



*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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### **The Discourse of Japanese Development Assistance and the Scaling-up of Community-based Health System in Ghana**

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#### **Abstract**

This study concerns Japan's role in the development initiatives of Ghana. Specifically, it examines JICA's contribution to the Community-based Health Planning Services (CHPS) project in the Upper West region of Ghana. CHPS is conceived as 'the mobilization of community leadership, decision-making systems and resources in a defined catchment area (termed a 'zone') to provide services according to the principles of primary health care through Community Health Officers (CHO) as frontline health workers. Essentially, the project is about strengthening the administrative capacity of health delivery in the Upper West region.

The study attempts to map out Japan's role in the CHPS project and evaluate the particular forms of contribution JICA made to its planning and implementation, and how this might have impacted on the administration of health delivery in Ghana. Essentially, the study underscores the role of the State in development; crucially it shows Japan's historical emphasis on the State's role in economic development, and consequently implicitly challenges the determined policy attitude of the neo-liberals to deny the State its role in international development.