



SOUTHERN VOICE



“Where are we at on SDG Progress?—Perspectives from around the Globe”

Panel Discussion Co-organized by Southern Voice and JICA Research Institute

(May 28, 2019 – 10:00-12:30)

Background and Objective

As a side event of the T20 Summit in Tokyo (May 26-27, 2019), Southern Voice—a network of 50+ think tanks from Africa, Asia, and Latin America—and the JICA Research Institute, are pleased to organize a panel discussion. The aim is to review progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the regions and draw implications for its accelerated implementation.

The 2030 Agenda provides a universal framework for both developed and developing countries to achieve sustainable development. At the same time, it is becoming clear that understanding universality in our heterogeneous global system is more complex than it appears. This is because the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda for all needs to take into account different national realities, capacities, levels of development and priorities.

This panel will look at how different regions are facing the implementation of the SDGs. Four panelists from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe will bring into the discussion their regional overview. It will allow the audience and stakeholders to have a glimpse at the challenges the regions are facing. It will also give an opportunity to share with the audience how Japan is implementing the SDGs and preparing for the G20 Osaka Summit.

From an operational perspective, this will be an opportunity to learn how countries are adopting a global Agenda and transforming it into national policies and local action. The outcome of this panel will be important input to the G20 Osaka Summit in June and the subsequent High-Level Political Forum at the UN SDG Summit in September.

The panel discussion builds on the findings from the Southern Voice’s flagship initiative “State of the SDGs”. This initiative brings into the political debates evidence-based analysis from research centers across the Global South. This initiative aims at contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Information

Time and date: May 28, 2019 (Tuesday) 10:00-11:30 (seminar) /11:45-12:30 (networking lunch)

*Light refreshments will be served right after the seminar

Venue: JICA Research Institute, 10-5 Ichigaya Honmuracho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8433

<https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/about/access.html>

Program

10:00-10:05	Opening Remarks: Izumi Ohno, Director, JICA Research Institute
10:05-10:10	Overview of the Panel Discussion: Estefania Charvet, Programme Officer, Southern Voice
10:10-11:05	Panel Discussions (moderated by Estefania Charvet)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 1: Rebecka Villanueva Ulfgard (Instituto Mora, Mexico) – Latin American perspective • Panelist 2: Ibrahim Kasirye (Economic Policy Research Center, Uganda) – African perspective • Panelist 3: Mustafizur Rahman (Center for Public Policy, Bangladesh) – Asian perspective • Panelist 4: SDSN Germany (tbc)– from European perspective <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kotaro Katsuki (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) • Homi Kharas (Brookings Institution)(tbc) <p>Panelists will discuss challenges of implementation of the SDGs across regions, focusing on the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy alignment 2. Institutional structure 3. Resource mobilization 4. Partnerships and participation 5. Data and accountability
11:05-11:25	Open Discussions (Q & A)
11:25-11:30	Closing Remarks : A representative from Saudi Arabia (tbc)
11:45-12:30	Networking Lunch

<Profile of Panelists>

- **Estefania Charvet:** Programme Officer at Southern Voice for the State of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative. Before joining Southern Voice, Estefania worked for research organizations and think tanks in South America and Europe. She was responsible for conducting research on political inclusion, gender, participation, and accountability.
- **Rebecka Villanueva Ulfgard:** Associate Professor in International Studies, Instituto Mora, Mexico City (since 2008). She has published with English and Spanish editorials and journals on Mexico and the 2030 Agenda/Sustainable Development Goals, Mexico in the G20, Mexico’s International Development Cooperation Agency (AMEXCID), and the inclusion of civil society and academia in the foreign policy process and multilateral issues. She is the editor of *Mexico and the post-2015 Development Agenda: Contributions and Challenges* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), and the lead coordinator of the Palgrave Macmillan series on “Governance, Development and Social Inclusion in Latin America”.
- **Ibrahim Kasirye:** Senior researcher at Economic Policy Research Center in Uganda. He leads the Regional Chapter on Africa as part of Southern Voice flagship initiative “State of the SDGs”. Dr Kasirye was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Development Economics at the University of Manchester-UK in 2011 and has extensive experience in micro-analysis of Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and national household surveys.



SOUTHERN VOICE



- **Mustafizur Rahman:** Professor Mustafizur Rahman is currently serving as Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a leading think tank in South Asia. Prior to this he was Executive Director of the CPD (2007-2017) in Bangladesh. He leads the Regional Chapter on Asia as part of Southern Voice flagship initiative “State of the SDGs”.
- **SDSN Germany (tbc)**
- **Kotaro Katsuki:** Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA). His major assignments include: the Embassy of Japan in the United States of America (First Secretary) and later in the People’s Republic of China (Counselor), Regional Policy Division at the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau (Principal Deputy Director), Southeast Asia Economic Partnership Agreement Division (Director) and Third Division of the Intelligence and Analysis Service (Director). He graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1994 and obtained MA for Regional Studies East Asia at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University in 1998.
- **Homi Kharas:** Interim Vice President and Director of the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution. In that capacity, he studies policies and trends influencing developing countries, including aid to poor countries, the emergence of the middle class, and global governance and the G-20. His most recent co-authored/edited books include: *From Summits to Solutions: Innovations in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals* (2018), *The Last Mile in Ending Extreme Poverty* (2015), *Getting to Scale: How to Bring Development Solutions to Millions of Poor People* (2013), which are produced as part of JICA RI-Brookings joint research projects.

<Website>

(Japanese)

T20 公式サイドイベント「SDGs 実施はどのように進んでいるのか～世界各地の研究者が語る～」

(Southern Voice & JICA 研究所共催 パネル・ディスカッション)

https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/ja/news/event/20190528_01.html

(English)

“Where are we at on SDG Progress?—Perspectives from around the Globe”

Panel Discussion Co-organized by Southern Voice and JICA Research Institute

https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/news/event/20190528_01.html