



POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL CAPITAL FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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This is the report of the APO Survey and Symposium on Redesigning Integrated Community Development.

The APO's Integrated Community Development (ICD) Program has been in place since 1996 with the aim of assisting member countries to promote community-based productivity enhancement activities. Under the ICD Program, a "community" is considered to be the most important actor. Meanwhile, the focus of development efforts has evolved from building physical and human capital to the creation of social capital, i.e., organizational/institutional development and trust/networks/norms among people. Social capital is a key but hidden factor that can make a difference in improving productivity.

Given the close human relationships in traditional communities, social capital is often taken for granted. The nature of communities in Asia, however, has been changing due to various factors such as migration from rural to urban areas, aging of rural communities, and diversification of rural production from the agriculture base. To stay abreast of such transformation, methods for rural community development should also be modified to ensure that the role of social capital is not neglected.

To analyze the impact of social capital on development performance at the village level during rural transformation, a regional survey on aspects of rural transformation and the accumulation of social capital was undertaken in 2004 in 10 APO member countries: the Republic of China, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. A follow-up symposium was held in April 2005 to examine the results of the survey and to find ways to improve the community development efforts of member countries by redesigning the APO's ICD Program. This publication contains a summary of the survey results and the following selected papers:

- Community Empowerment and Irrigation Management: A Case of Water Users' Association in South Sulawesi, Indonesia
- The Impacts of Social Capital on Land Consolidation Projects: A Case of Arak County, Iran
- Role of Social Capital in Rural Diversification: A Case of Mountainous Villages in Japan
- Social Capital and Rural Community Development in Malaysia
- Revitalizing Productivity and Income Effects of Social Capital: Mainstreaming Social Capital for Rural Poverty Reduction in Sri Lanka
- Social Capital and Rural Development in India: Role of Self-Help Groups in Development

This volume also contains two papers by the two experts who edited this volume: Role of Social Capital in Economic Development: Evidence and Issues by Dr. Takeshi Sakurai, Senior Economist, Asia Africa Section, Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Japan); and Potential of Social Capital for Community Development: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead by Senior Researcher Shigeki Yokoyama, Research and Analysis Team, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (Japan).

This book should be useful to those who are interested in community development efforts in the Asia-Pacific region.

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