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FY2012 JSPS Invitation Fellowship Program for Research in Japan

Host researcher: Professor MINE Yoichi, Doshisha University, Kyoto

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Title of Research: Human Security Studies in Japan

Human Security is important for Japan as it is the major policy-orientation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for JICA the official agency for Japanese overseas development assistance. JICA alone has deployed financial resources of around US \$ 8 billion in recent years, so a carefully considered framework for development assistance is extremely relevant. The implications for Japan's international credibility and reputation are also significant, as the effectiveness of aid impacts relations with recipient countries, mostly in Southeast Asia and Africa. Moreover, Japan has numerous partnerships with other developed countries in programmes related to aid, development, humanitarian assistance, disaster recovery etc. The *Responsibility to Protect* agenda has now been officially endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (September 2012). Japan fully supports the *Responsibility to Protect* but also wants to extend Human Security actions within the UN context, having founded for example the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security for this purpose. In particular, disaster recovery and protection of vulnerable communities from threats of extreme poverty and social exclusion should be enhanced.

Human Security is also relevant to recent domestic Japanese disaster recovery efforts, after the 2011 tsunami and nuclear events. Minamisanriku was one of the worst affected towns, with some 95% of buildings destroyed by the tsunami of 11 March 2011. The photos are from my visit there in October 2012, they show the situation at the moment, with the ground more or less cleaned up, but no reconstruction; and the courageous attempt by local residents to start a makeshift shopping centre which services the surviving community and workers involved in the clean up.

After detailed discussion with host researcher Professor Mine, we planned a schedule of work that would include a presentation at the annual Japan Association for Human Security Studies, and lead commentary on a specialist panel at the same event; public presentations and academic meetings at universities in Kyoto, Osaka, Tokyo, Sendai, Hiroshima and Kobe; writing a single-authored English-language paper for the Journal of Human Security Studies; co-authoring with Professor Miine a Japanese language academic paper on 'Work in Challenging Environments'; writing a first draft of proposed e-book on 'Human Security Challenges'; visit and interviews in tsunami-affected areas in Tohoku.

I see many excellent pieces of advice on the JSPS website as to making best use of your time in Japan, and don't have anything especially new to add. As almost everyone comments, Japanese colleagues are almost always extremely supportive and helpful in my experience, and life in Japan is very easy to manage once you are accustomed to some slightly different processes compared to UK. Any few words of conversation you manage to learn before arrival do come in really handy: English is fine in university contexts, but not widely spoken outside. I bought a copy of the Berlitz 'Japanese in 30 days' mainly because the title is so funny (it would take me 30 years). It comes with 2 CD's and I found it a good start at least for hello and how much.



Minamisanriku



Clean-up