

Dr. Aki Tonami

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Nationality: Japanese



Profile

Accomplished and adaptable professional offering expertise in policy analysis, research, project management, and program evaluation. Proven ability to bridge gap between theoretical principles and practical applications. Multicultural experience gained in public policy, academic, and business settings. Equally effective team member and individual contributor. Fluent in Japanese and English; conversant in French; basic knowledge of Chinese, Dutch and Thai.

Education

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, Global Environmental Studies, **Kyoto University**, Kyoto, Japan
March 2008

Concentration: Global Ecological Economics, Development Studies, Environmental Policy, Statistics, Research Methods (Field Research)

VISITING RESEARCHER, Institute for Environmental Studies, **Vrije University Amsterdam**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

May 2006 – January 2007

MASTER OF ARTS, Economics, **Kyoto University**, Kyoto, Japan
March 2004

Concentration: Environmental Economics, Microeconomics, Environmental Policy

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, Commerce (magna cum laude), **Santa Clara University**, Santa Clara, California, USA
June 1998

Concentration: Operations and Management Information Systems, Business Administration, Business Finance, Statistics

Experience

Postdoc Researcher, NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
August 2011 – Present

Research Advisor, Political Section, Embassy of Japan in The Netherlands, The Hague, The Netherlands
January 2008 – January 2010

Regularly assessed political and economic climate, as well as other relevant global issues, in The Netherlands and Europe to advise Embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials; prepared advisory reports for Japanese expatriates. Managed implementation of bilateral projects to promote peace and friendship between The Netherlands and Japan; teamed with other Ministries' representatives, steering committee members, and Embassy staff with various cultural backgrounds. Maintained constant sensitivity to cultural differences or issues when suggesting program changes or releasing information. Evaluated projects to identify best practices, documented lessons learned, and formulated improvement recommendations.

- Japan-Netherlands Peace Exchange Program (approximately US\$1 million/5 years): In 2009 invited 14 Dutch war victims to visit WWII historical sites in Japan to help overcome and cope with wartime experiences; 464 Dutch citizens have participated over program's 13 year history.
- Japan-Europe High-School Student Exchange Program (approximately US\$153,000/year): Facilitated participation of 3-10 students per year, including grandchildren of Dutch war victims, to attend school in Japan for 5 weeks; managed program finance, prepared guidelines, conducted interviews, and hosted orientation meetings.
- Historical Program on the Relations between Japan and The Netherlands, Part II (approximately US\$2 million/5 years): Tracked donor reporting to ensure timely completion.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Global Ecological Economics, Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto, Japan
April 2006 - December 2007

Constructed and executed research projects to examine effects of development aid and participatory development approach on environmental problems, such as water pollution and waste management, in Thailand and other low-income countries.

- Secured US\$85,000 in funding from Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan's leading funding agency for academic research.
- Concentrated efforts on donor countries' development aid policies, Thailand's economic and environmental policies, and participatory development aid projects, including Environmental Fund Project of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
- Interviewed government officials, local leaders, and residents, and partnered with fellow researchers to conduct field studies in urban and rural areas in Thailand.
- Wrote, presented, and published four articles.

Intern Research Assistant, Environmental and Sustainable Development Team, UNDP Regional Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
November 2004 – January 2005

Collaborated with advisor, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other UNDP elements to conceptualize and conduct research project on environment and conflict issues in Asia-Pacific region.

- Explored various regional topics, related documents, and social policies to prepare comprehensive presentation and practical recommendations for UNDP planning.
- Submitted and presented research paper, *Conflict and Environment in Asia and the Pacific: An Overview and Future Direction for UNDP* at 2005 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimension of Global Environmental Change.

System Engineer, Mobile Networks, Logica Japan, KK, Tokyo, Japan
September 2000 - September 2001

Primary technical liaison between 10 international staff, vendor, and other external contacts. Managed product test cycles and provided expert advice during tender process.

Application Support, Enterprise Application Services, Hewlett-Packard Japan, LTD, Tokyo, Japan
July 1998 – August 2000

Consulted with internal users to design, develop, and manage UNIX, Oracle, and web-based business applications.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Tonami, Aki (2009) 'Partnership: NGOs Shoulder Challenges of Environment and Development', Japan Environmental Council ed., *The State of the Environment in Asia 2006/2007*, Tokyo: United Nations University Press, pp. 23-25.
- Tonami, Aki (2009), 'Evaluating Local Participation in Environmental Aid: The Environmental Fund Project in Thailand', *Journal of International Development Studies*, Vol. 18, No.1, pp. 79-96.
- Tonami, Aki (2008), 'Public Participation and Environmental Aid: Evaluating Projects in Thailand', submitted to Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, as doctoral dissertation.
- Tonami, Aki and Akihisa Mori (2007), 'Sustainable Development in Thailand: Lessons from Implementing Local Agenda 21 in Three Cities', *The Journal of Environment and Development*, vol.16, no. 3, pp. 269-289.
- Tonami, Aki (2007), 'Evaluating Local Participation in Environmental Aid: The Environmental Fund Project in Thailand', Discussion Paper Series of the Research Program on Multiple-layer Governance for Sustainable Development, no. J07-09.
- Tonami, Aki (2005), 'Conflict and Environment in Asia and the Pacific: An Overview and Future Direction for UNDP', presented at the 2005 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimension of Global Environmental Change, Berlin-Potsdam, Germany.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Society for Environmental Economics and Policy Studies, Japan Society for International Development, Beta Gamma
(US National Honor Society for Business)