

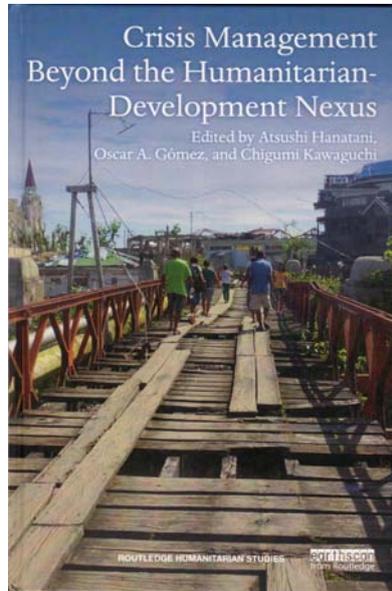
Crisis Management Beyond the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

Natural disasters and man-made conflicts can often precipitate a humanitarian crisis. As the number of people in the world affected by such humanitarian crises increases every year, it is important to understand the underlying causes of crises to manage them better. A new book, titled, 'Crisis Management Beyond the Humanitarian-Development Nexus' is out to help us think about these pressing issues.

The book is edited by able and senior experts of humanitarian and development field. Atsushi Hanatani is Senior Advisor and former Senior Director of the Office for Peacebuilding and Reconstruction. Oscar A. Gomez is Research Fellow. Chigumi Kawaguchi is Research Fellow. All three work at the Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute.

Each editor brings a new view of cooperation, research and development. The ongoing national crisis in India, may it be the difficulty in moving towards Circular Economy or taking ahead the process of National Register of Citizens in Assam, the book is of interest as a resource or a background reader.

The book tells us that honest efforts to address one crisis after the other in increasingly complex environments are becoming a norm and not an exception. The Cold War offered an opening to do both, launch the humanitarian and development initiatives beyond borders. And over decades we realised that there is no one but multiple approaches to crisis management, may it be humanitarian or development induced.



However, over the years, armed conflicts have become a shadow to most humanitarian and development initiatives, which was either ignored or considered not important, as explained by the authors Toshiya Hoshimo and Chigumi Kawaguchi. The chapter on Timor - Leste by Yakako Sakobe and Tamaki Honda offers details of why this shadow exists, enlarges, and contracts from time-to-time.

The troops of President Trump may be now moving out of Syria but Ryaji Tateyama offers the readers good reasons to find out if the exit from Syria is as politicised as the entry itself was. Also if there is a crisis then how politics has trumped humanitarian considerations.

The part III of the book focuses on crisis management after a disaster, and two excellent case studies of Honduras after Hurricane Mitch and long term recovery in Indonesia are offered to illustrate the ideas.

As the balance is moving in favour of evidence, and evidence itself is becoming a reality to make policies and conduct research the chapter by Yasuhito Jibika and Yuichi Ono offer qualitative analysis of institutional and political factors influencing crisis management.

The book is of interest to partners of JICA in India, and elsewhere; academic researchers of multi-layer crisis management in Asia Pacific; students of limits of humanitarian action in countries with international humanitarian NGOs; and those who watch the slow and steady collapse of what we all call sustainable development with resignation and hope, both.

Why has the war on air pollution not become a reality in Indian cities? How long will India depend on its army to aid civil authorities in humanitarian crisis? How can rights to relief and recovery be collectively held as India moves to individualisation of families and society? Who will make digital entities accountable to citizens? And do items in junkyard have after life? Those who are likely to think about such questions in India must read this book, not at one stretch, but repeatedly. ■

- **Book Review by Brij Chauhan,**
local planning team leader, AIDMI.

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