of life expectancy of their citizens rank much lower. In relation to Human Development theory, income growth is not the goal of development, as was understood before, but is rather only the means to it.

With respect to opportunities, Human Development provides individuals with opportunities to develop their abilities and, by using them, live a good and happy life. To understand this point, we can think about the case of a girl who has access to education but, because of gender inequality in her country, is incapable of finding a job.

Lastly, Human Development theory is about giving individuals choices and allowing them to choose what makes them happy and provides value to their lives. According to the HDRO 2015 report, “human development should at least create an environment for people, individually and collectively, to develop to their full potential and to have a reasonable chance of leading productive and creative lives that they value.” Within democratic

governments, for example, people have the choice of electing the candidate they see as more capable, as well as the option of supporting or not supporting a political party. Regarding this topic, Amartya Sen agrees with the economist Friedrich Hayek who distinguishes between (1) the derivative importance of freedom dependent only on its actual use and (2) the intrinsic importance of freedom in making us free to choose something we may or may not actually choose.<sup>44</sup>

According to the HDRO, the Human Development approach has two dimensions: (1) enhancing human abilities by living a long and healthy life, having knowledge, and living under decent and dignified conditions, and (2) creating conditions for human development by (a) allowing individuals to participate politically and socially, (b) living in a sustainable environment (c) enjoying human security and rights, and (d) not suffering from gender inequality.

The international community in recent years has underscored the importance of sustainable development, but it is a concept that has always been directly linked to issues regarding the environment, particularly that of climate change. As such, it is necessary to highlight that sustainable development is a much broader concept that also supports peace and social justice. According to Jeremy L. Caradonna in his book *Sustainability: A History*, “the sustainability concept has a range of different domains: urbanism, agriculture and ecological design, forestry, fisheries, economics, trade, population, housing and architecture, transportations, business, educa-

tion, social justice, and so on.”<sup>45</sup>

What is sustainable development and how does it affect all these fields? Sustainable development, according to the International Institute for Sustainable Development, is the “progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The goal of sustainable development is to wisely plan and reject what threatens human kind and its future generations by creating healthy environments and running economies whose growth does not impede other humans and organisms to live eternally on the Earth.<sup>46</sup>

The economic dimension of sustainable development includes the creation of an economic system that can produce goods and services continuously without going into excessive debt and that can equally supply all sectors of the economy with what they need to survive and progress.<sup>47</sup> According to the 2010 Human Development Report, the environmental dimension refers to issues such as climate change, water scarcity, and to counter economic systems that drain the world’s natural resources and present uncontrollable consumption patterns. Lastly, the social aspect of sustainable development includes the equal distribution of resources, social justice, security, and the possibility to live a significant life with employment opportunities, access to education and health care, and under democratic institutions.<sup>48</sup>

### **Social Urbanism and Human Development**

The Social Urbanism project in Medellin reflects what the concept of Human Development espouses and promotes. Sergio Fajardo’s administration started this program by identifying Medellin’s poorest neighborhoods using the Human Development Index (HDI) firstly developed by Dr. ul Haq. By using the HDI, the local government was ensuring that the most vulnerable and isolated communities started a process of social rehabilitation. Additionally, the government ensured that all members in these communities were included in this program by allowing groups of women and community leaders to share their expectations and opinions. In this respect, Human Development encourages that all members of society participate in political and civic discussions as an essential tool of democratic governance and as good practice to prevent corruption.

The improvement of public spaces as one of Fajardo’s main goals ensured that the residents of the poorest neighborhoods in Medellin improved their quality of life, as more access to green areas expanded accessible and affordable entertainment opportunities. In this manner, the theory of Human Development promotes the creation of opportunities for human beings to flourish and live a happy and enjoyable life. The transportation project not only created social inclusion and new employment opportunities but also expanded the choices that residents had in regards to education and health facilities as the cable car system connected the most isolated areas with the rest of the city. The Metro-cable continues to support environmental

sustainability, as it is a low-carbon transportation system that serves thousands of people every day. Finally, Social Urbanism promoted economic development with the creation of microfinance and business development centers. With these institutions, people with low or no income were able to find their own ways to participate in exchange, production, and consumption activities thereby facilitating development, for, as Amartya Sen states, “the freedom to participate in economic interchange has a basic role in social living.”<sup>49</sup>

### **Iron Fist and Human Development**

The zero-tolerance policy implemented in Honduras as a measure to mitigate the violence in the country proved to have adverse effects in the community and in relation to violence reduction. As stated by Lirio Gutiérrez Rivera in her article “Discipline and Punish? Youth Gangs’ Response to Zero-tolerance Policies in Honduras,” this national security policy reinforced emotional ties and a sense of belonging to the gang and contributed to the sophistication of gang territoriality, especially within prisons. Additionally, the zero-tolerance approach, instead of fomenting a sense of social trust in state institutions such as the police and the military, increased residents’ fear and distrust of their local institutions. Authoritarian practices such as violent or confrontational police raids are the perfect example of the weakness of state institutions and poor policymaking typical in Central American governments.<sup>50</sup>

The Human Development theory places a

strong emphasis on social trust as a transparency guarantee and the importance of having confidence in government institutions. The World Bank’s Crime and Violence report indicates that the lack of confidence in police and military contribute to insecurity and fear and prevent community-based prevention policies from being effective; as clarified by Berg and Carranza, “the lack of [an] alternative deepens the feeling of helplessness and fear of working on prevention measures.”<sup>51</sup> Furthermore, the World Bank report shows that in Honduras, the state provided access to education but did not include health, job or housing programs, which are, according to the theory of Human Development, essential tools for people to progress and have a flourishing life. Another relevant issue that is also preventing Honduran residents to trust the police is that a large number of its members are participants in illegal activities. According to a 2013 survey, “Hondurans have the lowest confidence in the police in the region, with 84 percent of the population expressing little or no confidence in the police, and 18 percent expressing the belief that the police are mainly responsible for crime.”<sup>52</sup> Some of the main causes of corruption are low salaries, which are an incentive to find other sources of income, and the lack of available employment opportunities. The theory of Human Development stresses the importance of providing choices for people to “develop to their full potential and to have a reasonable chance of leading productive and creative lives that they value.”<sup>53</sup>

**Honduran Development Problem Pro-**

## **posal and Conclusion**

Honduras is a victim of the transnational drug market that is affecting not only the countries that serve as transit routes but also the countries that are producing most of the world's cocaine, such as Colombia and Peru.<sup>54</sup> Colombia, as discussed in this paper, has strongly responded with public policy measures that have proven to be effective and that are supported by the international community, including the United Nations. Social Urbanism in Medellin decreased the murder rate from 391 per 100,000 residents in 1991 to 26.8 homicides per 100,000 residents in 2015<sup>55</sup>, and in 2013 the city was recognized in the Wall Street Journal and the Citi group as the most innovative city in the world.<sup>56</sup>

Honduras should provide its residents with the tools to succeed and to become better citizens if it wishes to decrease violence and poverty rates in their country. National security policies that inhibit freedom of movement and that target residents by the way they dress or walk, or the number of tattoos they have, does not provide a long-term solution and does not rehabilitate a conflict-trapped society.

The Honduran government should develop programs that enable citizens to develop their skills and improve confidence towards public institutions. The creation of employment opportunities for economic development, the improvement of public spaces to make the Honduran cities more livable, the empowerment of vulnerable groups such as women or children by ensuring their access to schools

and health care, the support towards community-based violence prevention units, and the betterment of police and military job conditions are only a few examples of how to improve Hondurans' quality of life and perhaps ameliorate violence and poverty rates. With these goals, the Honduran government should collaborate with countries that are victims of drug trafficking and that have experienced the same types of social issues. Sharing ideas and joining together for peaceful purposes may provide different strategies and tools to continue to fight against violence. Furthermore, the Honduran national authorities should develop public policies that allow residents' communities to participate in anti-violence measures to foster a sense of community identity. Within societies, community and religious leaders have proven influential and effective if they have political and financial support.

There are an infinite number of factors that prevent countries like Honduras from protecting their citizens from poverty, unemployment, and insecurity. However, it is necessary that these leaders find viable and sustainable strategies to prevent the number of victims from increasing. Anti-violence measures such as the Iron Fist program do not represent what humans require to live a happy life and become valuable assets for their societies. A program modeled on Social Urbanism might not solve all social and economic problems in Honduras, but could be a dim light at the end of the tunnel.

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## **Why are Japanese Women Underrepresented in Positions of Political and Economic Leadership?**

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### **Abstract**

Gender equality is often discussed as a central issue in the world, regardless of the countries' developed or developing status. Japan is one nation that is ranked low in gender equality but high in economic standing. The main reason for this circumstance derives from the traditional norm towards women that they should be obedient; in addition, there are several other barriers in Japanese society that hinders women from working outside of the home including the spousal tax deduction, lack of a childcare system, and several types of harassment that decrease women's capacity in the workplace. In politics, there is no implementation of a quota system or laws that affect the unbalanced number of party members between men and women. In addition, findings show that Japanese women tend to think that mothers should be more responsible for their children than fathers. Therefore, stereotyped ideas, social barriers, and unpursued gender equality regulations induce gender inequality in both in the workplace and in politics, and continues to keep women as less represented in society. Even though the government has targeted women's empowerment, a realistic policy supporting mothers has never been built. Large subsidies for childcare would be necessary to encourage women to work. Expanding the share of women's participation in policy and decision-making would be a critical step for gender equality in this society, as it would increase the number of women representatives in Japan's economic and political situation.

### **Biography**

*Rina Matsuura is a student in the College of Public and International Affairs with a concentration in Global Development and Peace at University of Bridgeport. She is interested in gender equality, women's empowerment, and child education. More specifically, her work examines the gender inequality in political and economic situations in Japan. She has experiences in India and Nepal as an intern in supporting women and children who survived human trafficking and child labor. She is also researching about the Great East Japan Earthquake as a graduate assistant.*

## **The Drivers of Gender Inequality in Japan**

Japan is considered as a powerful and developed country in spite of the size of the nation and its population. The recent problem facing Japan is the decreasing population due to the falling birthrate. The economy has been failing to grow as well, and younger generations will have to suffer this burden with the added responsibility of supporting the rest of the aging population. Japanese society has many issues that need to be reformed as soon as possible, and women's underrepresentation in political and economic leadership is one of the main issues. The Japanese cabinet has launched three strategies as their major objectives: "bold monetary policy," "flexible fiscal policy," and "a growth strategy to encourage private investment." These policies address how women are key to the growth of the nation; women's empowerment is one of the goals of the growth strategy to create a society in which women can shine. In 2015, three new aims were established as the next step. These objectives were "strong economics to bring hope to people," "childcare support to maintain dreams," and "social security to lead safety." Childcare support became one of the main goals and it was expected to create a better society, with more women being able to participate. Though the effectiveness of these strategies may be debatable, it is certain that Japan is moving forward in improving women's underrepresentation in leadership positions.

This paper presents what is keeping Japanese women underrepresented in posi-

tions of political and economic leadership. The forces hindering women's representation in economic leadership are the spousal tax deduction, lack of a childcare system, workplace environment, harassment, and traditional gender norms. In the political field, women are underrepresented because of gender stereotypes and lack of a quota system. The long existence of a male-dominated society stereotyped ideas held by women that childcare is women's obligation also can be causes for the limited number of women in leadership positions.

## **Literature Review**

Industrialization and economic growth may contribute to gender equality. According to Roberts and Soederberg, the extension of labor markets increasing alongside economic growth enables women to experience an increase in employment opportunities. The increase of a country's budget allows governments to allocate funds towards education. Thus, girls of school age that are traditionally excluded from education can go to school and develop their quality of life. The nation's economic growth encourages gender equality as a result. In 2006, the World Bank launched the Gender Action Plan (GAP), promoting gender mainstreaming in bank operations in order to achieve the third UN Millennium Development Goal that aimed for gender equality and women's empowerment.<sup>1</sup> A study by Eastin and Prakash showed that economic growth can give women the benefits of independent income and encourage them to enter social and economic activities. On the other hand, there is

some pushback on Eastin's and Prakash's claim, as women who have opportunities to participate in the labor force are at times not likely to get a job due to hindrances of social systems. Overall, economic growth can positively influence gender equality, although women tend to have greater challenges in society.<sup>2</sup> In contrast to Eastin and Prakash, England and Chang stated gender equality is not driven by industrialization and economic growth. Their study comparing Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan showed that the ratio of women's average wage to men's average wage is approximately 49% in Japan, 63% in Korea, and 79% in Taiwan<sup>3</sup>, despite the fact that Japan is the most developed among these three countries.

Globally, there have been movements to introduce systems which sets up a percentage of women's to men's seats in governmental houses. The rules, methods of implementation, and the systems themselves vary by country. In France, the constitution was amended to support women candidates in a proportional representation system. Furthermore, financial support for parties is cut if the gender gap is over 2% in a single-seat election system. The parties therefore positively empower women to become officials. Sweden has the highest representation of women in a developed nation among other developed countries. A quota system has increased women representation in Sweden and it granted women about 40% of the seats in their congress and local assemblies. There are two types of quota systems; one requires that a certain number of women become officials and can-

didates and the other puts the names of women candidates on a list of candidates. The first system encourages women to pursue leadership and it increases the possibility of being elected as a candidate during interparty elections. The latter system creates a direct opportunity for women to be selected as a member of an assembly. Due to its effective way of increasing the number of seats held by women in government, the latter type of quota system is preferred and used in many countries. Sweden uses the latter system; most parties try to create equal numbers of male and female elected candidates by putting their name on a candidates' list one after the other.<sup>4</sup>

Sweden, Germany, and the United Kingdoms entrusted to each party the responsibility to implement a quota system. On the other hand, South Korea and the Philippines introduced the quota system as law. In the case of Sweden, the quota system was installed in 1991 because of the decrease in elected women representatives. It showed great results with many women in Sweden having a strong interest in joining politics. The political environment was set up to encourage them to become involved.<sup>5</sup> In Germany, although there has been an effort to improve women's status in governmental parties, gender equality in politics however has not advanced. When the main parties adopted the quota system in the later 1980s, the number of women in Congress increased, and women's participation in politics improved. In the United Kingdom, whether or not parties had policies that enhanced gender equality was a key point during a two-party election; the Labor Party intro-

duced the quota system in several ways. As a result, the election was influenced in a positive way and the number of women in parliament doubled from 1992 to 1997.<sup>6</sup> Overall, the quota system is an effective way of rapidly increasing women's role in politics. Each nation's results are different depending on the social conditions such as whether women are interested in politics or if there is a basic system supporting women in politics. A quota system that can empower women in society has a fundamental capacity to support women in many other dimensions.

Besides a quota system, many countries offer education and financial support to women candidates through mentoring programs. In Germany, both parties and state governments adopted a mentoring system for women. In the United States and United Kingdom, the private sector provides support for campaigns and funding to women candidates. Private organizations also recruit women to become candidates through education and campaign support. This recruiting system was introduced to United States' two parties and has led to an increase of women in Congress since 1990. In Ireland, programs were launched by non-profit and non-partisan organizations that train women in all aspects such as planning and administration of campaigns, funding, presentation skills, and handling the media. The available programs have inspired women who are seeking to participate in politics, and more than 530 women from abroad have attended the program and have participated in their local elections for the first time.<sup>7</sup> The training system aimed to encourage women who were

willing to participate and succeeded in doing so. In Sweden, a proxy is allowed to work for women who are taking child-care leave, helping women to cope with career and family life changes. Reducing the burdens of home-life such as housework and childcare is necessary for working mothers. Austria, South Africa, Germany, and Sweden have adopted the Sex Discrimination (Election of Candidates) Act of 2002, placing among the top 30 countries that maintain a good gender balance in politics.<sup>8</sup> These legal measures have significantly increased the share of women candidates and most of these countries have exhibited good gender balance among their political parties.

Estevez-Abe said that work and home environments are key to making it easier or harder for women to be accepted in the work force. Nordic countries, like Sweden, promote the empowerment of women. Family work reconciliation policies are enforced so that mothers and fathers are able to take care of their children during the child's first year. Part-time workers in Sweden are also generously supported; mothers are allowed to work at the same workplace and receive the same wage, while work hours are shortened. Family-care culture in the United States revolves around mothers hiring someone to take care of their children and to do their housework, which translates to non-reduced work hours due to the extra mobility of women and can help decrease the gender gap. Such arrangements permit women in the United States to continue to work.<sup>9</sup>

Likewise, Eto mentioned that equality is

created by society. In dual breadwinner societies such as those in Scandinavian countries, mothers and fathers are equal partners in the family and share in financial and domestic responsibilities. The dual breadwinner welfare model has generous services that give necessary social welfare to working mothers. Social insurance and taxation are imposed individually such that both husbands and wives have to pay equally, regardless of their income gap. Consequently, women are encouraged to work. Furthermore, the Swedish government promotes father helping with childcare. They implemented a system called “Daddy Leave,” which allows fathers to take time off of work for two months.<sup>10</sup> Such policies might shift perceptions of gender roles.

Estevez-Abe stated that the Swedish government promises that all children will be cared for by public childcare so that mothers and fathers can remain in the workplace. She also mentioned the importance of before- and after-school care. More than 80% of young children attend after-school care in Sweden and Denmark. In contrast, this rate is low in Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and South Korea.<sup>11</sup> In addition to childcare, Eto brought up the point that there needs to be more accessible social policies for elderly people. Public systems are not well developed, thereby pushing women to stay home to care for their elderly family members.<sup>12</sup> The responsibilities of taking care of their parents can be considered a burden for women in an aging society.

Eto mentioned that negative reinforcement from family along with community

prejudice against their political participation prevents women from taking part in politics. The big problem is that women are considered less interested and more indifferent to politics than men are.<sup>13</sup> Fuse also said the reason why women’s underrepresentation is not being mentioned is that people are less likely to trust women officials in politics. Another reason is that progressive individuals who seek reform are also less likely to be trusted in the political field. The author suggested that there needs to be an increase of women politicians to address the problem of underrepresentation. It is not only the political participation of women that is lacking in Japan; Pedersen revealed that there are few female board members within companies. Studies show that more women represented on the board means a higher success rate for the company. Nevertheless, statistics indicate that many Japanese companies rarely hire more than two female members for their board.<sup>14</sup>

Piccinelli and Wilkinson stated that working women have a higher possibility of facing discrimination and inequality in the workplace than men. They are also more likely to fall into depression due to the difficulties of coping with balancing their career and childcare; these factors make women more unwilling to work in male-dominated societies.<sup>15</sup> The study by M. Sekine et al. showed that there is a gender gap in sleep quality in Japan. The problem of sleep inequality was improved after modifications were made for work and household responsibilities. Females are thus likely to have physical and mental issues because of the disadvantages of

low socioeconomic status or lack of decision control.<sup>16</sup> Sarah Van et al. stated that women who work and have household responsibilities are at a higher risk of getting depressed; therefore, there needs to be systems of support for working women. It is also important to address the roles of parenthood and employment in order to enhance women's employment. Even though traditional gender roles hinder women from working, the authors have mentioned that each country is characterized by different working conditions, depending largely on the childcare systems and state of female employment.<sup>17</sup>

Plantenga and Remery found that women in Portugal had a higher tendency to go through depression because there are a large number of mothers who have full-time jobs with no access to formal childcare systems.<sup>18</sup> The study by Sarah Van et al. showed a notable difference in the gender gap in relation to depression between Eastern and Southern European countries as compared to Ireland, Slovakia, and Nordic countries. Women in Eastern and Southern European countries that have a large gender gap in workplaces tend to suffer from depression more than men. Comparatively, women in Nordic countries have less of a gender gap in workplaces, which is correlated to greater gender parity in groups suffering from depression. As such, we see that a smaller gender gap in workplaces reduces women's stress when working.<sup>19</sup>

Interestingly, a study by Dunne-Bryant et al. identifies that fathers who are divorced from their wives are as likely to be as depressed as mothers are in cases where

they have preschool-aged children at home.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, it is obvious that working mothers who have to tend to housework and childcare at home are prone to be unhealthy. Estevez-Abe indicated that, regardless of how gender discrimination at work influences the development of the next generation of women, anti-discrimination laws have not been enforced because Japan's government treats gender inequality lightly. In order to improve gender equality and family/work reconciliation the government has to improve its systems of childcare leave and public childcare services. Furthermore, it is also necessary for women to be subsidized for childcare services.<sup>21</sup>

### **Current situation**

Japan's Human Development Index (HDI) ranking is 17 among 185 countries. Their Gender Development Index (GDI) is 79 among 148 countries, Gender Inequality Index (GII) is 25 among 152 countries, and Gender Gap Index (GGI) is 104 among 142 countries. When compared by Gender Gap Index, Nordic countries are leading the world followed by other European countries such as Switzerland, Denmark, France, Germany, and UK. However, Rwanda and the Philippines are ranked highly which shows that significant high economic standards do not guarantee gender equality. It is important to note, however, Middle Eastern countries such as Yemen, Pakistan, Syria, and Iran and African countries such as Mauritania, Mali, and Angola are marked as having low gender equality. In these countries, there are problems that hinder women's participation in society, includ-



ing a lack of accessibility to education, early marriage, and discrimination towards women.<sup>22</sup> In considering these various phenomena, it is clear that gender inequality is driven by cultural norms.

Japan was also ranked 162 among 189 countries for the percentage of women in parliament. In December 2014, women only held 9.5% of the seats in the lower or single house and 15.7% in the upper house or senate.<sup>23</sup> On the one hand, the percentage of Japanese female workers in the workplace is respectable, standing at 43.0%; on the other hand, Japanese female administrative/managerial workers occupied just 11.3% of available positions in 2014.<sup>24</sup> The percentage of Japanese female workers in the workforce compared to men is almost the same as in countries of similar levels of development such as the United States, Germany, Australia, and Norway. However, the percentage of Japanese female to male administrative/managerial workers is extremely low compared to the previously mentioned countries; in the countries listed above, women hold between 30-40% of administrative/managerial positions. In the United States about 43% of administrative/managerial workers are female, in Germany and Australia the balance is about 37% female, while 30% of Norway's administrative/managerial are women. In the Philippines, the proportion of female workers to male workers in the workforce is 38.5%; however, females hold 57.8% of administrative/managerial positions, which shows that Filipino women are highly represented in the workplace.

Compared to other countries, Japan also

has the lowest rate of women civil servants. Women in Japan occupy only 20% of government positions, and, in terms of the top seats of government, only 1.8% are held by females. However, in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia, more than 50% of civil servant positions are held by females. In Norway, 42% of top governmental positions are occupied by women. Women's representation in government assemblies has also been increasing worldwide. Sweden has the highest ratio of women in assemblies with 47.3% of posts held by women; comparatively, rates in Norway stand at 37.9%, rates in Germany stand at 31.6%, while Japan has only 9.4% of posts held by women, the lowest level amongst developed nations in the world. Furthermore, Japan has a small number of women in cabinet positions. The proportion of women in cabinet positions in Japan stands at 11.1%, while Norway is defined by 47.4%, France is defined by 46.7%, and Sweden is defined by 45.5%. Though none of these countries have achieved true gender parity, these countries have greater gender equality in their governments than does Japan.<sup>25</sup>

### **Plans of Japan's Government**

The Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office of Japan formulated the "Expansion of Women's Participation in Policy and Decision-making Processes in All Fields in Society" strategy, which aims to increase the percentage of women in leadership positions to 30% by 2020 in all fields including politics, national government, local government, private sector, and education. The strategy addresses Article II

of the Basic Act for Gender-Equal Society (1999), which states that “positive provision of opportunities for either women or men within necessary limits to redress gender disparities in terms of formation of a society where both women and men shall be given equal opportunities to participate voluntarily in activities in all fields as equal partners in society.” Based on Article II, various efforts are being implemented in all fields of society. Expanding the share of women’s participation in policy and decision-making to 30% would be the first step to gender equality in Japan.<sup>26</sup>

In 2007, the Council of Executives of Public and Private Sectors to Promote Work-life Balance was formed from leaders related to ministries, economic groups, labor groups, and local governments. They built the “Charter for Work-life Balance” and the “Action Policy for Promoting Work-life Balance.” They set a goal so that any citizen can work with motivation and fulfillment in order to make a decision about their lifestyle for his/her family and community. Regarding the gender balance, it was decided to promote the employment rate of women (age 25-44) from 66.6% (2010) to 73% by 2020, to raise the ratio of men who take child care leave from 2.63% (2011) to 13% by 2020, and to increase the hours spent by men with children under 6 years old for child-rearing and household chores from 60 minutes/day (2006) to 2.5 hours/day by 2020. They also suggested cooperation between companies and workers to create systems for supporting flexible work styles corresponding to needs such as reduced-hours work, working from home, and encouraging men’s involvement in

childcare.<sup>27</sup> The national government and local public bodies also need to support families raising children through providing nursing care, creating an environment that allows women to easily take childcare leave, and providing opportunities for women to continue working after childcare leave ends.

The Cabinet launched strategies that promote women’s participation in all areas of society. “Japan Revitalization Strategy – JAPAN is Back” in 2013 aimed at three points: these include (1) giving incentives to companies that actively encourage women to participate and support the balance of work and child-rearing, (2) helping facilitate women’s work participation in accord with their life stages, and (3) improving environments for men and women to better cope with balancing work and childcare. The strategy was revised in 2014, and “Japan Revitalization Strategy – Japan’s Challenge for the Future” was created in order to revitalize society by supporting the power of women and by adding more practical strategies conducive to a better environment to recruit and appoint women; for example, the program reconsidered the tax and social security systems in order to respect men and women’s working styles equally. These recent frameworks are strategies that reinforce women’s rights as important human resources and encourage comprehensive cooperation among the government, companies, and local communities. The government also built up “The Headquarter for Promotion of Women’s Empowerment” to revitalize Japanese society through the empowerment of women and “The Group of Male

Leaders Who Will Create a Society in which Women Shine” in 2014, which was composed of male leaders in Japan committed to enhancing women’s abilities.<sup>28</sup> These governmental programs are expected to lead society in the movement towards increasing women’s ability to expand their skills and freedoms.

### **Factors that Hinder Women Representation in Workplace and Politics**

Stereotypes for gender roles remain in Japanese society. In a 1979 survey about stereotyped perceptions of gender roles, approximately 70% of the people agreed that the “husband is expected to work outside the home, while wife is expected to take on domestic duties.” In a follow-up survey conducted in 2014, even though people who agreed with the statement decreased to about 45%, people still held on to the stereotype that women are supposed to be at home.<sup>29</sup> There are several problems that hinder women’s employment in Japan. First of all, the spousal tax deduction discourages women from working. The system stipulates that if a dependent spouse earns ¥1,030,000 (\$10,000) or less a year, a household earner can receive a tax deduction of ¥380,000(\$3,400). Wives who work part time try not to make more than ¥1,030,000 in order to obtain the deduction; as such, we see that the tax deduction serves only to degrade women’s motivation to work more.<sup>30</sup>

Second, the childcare system is not able to accommodate all children who need care. In October 2015, there were 45,315 children who needed care, yet parents

were not able to find facilities that could accept them. “Taikijidou” is a Japanese word that illustrates the case of parents who are willing to work yet are unable to do so due to children who are waiting to get into a nursery center.<sup>31</sup> “Taikijidou” is often brought up as a serious issue that hinders women from getting a job and Japan’s government considers it a discouraging factor counteracting women’s empowerment. Additionally, a lack of childcare workers is a problem. The average salary is ¥214,000, which, at about \$1967, is low compared to the average salary in Japan.<sup>32</sup> Many childcare workers complain that the salary is not worth the hard work. As a result, almost half the people who try to get a childcare license do not seek to be a childcare worker and more than 40% of childcare workers quit their job in less than 5 years.<sup>33</sup> The low salary gives less motivation to workers and is the cause underlying the lack of childcare workers. Likewise, building a nursery is difficult because it needs a substantial amount of space, understanding from neighbors, and requires permission based on a high level of standards to be granted from the government. In urban areas, space is often limited because of rapid development. Therefore, childcare systems are not able to support women’s ability to return to work after having a child due to the lack of workers and facilities that provide childcare.

Third, the current environment in workplaces does not encourage employees to take childcare leave for either women or men, especially in smaller companies, thereby contributing to women giving up their jobs.; women feel bad taking child-

care leave so they are more likely to quit their job. From 2005 to 2009, the ratio of retirement after a woman had her first child was 43.9%, while the ratio of continuing in a job was 17.1%.<sup>34</sup> A survey by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare showed that the percentage of women who took a leave before and after giving birth is 58.5%, that the percentage of women who took childcare leave likewise stands at 58.5%, while men who took childcare leave is only 5.6%. The ratio of men taking childcare leave is considered to be low for a developed nation. However, an interesting statistical gap exists between large and small companies. For instance, 40.8% of men who are working at companies that have more than 100 employees choose to take childcare leave, but only 1.8% of men who are working at companies that have less than 100 employees take childcare leave. Likewise, 97.1% of women who are working at companies that have more than 100 employees take leave, but the percentage decreases to 37.6% for women who are working at companies that have less than 100 employees.<sup>35</sup> These distinct differences show that smaller companies are not able to have effective systems for childcare compared to larger companies and that the environments of smaller companies are not supportive of women. Women at small companies are less able to work after giving a birth to a child without support from the government; employers sometimes think that it is more cost effective and useful to hire another employee than to retain the woman who may take another leave after her second or third child. Therefore, the possibility for women at smaller companies to be in

administrative/representative positions may decrease.

Furthermore, harassment in the workplace is a problem and include sexual harassment, gender harassment, and verbal harassment. A study by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare indicated that almost 30% of working women have experiences of being harassed. Out of the 30% that stated they had been harassed, 54% claim that men targeted their appearances, ages and physical characteristics, 40% are being harassed physically, and 38% are victims of verbal harassment. More than 60% of female workers bear the harassment, while 15% quit their job.<sup>36</sup> In many cases, women are not likely to report harassment they face over the fear of not being able to work smoothly in the workplace afterwards. Women are likely to think that it is better not to report harassment than to make a problem. Often, men in the workplace may not notice that their choice of words is harassing their female coworker. Men who have stereotypical thoughts tend to look down on women in workplaces and think that they are superior to women. As a result, women are not willing to work longer and are less motivated to seek higher positions.

In their analysis of Japanese popular comics (manga), a study by Matanle and McCann showed that manga portrayed the role of popular culture in perpetuating negative images of women and the traditional gender norms still existent in workplaces.<sup>37</sup> Traditional gender norms can include the ideas that females are supposed to support male workers in a male-

dominated workplace and that women should not feel the need to be fully committed to their careers as a lifetime endeavor. Furthermore, such norms include the idea that women spend more time looking for marriage partners in their workplaces than they do working or that they are more satisfied working under male colleagues.<sup>38</sup> Another aspect of the stereotypes found is that instead of looking for a career in the work force, women become content being a housewife and regard it as their full-time duty to their families. Japanese society sees women as either incapable of any managerial positions due to their feministic nature or that they are too delicate to work in a male-centered environment.<sup>39</sup> Therefore, women themselves feel inferior to men and accept the unequal treatment in their workplace. The cultural factors discussed above can be considered to be hindering women's empowerment and promotion to higher positions.

In the case of politics, the historical background is telling of the stereotypical thoughts of men in politics. The problem of the low number of women in Congress is associated to low number of women elected to local assembly positions. Tokyo has the greatest number of women in Congress; comparatively, women in local districts are less expected to participate in politics. The local environment is not conducive to women joining politics. People in rural areas are likely to think that women should not have a say in politics. As a result, women have a lesser possibility of gaining their family's support for participation in politics when compared to men. Less familial support can

cause women candidates to struggle to have effective campaigns, which can lead to less backing of public opinion from local communities. The deep-rooted traditional thought is that women are supposed to be obedient and not give their opinion, which reduces opportunities of women being elected. In addition, the small number of women in the local assembly creates a situations in which women are treated differently than men. Thus, women officials that have attained a political spot try to protect themselves by not gaining rivals.<sup>40</sup>

Another barrier for female politicians is that of children; if a woman does not have a child and tries to participate in politics, people might target her for not having a child. For example, there is a case where one of the women members of the assembly was humiliated when a male member heckled her, saying "get married soon!" and "why don't you have a child?" while she was giving a speech about the tendency of Japanese women to marry late.<sup>41</sup> This humiliating case gives women a negative image about politics that prevents them from becoming part of the assembly and unwilling to run as a candidate.

There was another case of public humiliation with Taro Aso, who is a minister of finance. He said that women who do not have a child must give birth to one regardless of the lack of support from the government, their financial reasons, or their physical problems.<sup>42</sup> The problem is that having a child is still regarded as a priority for women not only in their society but also in the political environment.

It also showed that the government is not ready to empower women to work. The Basic Act for Gender Equal Society in 1999 declared that men and women need to share the responsibility of respecting their human rights and to make the best of characteristics and competences, regardless of gender. Article V of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society says that in order to form a gender equal society, it is necessary to have men and women participating equally in the community during the policy-creation phase when determining policies for the nation, local public bodies, and the private sector.<sup>43</sup> However, the government has just started to consider the need for the political system to be changed.

There is a plan that aims to mandate that a part of the subsidy for political parties should be allocated depending on the number of women who have a seat in said parties. Such a plan would be an effective tool to encourage each party to increase the number of women participating and make greater efforts to give more women seats in their parties. As increasing female representation would result in funding increases, parties would be quick to implement it due to the a chance to gain influential power over other parties. However, there is an argument that giving priority to women candidates would be a violation of “equality under the law” guaranteed by the Constitution.<sup>44</sup> Some believe that people have to be evaluated by their own efforts or competences, not by their gender. Despite the complaints, the fact remains that women are not even able to have the opportunities to be evaluated equally without any women repre-

senting their interests. Therefore, more women need to be elected to the national assembly. Although most of the top 30 countries with women highly represented apply a quota system or a law in order to maintain the number of women in their governments, the Japanese government still hesitates to apply similar systems or laws.

The stereotype that women are not supposed to speak out and should be quiet to show dignity comes from the cultural thought that “wives should walk three steps behind their husband;” however, this statement was made long ago in order to guard women from enemies. Misunderstanding of this proverb has led to the expectation for women to be modest, which has created the current ideal for a woman’s behavior and has created a culture of women obeying their husbands. The hierarchical system, contrived by the Bushi classes, created a male-dominant society. Women’s roles were limited to home labor and childcare since that time, with women being entrusted only with the responsibility to manage their homes.

The concept that men are supposed to work outside the home and women are supposed to work inside has remained even after younger generations have migrated to urban cities. The form of the family changed from an extended family to a nuclear family, one in which wives have had to take all the responsibility for housework, instead of cooperating with their mothers and grandmothers. The idea of both housework and childcare roles being solely a woman’s tasks has become a mainstream concept in Japa-

nese society.

Furthermore, arranged marriages that started in the Kamakura era and continued into the Edo era have influenced the current male-dominant society. The relationship between the two families was considered the most important factor in society. Women under arranged marriages did not have any right to decide anything about their marriage. Women had to dedicate themselves to the men's family by living together and giving birth was seen as a priority and prerequisite for prosperity. This traditional culture has ignored individual's freedom and equality, especially in regards to the status of women. All of this has led to contemporary Japanese society where women are unwilling to work outside of the home.

Issues such as discrimination in the workplace, politics, and a lack of support systems for childcare have been hindering women from working after their marriages. However, many women themselves are not motivated to work. In 2014, the percentage of women that think it is better to work until marriage and childbirth was 17.2%, while the percentage of women that believe it is better to resume working after raising their child was 32.4% 2014.<sup>45</sup> Thus, almost 50% of women prefer quitting their job as opposed to continuing to work. Among them, 51.3% thinks that children should be cared for by their own mothers, 26.5% think women should protect the home, and 14% think it is hard to balance both work and housework. These stereotypical ideas toward mothers' roles have been established among women, and full-time

housework has become a good reason for them to quit their jobs.

Additionally, women who are not employed and do not earn money are almost guaranteed to be supported economically through their husbands' paycheck. Women do not have to feel guilty for quitting their jobs and replacing their role as a paid worker with a role of a mother. Many married women think that it is better to be dependent on their husband and dedicated to their family; consequently, this family oriented-thought process hinders women from working outside the home.<sup>46</sup> Although more than half the women who are willing to work think that quitting a job due to marriage and giving a birth is a waste of women's potential, many women put their priority at being in the home. Therefore, even if social structures are reformed, the number of women who actually willing to continue working is limited. If the ratio of women remains low in the workforce, women's representation generally will not increase.

### **Recommendations**

The Japanese government and the rest of the world agrees that the number of women in leadership positions needs to be more than 30% by 2020 in order to reform society and achieve gender equality. The consensus is that less than 30% is not enough to make a change; however, if women occupy over 30% of leadership positions, they would be able to speak out more freely and are less likely to think that they are a minority. Women working in male-majority environments are pressured to follow in men's footsteps, which

mean that women's voices are lost in these places. By increasing the number of women present, such stresses will be relieved; as a result, women will be able to perform their best, providing different points of view than men. Therefore, there needs to be a rise in the numbers of women in representative positions to more than just 30%. In order to increase the number women holding administrative positions, current leaders have to reform the work environment to become spaces that are more friendly for women to work in. The more women become active in the society, the more women have a chance to become leaders. It is essential to strengthen the systems of childcare leave, change the stereotypes towards working women, and inspire women to work after their marriage and child bearing. Many major companies are not financially wealthy enough to adopt childcare leave to realize this campaign, since more than 80% of Japan's economy is comprised of small companies. Financial support from the government is the key to encouraging small companies to institute childcare leave.

Women in politics are the key to reforming society. They need to encourage each other and empower other women to change the social system. The tendency for women to receive special treatment in politics due to uncommonness should stop, and social support such as training or lecturing is necessary to improve women's low status. In addition, there are several models from other countries that have implemented a quota system and achieved higher representation of women in politics. A quota system is a proven

method to increase the number of women in parties and results in the inclusion of women's opinion on national policies. In order to make drastic changes to Japanese society, a quota system for politics that results in improvements to women's representation within government would be an effective solution.

One suggestion is that internet networking can help connect women. Women who stay at home and do not have a chance to access politics can speak out through social networking systems; such a system would help encourage women to gather their voices into one unified voice. Increasing opportunities for women to connect with politics will lead to a better society. For instance, there are single mother candidates who evoked favorable responses through the internet by pointing out untouched problems and unmentioned needs. The creation of a socialized system that everyone can access will enhance women's opportunities to influence society.

In addition, changes to women's ways of thinking are vital since almost half of Japanese women tend to think that it is better to quit a job after marriage and having a child. Lack of working resulting from child rearing hinders women empowerment. However, in many other countries that succeeded in increasing women's participation in the economy, parents were hiring maids and nannies to create time for work. If more Japanese women started to hire maids and nannies, it would eliminate mothers' resistance to leaving their children; this could be one of the strategies for increasing women working



outside the home. It can also solve the problem of childcare facility shortages. Women do not have to take all the responsibility of childcare and can entrust a part of their duties to others, thereby helping them achieve their individual career goals.

Furthermore, the guarantee of a stable employment option for women after finishing children care would help increase female employment in the 50-65 years old age group. Women in this generation have varied work experiences, which can become immediate assets to a workplace. If women bounded by the limits of the spousal tax deduction can work freely as a full-time worker, their abundant knowledge and life-skills would be useful in multiple ways. Their potential has been lost to part-time jobs, and women in this generation have not been able to perform to the best of their ability. Therefore, there needs to be an employment system that hires women in the older generation before the retirement age.

In 2015, the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace was enacted; as a result, government agencies, local governments, and private sector corporations that have more than 300 employees are required to work on a three-step action plan. First, they need to collect and analyze the data of gender and employment issues such as rates of female employees newly hired, gender gap of continuous employment years, working hours, and ratio of female to male managers. After disclosing the results, the data should be used to formulate an action plan with concrete objec-

tives. For instance, action plans are expected to work on positive employment for women, encouragement of reemployment for women, and reform of the social environment by reviewing attitudes toward gender roles. In the end, they have to announce the data concerning women's participation and advancement officially in order to enhance competition with other organizations and secure highly competent people. This act has the merit of not only improving gender equality in workplace but also increasing the credibility of institutions. The institutions that show their willingness to encourage women's participation in their workplaces would be able to attract more women applicants. The more women have a chance to work and be promoted to representative/administrative positions, the higher the system is rated. It means that women will feel more comfortable working and less likely to give up their jobs. As for the final reform, there needs to be a supportive system for both men and women that encourages both to take childcare leave and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

## **Conclusion**

Throughout the world, many countries are making efforts to enhance women's participation in their societies and trying to achieve gender equality. With the falling birthrate in Japan, it is particularly important to increase women's power and boost women's involvement in the work force. Japan's government set a goal for women's empowerment and took aim at increasing childcare support as one of three new focus areas to encourage wom-

cooperation of both men and women. In short, women should occupy half of the administrative and representative positions since half of the population is female. Balanced policies and rules can be established by leaders according to the entirety of the population, not only to men. Men and women should share the positions of decision-making to advance gender equality; as a result, more effective systems will be created if able to include a woman's point of view.

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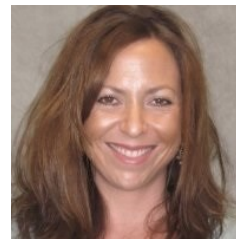
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## **Overcoming the Challenges of Sustainable Development in Nigeria with Collective Impact**

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### **Abstract**

Environmental degradation, civil conflict, and unemployment are driving people to urban centers in cities around the world. For developing countries, this situation is particularly challenging in light of compounding issues that force the government to focus on the immediate challenges of stability and basic human needs versus long-term solutions. The sheer rate at which cities in Africa, in particular, are expanding is a challenge in and of itself. Sustainable development seeks to address the economic, social and environmental well-being of a population, which has proven to be especially difficult in Africa. While sustainable development is viewed as the most logical and necessary approach for developing countries, it seems unattainable in light of the rate of urban growth. The challenges of poverty, rapid urbanization, poor infrastructure, government corruption, lack of rural development, and environmental instability make long-term planning nearly impossible. This paper will assess the challenges to sustainable development in Nigeria and propose a method for meeting these challenges. The opportunity for utilizing collective impact – aligning to a common agenda by a representative group of actors from different sectors to solve a specific social challenge as a process for overcoming the issues facing Nigeria can be a means to achieving sustainable development. Addressing the need for the community to engage in the solutions to its problems, the collective impact rubric could aid in realizing Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 economic development plan.

### ***Biography***

*Kelley McGregor is a first-year Master's student in the Global Development and Peace Program at the University of Bridgeport. She has spent her 16-year career developing philanthropic support for non-profit organizations and seeks to obtain her Master's degree in order to transition into the program side of an international non-profit organization. Kelley is particularly interested in the sustainable development of African countries*

## **Introduction**

Africa is the world's fastest urbanizing region, as illustrated by the population boom from 33 million to 288 million from 1950-2000. Africa is also the only region where the proportion of the poor defined as living below \$1.25 a day has been rising over time and is further expected to be the home of 82% of the world's poor by 2030.<sup>1</sup> Lagos has been named Africa's new biggest city due to its rapidly growing population. Estimates put Lagos' population at 21 million, making this largely unplanned city an excellent case study for rapid urbanization and its numerous implications on a country's development.<sup>2</sup> Rural challenges such as unprofitable agriculture, limited livelihood options, and the inadequacy of infrastructure and basic services are pushing people to urban centers, and the result is unsustainable land development and increased urban poverty.

Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa and was viewed as the "epitome of hope for the black race" when independence was won in 1960.<sup>3</sup> An effective system of governance and administration was established at that time, which was the best that had ever operated in the country. Nigeria was divided into three geo-political zones, and each region remitted a certain amount of resources to the federal government in Lagos. Each region grew at its own pace until 1966 when a military coup took over the government, perpetuating a mutual suspicion among the principal ethnic groups of the Hausa-Fulani, the Igbo, and the Yoruba. Driven by ethnic tension, a second military coup that same

year put Nigeria on a trajectory of bad governance. The structure that had been put into place at independence collapsed completely and was subsequently unresponsive to the needs of its people. Siolun of the BBC reported earlier this year that, fifty years later, the legacy of the country's first coup lingers on. Young military officers of the first 1966 coup are now wealthy septuagenarian grandfathers who wield enormous influence in politics, such that Goodluck Jonathan, Nigeria's president from 2010-2015, was the only president since the coup to have no personal or family connection to the 1966 crisis or ensuing civil war. The Nigerian economy of today is almost completely reliant on oil and lacks effective development programs that translate the economic benefit of oil into effective public sector policies. The rate of growth in Nigeria lacks sustainability primarily due to the degree to which the population is growing, which cannot be matched with the available natural resources to make its economy sustainable. The structural malfunctioning of the economy has resulted in growing poverty and underdevelopment since Nigeria's independence.

## **Conceptual Framework**

A review of the literature on Nigeria's rapid urbanization and challenges to sustainable development reveal that the situation is dire. It would be easy to conclude that there is little hope that the situation might change any time soon, in light of the compounding issues that have created a system that fosters poverty and underdevelopment and furthermore faces overwhelming urban migration. Nigeria

cannot tackle these issues without comprehensive programs that address the social, economic, and environmental implications of its rapid population growth, but there is little within the current structure that indicates that the government is up to the task. It might seem that Nigeria is experiencing the perfect storm of challenges that are evolving so rapidly that there is little hope for meeting these challenges with enough efficiency and resources to be able to improve people's lives. Sustainable development and good governance are common themes among the literature proposing solutions to Nigeria's challenges, and it is important to define these terms in this context to illuminate how the proposed solution of collective action supports these themes.

### **Sustainable Development**

The concept of sustainable development has been around for some time, and was put into general use by the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report, which defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising future generations to meet their own needs." Since then, the international community has responded to the need for sustainable development in developing countries with the creation of several programs, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The concept of sustainable development acknowledges the urgency of the rate of consumption and the threat of environmental catastro-

phe and seeks to devise a framework for how issues can be jointly addressed. Sustainable development provides a means to achieving environmental conservation and stimulating socio-economic development and is becoming ever more common in national and international development policy.

Kanayo suggests that sustainable development is the management of three types of capital, economic, social, and natural, and that they are interdependent on one another.<sup>4</sup> Nigeria's social capital is its people, a human resource that has been grossly overlooked.<sup>5</sup> Social sustainability entails ongoing improvement to the well-being and quality of life of the population and the steady demise of these two elements in the lives of the average Nigerian reflect poorly on the government's capacity to address this key component to its development. The insufficiency of Nigeria's economic sustainability is evident in the informal economic activities that constitute 78% of urban employment in Africa.<sup>6</sup>

Natural sustainability is particularly relevant to the situation in Nigeria, in that rapid urbanization coupled with a government largely unresponsive to the basic needs of its people is contributing to rapid deterioration of environmental resources. Nigeria has one of the highest urban growth rates, and its cities are largely unplanned, leaving infrastructure grossly inadequate for the population it serves. Jiboye describes the issue as "unique in scale, pervasiveness, and historical antecedents."<sup>7</sup> Informal settlements create unique challenges to the en-



vironmental stability of the region and are exacerbated by migrants settling near water sources and polluting the area.

Beyond Nigeria's unique constraints, there are many challenges to sustainable development in the transition from theory to practice. Matthew asserts that "climate change acts as a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world."<sup>8</sup> With 80% of the world's natural resources being consumed by 20% of the world's population, the rate of consumption and threat of environmental catastrophe have an exponentially negative impact on countries like Nigeria. The political and bureaucratic barriers reflected in Nigeria's government are enforced by those who derive benefits from the status quo. These barriers are difficult to overcome when the government is faced with burgeoning immediate demands from rapid urbanization.

Yet, studies show that sustainable development can be achieved despite rapid urbanization; in fact, there is a strong positive relationship between urbanization and sustainable development in many African countries.<sup>9</sup> The barriers to sustainable development are mainly technological and political and can be overcome as people demand and participate in changing behavior, cultivating innovation, and restoring leadership at all levels in society. Through good governance, Nigeria can leverage its natural and human resources to realize the improvement needed for the livelihood of its people.

The concept of good governance can be described as the antithesis of corruption

and bad leadership. It is widely discussed in literature analyzing Nigeria's challenges to sustainable development, primarily because it is seen as a key component to realizing improvement. Fundamentally, good governance should abolish poverty and guide a society to the threshold of development.<sup>10</sup> The hallmark of good governance is the provision of essential and basic capacity building to enable individuals to survive. The challenges of a multitude of developmental issues can only be combated with a government that meets the needs of its people. The convergence of thinking regarding what good governance looks like settles on the need for a state to embrace accountability, transparency, and participation in order to be effective.<sup>11</sup> Government must also be equitable and accessible to all people. In doing so, good governance is a lubricant for the engine of growth.

### **Nigeria's Challenges to Sustainable Development**

With 75% of the country's revenue coming from oil, Nigeria is a case study for Collier's theory of poverty traps which countries get stuck in and cannot develop their way out of. In his book, *The Bottom Billion*, Collier talks about the world's six billion people and how five billion are living in developed or developing countries, and the bottom billion are stuck in 14<sup>th</sup> century environments plagued by poverty, underdevelopment, and ignorance. Nigeria is primarily caught in the natural resource trap, although they have certainly been in the conflict trap previously. Collier argues that, over time, countries with large resources can end up

poorer, which is reflected in Nigeria's history since the discovery of its oil. Primarily, the mismanagement of this resource and the corruption that is pervasive in government has exploited oil for the benefit of the few and at great cost to the majority of its people.

Government mismanagement has created an environment un conducive to sustainable development. Otega and Muneer'deen argue that traditional modes of development utilized in the West have not been replicable in Nigeria and evaluates why it is difficult for Nigeria to translate its economic development to enrichment of its people. They conclude that "nothing can work unless the Nigerian governance structure functions well." Good governance leads to development and poverty alleviation, yet seems unattainable for Nigeria. The result is mal-administration, poverty, and underdevelopment, which are the root causes for many of the symptoms that will be discussed forthwith.

The definition of good governance must be defined within the country seeking to implement it since a broad application, similar to traditional modes of development, does not apply to Nigeria's situation. The only language of good governance after the Second World War is economic growth, and yet Bilbao makes an argument for a definition of development that goes beyond economics to include the "degree of economic and social cohesion, definition of effective development programs and strategies on the part of the public sector, and the degree to which development is sustainable."<sup>12</sup> Measured within this framework, Nigeria faces nu-

merous challenges that must be addressed to improve quality of life and realize sustainable development.

Many point to Nigeria's tumultuous political history as a significant factor in the prevalent poverty in the country today. Instability has led to dramatic changes in economic and social policies, which has had an adverse impact on society and worsened income distribution. Around the time of independence in the early 1960s, the economy relied largely on a diversified agricultural sector which produced 94% of the nation's food supply.<sup>13</sup> With a growing burden of heavy taxation and rapidly growing industries exerting enormous influence on the economy, a pattern of industrialization emerged with imports replacing exports and the emergence of petroleum extraction as the leading growth sector of the economy. By the mid-1960s, growing regional tensions and affinity to a particular political party created an environment of unrest and political uncertainty which was magnified by idling GDP growth. Poverty is a harsh reality for Nigerians. 65-70% of the population lives below the poverty line, half of which lives on less than half a dollar a day.<sup>14</sup> Agriculture accounts for 41% of the real sector while crude oil accounts for 13%.<sup>15</sup> Agriculture is largely subsistent in nature and is rain dependent; therefore, food security is crucial to alleviating abject poverty. Kanayo claims that "evidence shows that the extreme poor cause considerable environmental destruction as a direct result of their poverty, due to their reliance on natural resources for their livelihood."<sup>16</sup> This has major implications not only for future generations

of Nigerians but for the world at large.

Urbanization is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of rural migration into and even suburban concentration around cities.<sup>17</sup> Rural challenges such as insolvent agriculture, restricted options for livelihood, and a lack of infrastructure and basic services are pushing people to urban centers in Nigeria. Insecurity and conflict are other factors for migration. Urbanization reflects not only the move from villages to cities but the change from agricultural occupations to trade, services, business, and other professions. However, rather than being driven by dynamic economic and industrial forces, the population shift in Nigeria is mainly driven by demographic forces. Natural population increase is another factor for rapid urbanization, raising the issue of population control. There is a negative correlation between uncontrolled and unplanned urbanization and sustainable development, requiring Nigeria to find a way to successfully manage its urbanization.

Africa's ecosystem has been under a great amount of stress due to rapid population growth, and this stress is reflected in Nigeria in relation to the lack of food security, land tenure, environmental degradation, and inadequate water supply. Water and sanitation pose a particularly significant challenge for Nigeria. In Africa, water supply is inadequate in areas where 60% of the population live.<sup>18</sup> In one study in Nyanya, Abuja, researchers found that only 6% of residents have reliable and good pipe borne water from a public water supply.<sup>19</sup> Most water sources are not reliable, which exposes the majority of

Nigerians to water-borne diseases. With the fluctuation of populations in urban centers like Lagos, and the informal settlements created by migrants who tap resources without authorization, cities struggle to ensure that the capacity meets the demand. There is often little political will to address these informal settlements and so they remain without access to basic resources.<sup>20</sup>

Sanitation is similarly lacking. Cobbinah defines sanitation as "the provision of facilities and services that provide for the safe disposal of solid and liquid wastes and is necessary for the health and well-being of the people." A World Bank study in 2003 revealed that 5 out of every 10 urban residents in Africa were without adequate sanitation. In Nyanya, a mere 22% of the population are provided with waste storage bins and an agency that collects the waste for disposal.<sup>21</sup> Another 17% report burning domestic waste, causing air pollution. It is customary to find waste dispersed throughout streets, alleys, and open spaces. Slum communities are described as "repulsive and unhygienic."<sup>22</sup>

Otega and Muneer'deen state that "corruption is the single greatest obstacle to economic and social development." Nigeria is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, ranking 121 out of 180 countries on the Corruption Perception Index.<sup>23</sup> This is arguably one of the primary obstacles for Nigeria to overcome in order to realize its vision for the future, as poverty, rural development, and good governance are inter-related. GDP has been growing at a rate half that of what is

needed to realize their goals, which Olaseni and Alade attribute to “the inefficient allocation and poor management of the country’s human and natural resources.”<sup>24</sup> Nigeria Vision 20:2020 (NV 20:2020), the government’s long-term plan for development, acknowledges that corruption is a barrier to realizing its vision and proposes to reduce the incentive of candidates to fight at all costs for federal offices by implementing a “redistributive fiscal policy that guarantees the fiscal sustainability of each tier of government.” It also recognizes the need to strengthen democratic structures to overcome the political elite who are still firmly planted in the political and democratic structures of government. With 776 local governments, corruption, impartiality, embezzlement, and misappropriation of funds are common dysfunctions within the administration of Nigeria.<sup>25</sup>

Government is all but absent from rural communities, compounding issues of underdevelopment and poverty. In Nigerian culture, the concept of rural living is associated with the worst things in life.<sup>26</sup> This is reflected in a strong urban bias in the design and implementation of development programs, which leave rural areas with inadequate access to markets for their goods and services and deplorable conditions of the education, health, transportation, water, and sanitation facilities.<sup>27</sup> Rural development is inseparable from the concept of good governance and is an integral part of development to ensure that those who live in rural settings are motivated to continue to do so in order to curb rural-urban drift.<sup>28</sup> The “gross ineptitude” of government is reflected at

the local level, where resources meant for improving the situation of rural communities are embezzled by government officials.<sup>29</sup> Rural development is of particular importance for the improvement of Nigeria, since at present most of the Nigerian population are rural dwellers. NV20:2020 acknowledges the need to empower local governments to drive rural development at the grassroots level.

Poverty is linked to the environment in complex ways, particularly in relation to natural-resource usage in Nigeria, meaning that the rural poor are limited to livelihoods that available natural resources can offer. Unfortunately, these livelihoods have not only worsened the situation for the poor, but also have implications for future generations. Environmental destruction and high fertility are directly linked and are a direct outgrowth of absolute poverty.<sup>30</sup> Fundamental to sustainable development is the need to reduce poverty and improve the welfare and security of the poor while protecting natural resources and ecosystems that are often exploited through efforts at development. Yet, before environmental issues can be tackled, Nigeria’s government needs to address land tenure, poverty, and lack of access to institutional resources.

For a country reliant on its natural resources to spur growth, the challenge of ecologically-friendly sustainable development is significant. The current process of extraction of crude oil in Nigeria has an unknown impact on its environment due to oil spills and gas flares.<sup>31</sup> The loss of productive land, surface and groundwater pollution, and soil contamination

are simply the effects that we can see. The long-term impact of these outcomes combined with other factors are contributing to Nigeria's underdevelopment, which paints a grim picture for future generations.

The rapid urbanization of Nigeria's cities also poses a huge threat to the environment. Global warming is a "result of greenhouse gas emissions from industry, transportation, heating and cooling of residential and commercial buildings, energy production, as well as other human activities that affect carbon cycles such as deforestation and agriculture."<sup>32</sup> Changes in the distribution of water, widespread famine, global pandemics, and mass migration into marginal or hostile lands are all results of global warming and compound the challenges to sustainable development. Climate change could intensify political constraints by launching an increased level of instability and pushing fragile states like Nigeria toward failure. It is important to once more note that, according to Matthew, "climate change acts as a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world."

### **Opportunities for Sustainable Development in Nigeria**

Despite these challenges, Nigeria possesses all the components for success: skilled labor, natural resources, abundant financial resources, vast agricultural landmass, and favorable geographic and weather conditions.<sup>33</sup> Urbanization can lead to the creation of cities that serve as engines of economic growth, as well as centers for

the integration of ideas, innovation, and technology necessary for promoting sustainable development and improving standards of living for urban dwellers. Studies show a strong positive relationship between urbanization and sustainable development in many African countries and it is often linked to entrepreneurial skills, professional expertise, financial capability, and specialized research in urban areas that stimulate new innovations and technologies that result in the sustainable use of resources.

The National Planning Commission developed a plan in 2009, the aforementioned NV 20:2020, which articulates its hopes for Nigeria's future. This blueprint for economic transformation is an articulation of a coalition of thought leaders to "launch on a path of sustained social and economic progress and accelerate the emergence of a truly prosperous and united Nigeria." It is broken down into four dimensions: social (national identity); economic (resilient and diversified); institutional (stable and functional democracy); and environmental (sustainable management of natural endowments).<sup>35</sup> One of the main objectives of this plan is to increase per capita income to no less than \$4000 per annum. The plan recognizes the enormous human and natural assets of Nigeria and seeks to improve the living standards of its citizens. One measurement of success is the improvement of rankings on each of the six World Government indicators: Voice and Accountability, Political Stability, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption. These shared metrics are a component to the

collective impact methodology that will be described in greater depth and are a building block to realizing social change. The authors of NV20:2020 recognize the need to restore the social contract and improve service delivery in Nigeria and have put forth a thoughtful guiding document for facilitating this process.

Yet, seven years after this plan was published, the rate of growth in Nigeria has fallen disappointingly short of the goal needed to realize the vision articulated in NV20:2020. Olaseni and Alade attribute this shortcoming to the quantity and quality of infrastructure needed to realize aggressive economic development. This paper seeks to argue that a key component of this infrastructure should be a methodology that allows the set of actors who participated in the development of NV20:2020 to continue the process of implementation through collective impact.

### **Collective Impact**

Collective impact was first introduced by the Stanford Social Review and was created on the premise that “large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination.”<sup>36</sup> It is the demonstration of the allegiance of a set of actors from necessary sectors to a mutual agenda for solving a specific social challenge. Collective impact initiatives involve a centralized infrastructure with dedicated staff and supports a collectively-defined agenda through shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing actions among the collaborators. A core component of collective impact is the recognition that fixing one point on the

continuum of a social issue won’t make a difference unless all parts of the continuum improve simultaneously. This requires collaboration since no single entity, however powerful, can accomplish this alone.

The fundamental concepts behind collective impact are reflected in the literature analyzing sustainable development in Nigeria. In fact, the concepts at the core of collective impact is a recurring outcome of the recommendations set forth after analyzing the challenges and determining a course of action for overcoming obstacles in Nigeria. Cobbinah suggests that a “well-structured, deliberative and engaging processes involving all stakeholders” can help the country realize sustainable development. Bilbao states that development strategies must be country-specific in order to improve their national Human Development Index levels. Olaseni and Alade argue that adequate funding and greater private sector involvement can contribute to greater success in realizing the goals of NV20:2020.

Elements of collective impact are also reflected in the creation of NV20:2020, which was created through a coalition of actors comprised of ministries, agencies, state and local governments, representatives from the private sector, development consultants, and NGO’s, and was coordinated by the National Planning Commission. Now, representatives of these various entities need to be called upon to continue in the implementation process. In fact, it is acknowledged in the NV20:2020 plan that “inherent weaknesses in implementation and execution re-

main debilitating clogs in the wheels of our economic progress.” The collective impact methodology comprises elements well-suited to overcome these weaknesses.

Examples on the scale and complexity of issues that Nigeria faces are unfortunately not rare. In fact, these types of social issues are tackled by NGO’s around the world on a daily basis. In the face of serious complexity, human beings rise to the occasion in order to achieve the next level in our social evolution. Curious, hopeful, and striving to improve for the next generation, humanity is endlessly willing to take on challenges but is not always willing to do so together. Looking at the duplicity of infrastructure alone in the United States social services sector, it is evident that numerous well-intended but uncoordinated efforts confront major challenges in our community on a daily basis.

Take, for example, children’s cancer foundations; if one googles these three words, one will obtain thousands of results at the local, state, and national levels. If they are large enough, then many of these entities develop their own infrastructures, which seems sadly redundant. In the United States, *Stand Up for Cancer* attempts to serve as a backbone organization that unites these many spokes into one large wheel driving toward a cure. Collectively, they will advance the field of research; through collaboration, the sharing of resources, and the wielding of greater power against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and pharmaceutical companies, such an organization can go much further than any one entity could go alone. Working at odds with one

another “exponentially increases the perceived resources required to make meaningful progress,” when organizations simply need to collaborate.<sup>37</sup> Collective vigilance often uncovers the reality that the obstacle is not necessarily a lack of resources but an oversight to see solutions that best meet the need. Collective impact builds on the idea that each actor has a role to play, and, if playing along the same rules, with the same agenda, and with the same measurements for progress, together we can realize higher gains. Where failure was once acceded, progress can be made. According to Kania and Kramer, “large-scale social change comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than from isolated intervention of individual organizations.”<sup>38</sup> Funders and nonprofits often overlook the potential for collective impact because they are focused on independent action. Governments, especially those saturated with corruption, are even less motivated to collaborate. Yet, if social and global pressure demands good governance and functioning for the betterment of populations, then collective action is a means to involve society in improving their own lives, which studies show is an effective method to social change.<sup>39</sup>

### **Backbone Organization**

The backbone organization leading a collective impact initiative must embody adaptive leadership by focusing the people’s attention and creating a sense of urgency, applying appropriate levels of pressure to stakeholders, presenting opportunities in addition to difficulties, and mediating conflict among partners.<sup>40</sup> Collective

impact requires that partners support a long-term process of social change, recognizing that this happens with incremental development of an entire system over time rather than from just a single advancement. Partners need to function without pre-determined solutions, since this rarely works under conditions of complexity and often the solutions are unknown, as is the case with Nigeria's rapid urbanization and sustainable development challenges. In collective impact initiatives, solutions are evolving rather than predetermined, and the necessary resources and improvements exist already but have yet to be acknowledged and utilized in the best way. Learning is an ongoing process and implementation among many different organizations happens concurrently. The adaptability of collective impact comes from "the heightened vigilance among multiple organizations who are looking for resources and innovations through the same lens, the rapid learning that comes from continuous feedback loops, and the immediacy of action that comes from a unified and simultaneous response among all participants."<sup>41</sup> The progression of adaptation often dramatically increases the rate of social change without requiring revolutionary innovations or infinitely increased funding.

Nigeria is an excellent case study illustrating how no proven solution to the rapid urbanization of its cities exists, the outcomes of actions are unpredictable, and many factors cannot be known in advance. Complexity science utilizes the term *emergence* to describe events that are "unpredictable, which seems to result

from the interactions between elements, and which no one organization or individual can control."<sup>42</sup> Within a constantly changing dynamic, there exists no universal solution beyond regular adaptation. With the anticipated growth of Nigeria's urban environments and the largely unplanned and informal living situations that migrants are faced with, solutions must be dynamic and adaptable.

### **Lessons Learned**

What is most promising about the collective impact methodology and its potential for successful application in Nigeria is the success story in Canada in addressing a complex social issue: poverty reduction. The vision of Vibrant Communities is to significantly reduce the human, social, and economic costs of poverty for Canadian cities. The collaboration involves one hundred Canadian cities seeking to impact one million Canadians.<sup>43</sup> Through a system of rapid feedback loops and flexibility in confronting unanticipated changes, Vibrant Communities was able to identify patterns as they emerged and pinpoint new sources of opportunity that built momentum and generated wins.<sup>44</sup> This process has provided critical insights into how interconnected strategies and systems combine to advance or stunt progress in relation to a social issue as complex as poverty reduction. Other examples demonstrate how the process can reveal the distinct needs related to the dynamics of a community based on what needs drive the agenda, who needs to support it, the process for securing support, and what structures are necessary to advance the initiative. This methodology



can be sensitive to cultural practices and beliefs that can have a powerful influence on how organizations and leaders operate. Vibrant Communities report “that numerous changes in government policies related to housing, transportation, tax policy, child care, food security, and the like have resulted from the power of alignment across sectors that results from the disciplined, yet fluid structuring of collective impact efforts.”<sup>45</sup> The ability of collective impact to give political voice to the social needs of a community is one of its most valuable attributes. Nigeria is characterized by these informal systems and the relevance they play in social change, such as the need for tribal leaders to play an influencing role, and the overall importance of involving the people in affecting change to take ownership of the outcome.

Collective impact initiatives see three types of emergent opportunities repeatedly capitalized on, and Nigeria could benefit from all three:

- A previously unnoticed evidence-based practice, movement, or resource from outside the community is identified and applied locally
- Local individuals or organizations begin to work together differently than before and therefore find and adopt new solutions
- A successful strategy that is already working locally, but is not systematically or broadly practiced, is identified and spread more widely.

These opportunities show promise for supporting the implementation of good governance while leveraging existing resources to tackle pervasive problems such as poverty that could be the most important issue underlying the myriad of issues Nigeria faces today.

Trust may seem like an insurmountable challenge in this scenario due to the prevalence of corruption and the overall maladministration of government. However, collaboration of numerous actors, including those from the community combined with entities with financial influence, provide collective vigilance over the process. Continuous communication facilitated by the backbone organization can also assist in building trust among partners. An investment of time must be made to meet regularly and establish a rapport that recognizes and appreciates the common motivation behind the efforts of various actors. Since the National Planning Commission has already been through this process through the creation of NV20:2020, a level of trust and rapport may have already been established. Each partner must be treated fairly and decisions must be made on the basis of unbiased evidence so that the best possible solution to the problem can be identified without favor to any partner over another.<sup>46</sup> A key component of tackling complex problems is to create fair and unbiased rules for the groups’ interaction. The five conditions of collective impact serve as these rules for interaction that result in coordinated and promising results. A shared agenda, when authentic, “creates intentionality and enables all participating organizations to ‘see’ solutions and re-

sources through similar eyes.”<sup>47</sup>

## **Conclusion**

There is no question that Nigeria faces complex, dynamic challenges that have inhibited its growth for decades. Rapid urbanization of its city centers due to rural migration has left cities with already overstretched infrastructure on the verge of collapse. The political will to meet the needs of migrants in informal settlements or the dire development needs of rural communities has been completely absent. Pervasive among all of Nigeria’s challenges is the abject poverty the majority of its citizens have accepted as their fate in life. Ejaro and Abubakar state that “without significant poverty reduction it is impossible to think of viable urbanization on the basis of sustainable development criteria.” To address this root cause and make sustainable development achievable for Nigeria, the National Planning Commission should function as the backbone organization for the set of actors who created the NV20:2020 in order to carry out its implementation through the collective impact methodology. Nigeria’s challenges can be described as adaptive problems; they are “complex, the answer is not known, and even if it were, no single entity has the ability to bring about the necessary change.”<sup>48</sup> Stakeholders must change their own behaviors to create a solution. Funders must align to the shared goals. Each partner proffers their unique skills to undertake the components of issues that they are uniquely capable of addressing in coordination with others. Partners must function based on a mutually reinforcing plan of action. Nigeria’s issues are an ex-

cellent example of how social problems are interdependent and cannot be addressed by uncoordinated actions by isolated organizations. There is common agreement among the literature that good governance and the implementation of programs that meet the basic needs of the population are primary to sustainable development, and, collectively, the authors of NV20:2020 can put Nigeria on a path to realize their shared vision.

Curiosity is often cited as the most important quality in a successful leader, and in situations of great complexity one must be inquisitive in order to be open to pathways to social change. This level of inquiry has already been demonstrated through the creation of NV20:2020, described by the authors as “a rallying cry to Nigerians . . . to take [Nigeria’s] rightful place in the comity of nations.” The shared agenda exists, and the same spirit through which these collective goals were generated can be extended into the agenda’s ongoing implementation.

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**Dr. Thomas J. Ward**  
Dean of the College of Public  
and International Affairs

The Master of Arts in Global Media and Communication Studies is designed to prepare students to become communication specialists who can respond to the information revolution and the globalization of media.

### Global Media and Communication Studies Overview

More than ever before, professionals in the communications field need intercultural sensitivity, international awareness and the ability to transcend borders and interpret the communications of other cultures.

**This program is designed to prepare you to become a government, NGO or business spokesperson. It is also an excellent fit for students anticipating a career as a foreign news reporter or commentator, a webmaster or content manager for an international firm; a cross-cultural communications specialist; a public relations specialist; or a career in public diplomacy.**

### Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Global Media and Communication is a two-year program. It requires the completion of 36 semester hours of class work, including an internship, tutorial and thesis.

Students who enter the program are expected to have completed at least one year of college foreign language study or pass a language proficiency exam. Students who have not studied a foreign language must do such study in order to graduate. Domestic students must do the internship in a country where the foreign language that they have studied is spoken and may be done over two summers if necessary. Non-US students who speak another global language besides English may do their internship either locally or overseas.

Students may choose between one of two tracks: Global Communication and New Media Communication.

### Core Curriculum

Graduate Seminar in Research Methods	3
Communication Theories	3
Advanced Intercultural Communication	3
Global Communication and Mass Media	3
Media Communication Law	3
Internship	3
Tutorial	3
Thesis or Project Demonstrating Excellence (PDE)	3
<b>Total semester hours in the concentration:</b>	<b>24</b>

### Global Communication Track

Take at least three from the following including Communication and National Development:

International Advertising and Public Relations	3
Communication and National Development (required)	3
News Media and International Journalism	3
Political Communication and Public Diplomacy	3
International Conflict and Negotiation	3
International Issues	3
Global Market Management	3
One course outside the Global Communication Track	3
<b>Total semester hours in the concentration:</b>	<b>12</b>

### New Media Communication Track

Take at least three from the following including New Media and Information Management:

Communication and National Development	3
New Media and Information Management (required)	3
Advanced Web Publishing and Design	3
Advanced Multimedia	3
Collaborative Design Studio I	3
Collaborative Design Studio II	3
Design Management I	3
Design Management II	3
One course outside the New Media Communication Track	3
<b>Total semester hours in the concentration:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>	<b>36</b>



**UNIVERSITY OF  
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### About UB

The University of Bridgeport is an international, doctoral-intensive, comprehensive university, offering award-winning academic programs in a variety of innovative undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Our 50-acre, seaside campus overlooks Long Island Sound on Connecticut's corporate Gold Coast, and is within easy driving distance of New York City and Boston.

Our student-faculty ratio is 15:1, and our full- and part-time faculty members include Fulbright Scholars, National Science Foundation Fellows, Ford Fellows, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellows, American Council for Learned Societies Scholars and Phi Beta Kappa Scholars. Some 32 percent of our students are members of minorities and students from more than 80 countries live and learn within our community.



# UB

## Global Development and Peace M.A.

College of Public and International Affairs

### Global Development and Peace Careers

- Development Officer
- Foreign Service Officer
- Homeland Security
- International Business Overseas Liaison
- International Non-Governmental Organization Liaison
- International Security Media Analyst
- Relief Agency Officer
- Risk Analyst for International Bank or Insurance Company
- Spokesperson & more

The Master of Arts in Global Development and Peace answers the increasing demand for professionals who can navigate dynamic and complex relationships on a global level.

### Program Overview

The Global Development and Peace graduate program prepares future civil servants and business leaders to respond to the needs of the increasingly international political and business climate of today's world and for careers related to global development. Within the degree students choose one of four tracks: 1. Conflict Analysis and Resolution, 2. Global Communications, 3. Global Management or 4. International Political Economy and Development. Domestic students spend a minimum of two months in an overseas internship. International students may pursue their internship either in the United States or overseas. All courses are offered in a convenient evening format, and the program can be completed in two years.

### Internship and Career Opportunities

Students in the Global Development and Peace program have interned for the Council of Europe, International Institute of Connecticut, and the United Nations (Development Program, Environmental Program, Populations Fund, Youth Assembly) with a number of Permanent Missions to the United Nations. Since the program's inception in 2008, graduates have matriculated into careers with federal agencies and at major international non-governmental organizations (INGOs).



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Miguel Arroyo  
Recent Graduate

### Student Testimonial

*“The MA program in Global Development and Peace offers an entirely fresh way of thinking about the existing complex relationships in the world of global affairs. It provides me with a detailed assessment of the complicated interaction between existing global development models, culture, national security and identity in order to create an innovative approach in addressing the issues that were traditionally reserved for social scientists or policy makers.”*

Miguel Arroyo is a recent graduate of the College of Public and International Affairs B.A. program in International Political Economy and Diplomacy. He has been active in Model United Nations for many years, having led several award-winning teams and having conducted trainings for the United Nations Association across the United States.

### Program of Study

The Master’s in Global Development and Peace requires students to complete 36 credits and it includes an internship, a graduate tutorial and a Master’s thesis. Most classes are conducted in a seminar style setting and student presentations and simulations are essential pedagogical dimensions of the program. The program typically takes two years for full-time students to complete. Students are required to have completed at least two years of university study in a second language in addition to English or must demonstrate competency at that level prior to completion of the program.

#### Contact:

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**For admissions information,**  
**please contact:**

**The Office of Graduate**  
**Admissions at 203-576-4552**  
**or admit@bridgeport.edu**

### Program Core

All students share the following core courses: Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Issues in Economic Development, Sociopolitical implications (see below) of the World’s Religions, Internship, Tutorial, and the final Thesis. The Global Development and Peace Program has four tracks: 1. Conflict Analysis and Resolution, 2. Global Communications, 3. Global Management and 4. International Political Economy and Development. Each of the specialized tracks include three courses in the track as well as one additional elective outside the student’s selected track.

### Sample Semester Breakdown of Course of Study for the Global Management Track

Courses with an \* are Global Management track courses.

#### Semester I

Issues in Economic Development	3
International Conflict and Negotiation	3
Sociopolitical Implications of the World Religions	3
Leadership, Teams and Managing Change*	3

#### Semester II

Research Methods and International Development	3
International Issues*	3
Political and Economic Integration	3
Culture and International Development	3

#### Semester III

Internship (overseas or domestic students)	3
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#### Semester IV

Global Market Management*	3
Tutorial	3
Thesis	3





# UB

## Master of Arts in East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies

### Concentrations

- Negotiation and Diplomacy
- International Political Economy and Development
- Global Management
- Global Communication

### Program Overview

The Master of Arts in East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies is a 12-course, multidisciplinary degree program designed for current and future professionals who require an in-depth understanding of this pivotal engine of the world political economy. The curriculum is intended to equip students with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to conduct research and interpret developments in the Pacific Rim, as well as develop a foundation in an East Asian language. The program is highlighted by practical hands-on training. As a capstone experience, students complete an overseas internship.

The program prepares students with the crucial background needed for a successful career in this emerging region, whether in business, government or academia. Students may choose from four area concentrations. Students develop an understanding of the political, economic and social issues of East Asia as well as an understanding of the role that language and culture play in its growing political economy. Students accepted into the program may choose one of four tracks in business, global communication, diplomacy or development.



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**Career Tracks**

With a Master of Arts in East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies, graduates look forward to careers including: international public servant, diplomat, foreign affairs specialist, trade relations specialist, intelligence specialist, regional labor relations specialist, NGO manager, international security expert, international banker, insurance company risk analyst, journalist, educator or researcher focusing on East Asia and the Pacific Rim.

**Overseas Internship**

An integral part of the program is a minimum two-month overseas internship at one of the institutions or companies in China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan with which the university has established contacts. UB students from East Asia may be exempt from an overseas internship and can intern in the United States.

Taking part in an internship gives students hands-on experience using professional skills necessary for success in business, government and other venues where knowledge of East Asian and Pacific Rim languages and culture is vital.

Because of the challenging nature of East Asian languages, one of the most important aspects of the internship is the exposure to and use of a language the student has studied. This immersion experience focused on language, culture and protocol in professional and academic settings offers participants unique insight to the varied dimensions of the East-West exchange. At the conclusion of the internship students submit a report on their experience.

**Program Curriculum**

The East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies Program requires a minimum of 36 credit hours. The program requires five semesters including an overseas internship. Students can choose to complete an internship the summer prior to the second year or in the fall of the second year.

**Core Competencies (6 Semester Hours): Required for all program tracks.**

Research Methods	3
Conflict Analysis and Resolution	3

**Regional and Cultural Competencies (9 Semester Hours):**

Sociopolitical Implications of the World's Religions	3
Political and Economic Integration of the Pacific Rim	3

**Capstone Core Courses (9 Semester Hours)**

Internship	3
Tutorial*	3
Thesis	3

\*The Tutorial includes comprehensive oral and written exams.

**Concentrations**

**A: Negotiation and Diplomacy Track (12 Semester Hours)**

Political Communication and Governance	3
The Culture of Diplomacy – East Asia and the West	3
Advanced Diplomacy	3
One Course in on Concentration B, C or D	3

**B: International Political Economy and Development Track (12 Semester Hours)**

Sustainable Development	3
Models of Good Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region	3
Business and Diplomacy – East Asia vs. the West	3
One Course in Concentration A, C or D	3

**C: Global Management Track (12 Semester Hours)**

Leadership, Teams and Managing Change	3
International Issues	3
Global Market Management*	3
One Course in Concentration A, B or D	3

**D: Global Communication Track (12 Semester Hours)**

Global Communication and Mass Media	3
Communication and National Development	3
Political Communication and Governance	3
One Course in Concentration A, B or C	3

\*In certain cases, other International Political Economy and Development courses may be substituted following approval from the Program Chair.



