Public Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Overlooked Development Priority

Date: Feb. 18 (Wed), 2015, 16:00 – 18:00
Venue: Room No. 318, 3F Inamori Center., Kawabata Campus, Kyoto University

Title: Public Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Overlooked Development Priority

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Abstract:
If attention to the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) public health care delivery problem was subsiding, then the Ebola virus has returned it to the fore. Straddling the Tropics, the SSA continent hosts some of the most damaging and insidious communicable diseases faced globally. Meanwhile, the continent is an emerging arena of the expanding non-communicable diseases – of lifestyles and old age. While poverty undermines individual and household contributions to improved health status, SSA governments have consistently given health care a low priority in national resource allocation. Thus not only is health care provisioning inadequate, but the sector is weakly motivated to optimise available resources which are also undermined by poor governance. The net effect of these adversities is that SSA significantly trails other regions of the world with respect to attainable global health objectives, such as are contained in the Millennium Development Goals. New thinking is required on how to motivate the dedication of more resources to the public health sector.

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