

## JICA USA July/August 2014

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### JICA USA Welcomes Representative Ippei Tsuruga

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Mr. Ippei Tsuruga introduces himself as the newest member of the JICA USA Office and highlights his prior work experience.

Hello, my name is Ippei Tsuruga, and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new representative of the JICA USA Office. I am in charge of external relations with the U.S. Government, the United Nations and U.S.-based research institutes. In addition, I oversee post-2015 related thematic issues like poverty, vulnerability, resilience and human development.

I joined JICA five years ago. At first, I worked on the development of pro-poor assistance strategies for the Kenyan health sector, as well as assisting in the coordination of JICA's response to the 2011 Somali refugee crisis. Later, I served as a research coordinator at the JICA Research Institute, where I also conducted my own research projects.

In terms of my academic background, I studied poverty analysis and social protection at the Institute of Development Studies, England, and the International Labor Organization. I am also currently a member of the internal knowledge management network for social protection.

Realizing the importance of balancing operations and research findings to effectively fight poverty, I have attempted to bridge these mutually reinforcing components of international development practice throughout my career. Working in Washington D.C., a crossroad where practitioners and researchers meet, will provide me with a unique opportunity to continue working toward this objective. To this end, and in response to one of JICA's crucial mandates, I also hope to organize information exchange meetings in order to share JICA's operational experiences and scientific evidence with our partners.

I am excited to be here, and I look forward to meeting and working with our partners.



Mr. Tsuruga joined the JICA USA office in June, 2014.

