



*Kansai university and Faculty of Economics*



## ***International Symposium***

### **Africa and Asia Entanglements in Past and Present : Bridging History and Development Studies**

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#### **Indian Ocean African Migrants: Recognition and Development**

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#### **Abstract**

The Indian Ocean is a vast and diverse area with movement of peoples from Africa to Asia and also from Asia to Africa. Movement of Asians to Africa is well known but the easterly migration of Africans has not caught the attention of the scholarly community until recently. As Asia and Africa are re-examining their histories in relation to diasporic communities, hitherto marginalised people are beginning to gain attention. This paper argues that we should think afresh about the Indian Ocean, an area marked by continuous population movements and commercial activity, much of it unrelated to colonisation and the slave trade. The fate of African migrants, recognising that free and forced movement were entangled, is considered as part of the process of settling down in areas with socioeconomic variability. This paper argues that recognition is a precursor to developing marginalised diasporic communities. It discusses the inequalities of resource allocation and problems of identification.