

Historical development of Japanese international cooperation in education

– why was the aid for basic education a “taboo”?–

「日本の教育支援の歴史：基礎教育援助タブー論を越えて」

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Research

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Prof. Saito has conducted extensive historical research on the commitment of Japanese government to the international cooperation for educational development since 1950s. For a long time, it was considered a “taboo” to be involved in the aid for primary education in Japan and the aid for technical and vocational education or tertiary education have always received higher priority than primary education. When and for what reasons did such a negative or diffident attitude toward aid to basic education come into being and take root among the Japanese people concerned with foreign assistance? Nowadays, the situation was reversed and the largest proportion of Japanese educational aid is allocated to primary education sub-sector. What has changed? Prof. Saito’s analysis provides us with the insight about policy discussions which went on behind the scene.