

THE BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

The 12th annual Asia Pacific Conference (APC 12), the APC Panel

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), Beppu, Japan (November 1-3)

Disclaimer: This is a tentative collection, as of October 30, 2014, of the abstracts of APC presentations to be made in November 1-3. While it is hoped that all presentations within the APC will be made as scheduled, there is a possibility that some will not happen and then be omitted from the Proceedings of the conference.

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Panel Chair: Professor Fellizar

Theme: Human Ecology Island Resilience and Sustainability (HEIRS): An Integrative Research Framework

Climate change and island water governance: adaptation, challenges and options

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Abstract

Climate change poses serious risks and uncertainties to vulnerable societies and ecosystems. Fluctuations in temperature and their influences on the hydrologic cycle can lead to catastrophic consequences in terms of flooding, drought, water scarcity, water-related diseases and sanitation problems. Water governance amidst the threat of climate change is an urgent and critical concern in fragile, remote, and poor island ecosystems of developing economies. How do these island ecosystems cope with climate change? What is the current state of water governance in the islands? What options can be taken? This discussion focuses on the contents of existing *policies, partners or actors, practices and perceptions* of stakeholders (4Ps) along the water supply and demand management continuum in Marinduque Island, Philippines. The initial findings of the study show that the island is not yet climate ready. The majority of respondents in the six municipalities of the island province (except for one) expressed dissatisfaction over water service delivery; water supply is erratic and unpredictable and consumers are not confident about the safety and quality of water. Local government water utilities suffer from financial deficit due to uncollected revenues. The sources of water supply such as rivers, springs and underground wells need to be secured and protected. The municipal water utilities are limited in terms of resources and technical human resources. The management of water resources and its delivery to households is the sole responsibility of the municipal government units; partnerships with other sectors are non-existent. A comprehensive set of policies impinging upon the water supply and demand management interface have yet to be formulated. Political will, citizens' awareness and a supportive policy environment are essential elements for a more adaptive and responsive island water governance amidst threats of climate change.

A critical viewpoint of environmental sustainability in island systems

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Abstract

This thematic paper critically analyzes the environmental aspect of island sustainability, with a special focus on Japanese islands. How do we define an island system as ‘sustainable’? Sustainability concepts such as economic, demographic, or environmental sustainability are related, but there is not necessarily a positive correlation between them. In case of islands, even environmental sustainability can be extremely hard to define. For example, the Easter Island is a known example of the collapse of an island community due to overuse of natural resources, but *nature* in Easter has not collapsed. Such environmental phase shifts can be normal over long time scale. On the other hand, *nature* is valued for its intrinsic properties in the Galapagos Islands, with the sustainability goal being to use it as little as possible. Thus, it is not enough to define sustainability for an island system; we need to examine parameters of sustainability that are island or region specific, and understand the change in island systems. This paper focuses on some cases in Japan that are known for ecological and landscape diversity, particularly the Ogasawara Islands, Yakushima, and Sado. While Japanese islands in general are highly impacted by anthropogenic factors, Ogasawara and Yakushima are World Heritage Sites and Sado is a Geopark. While these islands appear at first glance as good examples of nature conservation and environmental sustainability, each case shows a different path with different possible future outcomes for environmental sustainability. The analysis of these cases suggests that environmental sustainability of a given island will depend on its size, location, geography (ecology) and past land use (human impact) pattern. Tourism and demography are two main drivers of change in these contexts, while traditional ecological knowledge (human societies) and landscape connectivity (mainly non-human components) are similarly important parameters to examine ecological resilience.

Rural experience for urban students visiting Suo Oshima, Japan

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Abstract

The Seto Inland Sea is a shallow sea that separates the Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku Islands of Japan. This body of water serves as a waterway connecting the Pacific Ocean in the East and the Sea of Japan in the West of the Japanese archipelago. The Seto Inland Sea is dotted by a number of small islands, characterized with traditionally managed, human dominated landscapes with an economy based on fishery and agriculture. This paper investigates one of these islands, Suo Oshima in Yamaguchi Prefecture, as a case study. In addition to its fishing economy, the island was developed for tangerine (*mikan*) cultivation due to its relatively warm temperature. After the peak of the bubble period in Japanese economy, this type of rural livelihood became an attraction for urban people. Urban people started using Suo Oshima's beautiful beaches for recreational purposes after the Oshima Bridge was constructed. A number of beach resorts and campsites were developed for attracting urban tourists. Furthermore, in more recent years, people from urbanized areas started to recognize the educational importance of agriculture and fisheries for the younger generations. These two factors combined to create economic sustainability through island tourism in Suo Oshima, which has become remarkably successful in attracting school students from Osaka and Tokyo. The paper explores this type of island tourism model to analyze how it can contribute to the sustainability of rural economies in small islands.

Improving the quality of high school education in rural Japan: the case of Oki Dozen High School Miryokuka Project

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Oki Dozen High School Miryokuka Project

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Abstract

The quality of high school education in Japan has been reported among the highest globally as demonstrated by the scores of Japanese high school students in international tests such as the ‘Program for International Student Assessment’ (PISA). Domestically however, the quality of high school education may differ with respect to factors including geographical location and urban vs. rural. Situated in rural Japan, Oki Dozen High School in Oki islands, Shimane Prefecture neared closure as a result of declining student population in addition to other challenges. As part of efforts towards island sustainability, the town hall intervened in 2007 by spearheading the creation of the Oki Dozen High School Miryokuka Project to save the school from closure and in turn improve the quality of education. The research primarily describes the process of constructing efforts to improve education in Oki Dozen High School. A qualitative and descriptive case study design is used. Also 15 interviews were conducted with staff from the town hall, board of education, high school, community, cram school and the Miryokuka project team members. Data is analysed chronologically. The study may be useful for improving rural education in rural Japan, in particular, and providing a universally applicable framework for improving rural education in general.

The impact of a local university on its immediate community in the province of Laguna, Philippines

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Abstract

This study analyses the relevance of a local government-owned university located in the Province of Laguna, the Philippines. Through a qualitative descriptive study, the roles, functions and relevance of a 'local university' (LU) as well as its impact on the community are explained though it is regarded as a "diploma mill" by more established Institutions for Higher Learning (IHL). The respondents of the study included students enrolled in the academic programs that the institution offers, and the public perception survey was conducted among the people living within the vicinity of the institution since they are the ones directly affected by its presence. A desk review of related literature, policy and documents on theories and trends for managing local universities was also done. The LU appears to have some overlap with the roles and functions of a better equipped and bigger State University near its vicinity creating redundancies that lead people to question the existence of the smaller institution and the ethics behind its establishment. However, both of these higher education institutions were borne out of a need to provide affordable and effective academic programs for the marginalized constituents of the immediate community and beyond. The author has developed a diagram based on Paolo Friere's "pockets of hope" statement and Merilee S. Grindle's "good enough governance" which try to show how the presence of the LU affects their immediate community's ability to combat poverty and pave the way for sustainable development.

Role of libraries in *glocal* education at Nakanoshima, Shimane, Japan

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Abstract

Libraries are an integral part of formal education, be it inside or outside educational institutions. In recent times, libraries are becoming increasingly involved in market research in order to meet the needs of users and also in adult literacy education. To support the drive of the local government regarding island sustainability, libraries in Nakanoshima located in Oki islands, Shimane Prefecture, Japan are providing and promoting materials to educate users on indigenous and global contents. The research investigates how libraries provide and promote materials on '*glocal*' education in Nakanoshima, and examines the library perceptions of users on materials for *glocal* education and the promotional strategies used by the librarians. The paper follows this single case with embedded units design. Data from 33 questionnaires and 13 interviews are collected and analysed.

The curious case of island energy security: a case study in Marinduque, Philippines

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Abstract

This research analyzes the unique impact on energy security associated with the geographic parameters of non-sovereign islands, in respect with *a*vailability, *a*ffordability, *a*cceptability, and *a*cceptability as the 4A framework developed by the Asia Pacific Research Centre (APRC). First there is an outline of the theoretical conceptions of each factor to show how generic islands differ in respect with continental energy security, and how these differences are manifested in the case of Marinduque Province, Philippines. The case study was selected based on findings from a field study in the province that included document analysis, key stakeholder interviews with energy sector actors, surveys (n=330), and personal observations of energy production and use on the island. It is shown that the calculations for energy policy by decision makers differ considerably from other locales that are able to take advantage of economies of scale. In particular we show that island geography lowers the barriers to decentralized renewable energy systems and can be integrated into a larger sustainable development framework, but at the same time require higher levels of good governance, community participation, and stakeholder interest in the sector.

The political ecology of landscape management in Kuma River, Kyushu Island, Japan

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Abstract

Island rivers are akin to blood vessels of an island ecosystem. When a relatively large and ecologically unique watershed is present within a large island, it can offer valuable insight on the dynamics of freshwater habitats within island systems and their relationship with the surrounding marine environment. Because island rivers flow into seas that surround an island on all sides, they are immensely important nutrient suppliers for coastal ecosystems. This paper explores Kumagawa River in Kyushu to highlight the environmental linkages between different types of ecosystems across different scales. The river is 115 km long and has a drainage area of 1880 km³. It is famous for its rich fish stock, notably the sweetfish (*Ayu*) and for its hydrological properties that make it among the most rapid rivers in Japan. Historically, the local residents along the course of this river have been deeply attached with the ecosystems. The basin has witnessed a rare success story of stopping a dam construction, and having another dam scheduled for removal which will be the first such case in Japan. The river presents a unique opportunity to study island freshwater ecosystems and the conflict between river engineering and conservation approaches. This paper, through empirical fieldworks and literature review, aims to analyze historical and present land use in the basin and the factors that affect the health of freshwater and coastal ecosystems. The paper argues for river restoration and conservation by referring to historical and political ecological trajectory of land use, and claims that without a proper evaluation of these changes, management of freshwater resources in islands is likely to have detrimental effects on the river, its associated ecosystems and human lives.

Erosion vs. failure of adaptive resource management in Himeshima Island, Oita, Japan

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Abstract

Himeshima is a small island in Oita Prefecture, located at the extreme western part of the Seto-Inland Sea National Park. Just 7 km³ in area, the island is especially known for rich marine fisheries. Notable fish varieties are the Himeshima righteye flounder (姫島カレイ), Japanese tiger prawn (車エビ), sea bream (鯛), Japanese sea bass (スズキ), and Japanese rock fish (メバル). Abalone or ear shells (アワビ), turban shell (サザエ), and sea cucumber (ナマコ) are other important local catches. In order to sustain the richness of the fisheries, fishermen in Himeshima have observed informal community-based adaptive management practices. Some notable examples of such community practices include forest protection for the fisheries (*gyofurin*), communal rule for fishing activities (*gyogyo kisetsu sadame*), no fishing day (*kyugyo-bi*), and designation of conservation zones which allow fishing under stringent rules. However, despite these systems, the overall marine biological diversity in the area has declined, hinting at a serious threat to the island's food source. This research, based on on-site fieldworks and literature review, suggests that unsustainable land use and fishing practices around the island are having a detrimental effect on its marine biological diversity. These activities have increased in recent years and are correlated with the decline of the fish stock. The paper contends that such rapid decline of fisheries, in spite of communal and adaptive resource management practices in place, provides an important lesson for island sustainability, especially as it provides insight on the fragility of resource management effectiveness in a small island context.

Online homes and support for the wired *Pinoy* in Japan

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Abstract

This paper delves into the interface of Filipino migrants in Japan and their utilization of the Internet, in particular the cyberspace to create online communities. Using a qualitative method in analyzing texts, this paper learns that cyber-communities have become novel ways to provide platforms for the construction of a 'home', a virtual home that is. It also finds that online communities provide a setting in order to cultivate social support from amongst fellow Filipino migrants in Japan. Moreover, the Internet provides venues through which social networks are fostered and nurtured among displaced Filipino migrants. The sense of belongingness is inculcated and cherished through their interactions and associations with and among fellow users of these online sites. This, in turn, has encouraged the creation of an 'imagined' community, a concept coined by Benedict Anderson that describes how the sense of community is constructed. Furthermore, this paper uncovers a strong and robust affinity among members of the online communities, despite not having met or seen each other personally. It is hoped that the analysis of these two cyber-communities would confirm the role that online groups and/or communities play in promoting the welfare and well-being of Filipino migrants around the world.

Panel Chair: Professor Qian and Professor Arie

Special Panel of Ritsumeikan Research Center for Sustainability Science

Opening speech by Professor Dr. Tomoyuki CHIKAMOTO

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**Tricea as place of showroom, experiment space, and environmental education;
practice of environmental consideration technology**

Development of a methodology for sustainable coastal zone management

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Abstract

Sato-Umi is an ideal coastal zone that supports the harmonious coexistence of human livelihoods with the blessings of nature. A healthy *Sato-Umi* will bring many benefits to humans in return. In order to build robust and prosperous *Sato-Umi* coastal zones in Japan by the year 2050, we propose necessary management and evaluation methodologies from a socioeconomic perspective. In our project, three distinctive coastal zones with different marine types were selected, i.e., Seto-uchi area with closed sea, Japan sea area with semi-open sea, and Tohoku area with open sea. The project is conducted in four aspects by four groups simultaneously. The first group is focusing on data collection of *Sato-umi* all over Japan in terms of economics, environment, disaster prevention, society and resources. The second group evaluates *Sato-umi* sustainability using selected indicators, followed by a quantitative integration of them. The third group compares the economic values of *Sato-umi* ecosystem services and other important areas using the universally accepted Costanza method. The fourth group further evaluates various ecosystem services of the study areas mentioned above for the purpose of attaining informed policy-making. Our outcomes can provide a scientific evaluation of coastal zone areas in Japan for appropriate and efficient utilization, as well as a guideline for sustainable coastal zone management by 2050.

The effect of thermal storage radiation of an air-conditioning system based on a concrete slab using underground heat and direct solar heat

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Abstract

The technique of using underground heat and solar heat for air-conditioning is effective in CO₂ emission reduction. When using solar heat, having an auxiliary heat source and hot-water tank may be necessary to preserve a stable temperature. The underground temperature is relatively stable, but it is insufficient for fine adjustment of the cold and hot water temperature used for air-conditioning; these techniques thus set up a heat pump system as a conventional source of heat. Such air-conditioning system using underground heat and solar heat has not spread widely because of high construction costs. In this research, an improved system is proposed which uses underground heat and direct solar heat onto a concrete slab without other heat sources, such as a heat pump, as a low-cost and easily administered air-conditioning system based on underground heat and solar heat utilization. The effect of heat storage and heat radiation of this innovative air-conditioning system based on a concrete slab using underground heat and direct solar heat has been verified through CFD analysis in an experiment which used the concrete slab model. An energy simulation was performed to evaluate the energy conservation of the thermal storage radiation air-conditioning system.

Use of rainwater and reclaimed water in university campuses

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Abstract

Recently the importance of environmental aspects in the construction, development and management of sustainable/green university campuses has been strongly recognized. Technologies and management systems to reduce energy and water consumption, CO₂ emission, waste, etc. have been developed and can be applied to universities and colleges in the world including Japan. Water is a precious resource and is used at a large quantity in the university campuses. Therefore, rainwater use and water reuse including grey-water reuse have been introduced in university campuses and buildings in many countries including Japan. Although this may be effective in reducing water consumption and keeping a green environment, little is known about the actual situation. In this study, websites of universities were surveyed in order to obtain knowledge about the approximate number of universities using rainwater or water reuse, kind of system, intended use, scales, technologies, etc. Rainwater was harvested and stored in many universities, while the number of universities using grey-water or wastewater reclamation and reuse system was small. The rainwater and reclaimed water were used for toilet flushing, plant watering and landscape irrigation, etc. The intended uses of the rainwater or reclaimed water differed according to country and area. Toilet flushing use was the largest in Tokyo and U.K.; plant watering and landscape irrigation were widely used in Australia and Asian countries. An example of water usage in a new building of Ritsumeikan University was also mentioned where rainwater is used for landscape and experimental plant irrigation on a wall and grey-water is used for reclamation and reuse experiments.

Material flow analysis and environmental impact assessment of high-speed rail (HSR) in China

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Abstract

Construction of a nationwide high-speed rail (HSR) network has emerged as a hugely expensive and ambitious infrastructure project in China. As of December 2012, some 8,800 km double-track HSR lines came into service in the country, accounting for 40% of the total HSR length in the world. The network is expected to expand to 34,000 km or longer in about two decades. Being the first HSR system built and operated in an economically developing country, it helps integrate the sprawling economy and lift the quality of life of the increasing urban population. China's experiences in HSR are expected to be informative to other countries aiming to adopt bullet train systems, especially those at a similar level of industrialization and urbanization. This work specifically examines material stocks and flows associated with the construction of HSR infrastructure in China. A major distinction from the construction in Europe is that nearly 70% of the HSR tracks in China are laid upon bridges or inside tunnels, structures that demand great amounts of raw materials. The entire network, if completed by 2030 as planned, will cumulatively require 83–137 mega ton (Mt) of steel and 560–920 Mt of cement. Though this is not a too large demand on China's material resources, the massive application of steel and cement intensive structures deserves consideration when assessing the environmental performance of HSR over its entire life cycle. A case study for the Beijing-Shanghai HSR line has demonstrated that the overall carbon footprint of HSR is 43 gCO₂/seat-km (seat-km is a measure of passenger carrying capacity). About 86% of the carbon emissions are from (direct) vehicle operation, 11% from the infrastructure and 3% from vehicle manufacturing. China's HSR thus has a larger carbon footprint than that in Europe and Japan, because most of its routes include material-intensive bridges and tunnels, and also its electricity is mainly coal-based. Increasing the HSR ridership and seat occupancy rate, and shifting to a cleaner energy mix may reduce the carbon footprint of HSR travels.

Management of wetlands for urban sustainability in Chongming Island, China

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Abstract

Sustainable development has been advocated for long; nevertheless, in many places of the world urbanization is still bringing large-scale social and economic prosperity at the cost of natural resources and the environment. Natural wetlands, as a unique ecosystem, face serious degradation caused by fast urbanization worldwide. Furthermore, the deterioration of wetland ecosystem services also becomes a big hurdle to healthy urban development. In this study, an urban area with natural wetland of international importance was selected as a case to investigate an appropriate management strategy and development path toward sustainability. The study area was Chongming Island, belonging to Shanghai City, the economic center of China. Its estuarine and coastal wetlands offer invaluable ecosystem services, i.e., shoreline protection, water conservation and purification, and an indispensable habitat for Asia-Australia migratory birds, fishery resources and recreation. However, in the trajectory of its development, disorderly reclamation, intensive exploitation, mistaken forestation and uncontrolled pollutant discharge dramatically destroyed its ecosystem services. According to the Chinese central government instructions of building a national ecological demonstration zone in Chongming Island, Shanghai municipal government has been formulating and implementing package plans for promoting the conservation, restoration and rational utilization of the natural wetlands and ultimately making it an 'eco-island'. In this process, a lack of awareness, sense of urgency and policy-making efficiency are issues to deal with, as lessons learnt by the relevant decision makers. This study arouses people's awareness of the indispensable roles that natural wetlands play in urban development and human well-being. Besides, this vivid case demonstrates the feasible management modes and strategies to use natural wetlands for urban sustainability.

Development of a life cycle methodology for environmental impact assessment of sewage systems

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Abstract

The environmental impact assessment of sewage plants should focus on not only the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for electricity use but also the emissions of N₂O from nitrogen removal processes, along with the release of nitrogen nutrients into public waters. A comprehensive evaluation considering various environmental impacts from sewage treatment plants have not been implemented because the existing methods do not cover the ecotoxicity impact of nitrogen entities such as ammonium nitrogen (NH₄-N). Non-ionized ammonia (NH₃) is in equilibrium with ammonium ion (NH₄⁺) and has ecotoxicity in river water and other public waters. This paper presents a methodology to assess the environmental impact of sewage treatment focusing on the effect of NH₃ from NH₄-N containing effluents. The methodology is mainly based on LIME2, the Japanese environmental impact assessment method in life cycle assessment. We evaluated the ecotoxicity of NH₃ per unit emission of NH₄-N using toxicity data and regional water quality data. Firstly, the increase of toxicity per unit increase of NH₃ was estimated. Secondly, the unit increase of NH₃ per unit emission of NH₄-N was estimated considering the chemical equilibrium between NH₃ and NH₄⁺. The impact of NH₄⁺-N was expressed as species extinction per unit emission and converted to monetary value. We evaluated the variability of impact per unit NH₄-N emission related to differences in water quality (water temperature and pH) by region. The case of a water treatment plant was also studied to clarify the key issues in reducing the environmental load, which included accounting for GHG emissions, eutrophication, and ecotoxicity. The results show the impact of NH₃ is high under a condition of nitrification- inhibition.

Potential contributions of the TerraGreen Network (TGN) project to environmental education

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Abstract

Complete education is composed of two key components: learning and applying the learned material. The applying aspect is of greater importance in environmental education relative to other disciplines due to its 'problem-solving' and 'action-oriented' nature. The TerraGreen Network (TGN) system is a web-based environmental education learning tool, designed to encourage learners to interact with local plants. Using the TGN system, the teacher and student can conduct a local plant census in a target area (i.e. school yard, a local park, and etc.) with the objective of creating and publishing an on-line plant map. In the process, the system aids with collaborative gathering of data, group discussion and publishing the findings on the web. The plant maps created by various project groups from formal and informal education sectors can be stitched into a larger map in the system, ultimately creating a global plant map. The data gathered during the census project (i.e. image of leaves, GPS coordinates, and temporal distribution of identified plants) will also benefit the scientific community by providing large data for further analysis on population dynamics of plants and to develop leaf-image-based auto-identification algorithms. Thus, the TGN System has a potential to extend the experience of the students in environmental education activities from mere knowledge gaining activities to participation in a trans-generational plant data gathering, creating global scale data with local findings and bridging the education sectors with the scientific community.

Potential benefits of introducing integrated solid waste management in Kathmandu City: a case study

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Abstract

Rapid economic and population growth experienced in the few last decades has brought a significant increase in the amount of urban waste generation in many developing countries like Nepal. Rapid increase in waste generation has created many problems including littering and dumping in and around outskirts of urban areas. The main problems associated with waste management are 1) a lack of full collection coverage, 2) low recycling levels (recycling limited to informal recyclers), 3) littering, and 4) inappropriate final disposal in sanitary landfill. In addition to urban environmental pollution, inappropriate disposal causes the generation of greenhouse gases (GHG) such as methane (CH₄) and leachates from landfill sites. It is emphasized that most recycling is done by the informal sector, restricted to materials having a high market value like metals, paper and plastics. We tried to identify potential environmental and socio-economic benefits of introducing organic waste recovery coupled with expansion of recycling of inorganic waste through cooperation with the informal sector and establishment of a well-managed sanitary landfill. We used Kathmandu city as the model case. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) was used to as a tool to evaluate potential environmental impacts. Four different scenarios were proposed based on feasible options that focus on organic recovery and informal recycling at transfer stations prior to movement to the landfill site. Scenarios were evaluated in terms of Global Warming Potential (GWP), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), final disposal waste, and recycling levels and energy recovery. Introduction of bio-gasification of commercial waste and composting of household waste coupled with enhanced recycling and sanitary landfill might provide the highest environmental and socio-economic benefits. This paper has been accepted in the Journal of Sustainable Development and will be published in December.

Panel Chair: Professor Mani

Theme: Dynamics of social change in 21st century Southeast Asia

Balancing global economic competence against the support of citizens in Singapore

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Abstract

Despite its relatively small size and short history, Singapore has emerged in the twenty-first century as an important city-state in the global economy. However, there are challenges for Singapore to continue its growth and also its significance to the world economy. This paper examines the strategies that Singapore has adopted to remain ahead and be relevant in the world economy. The first section describes the current nature of Singapore's economy. The second section describes the sectors that Singapore views as important and the strategies it has developed. The third section describes how people in Singapore respond to the government's economic strategies through changing their support for the ruling party at elections as well as the attempts made by the government to address the needs of the people. The fourth section, addresses the balance that Singapore needs to achieve between global competence and citizen demands for controlling foreign migration to Singapore.

The success and challenges of Indonesia's democratic system in the 21st century

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Abstract

The objectives of the paper are to investigate the political, economic and governance achievements of Indonesia under a presidency system directly elected by the citizens rather than appointed by a political party (or parties) forming the majority of the elected parliament. There are three major sections including a background to the study and a summary and direction of the trends of the process and the impact of an elected presidency. It is found that under Yudhoyono's presidency over two terms, Indonesia achieved an extraordinary stability in both political and economic dimensions which continues to improve its economic performance over the medium to long term. It maintained economic growth at the highest level in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during 2006 and 2007. The 2008 global financial crisis affected Indonesia's economy less than other Southeast Asian countries, because it was more dependent on domestic demand rather than the global market and trade. The government was facing extremist threats by terrorist groups bombing in different places of the country, including two luxury hotels in Jakarta. This created insecurity to domestic investment and economic growth, and limited poverty reduction and employment generation in the country. There were also major corruption scandals in the government for which the president created a stronger corruption eradication commission to investigate the cases.

The outcomes of economic planning in Lao PDR

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Abstract

Lao PDR has become a peaceful country in the 21st century and is recognized as capable of economic planning for development. This paper examines the economic planning undertaken by Laos and their outcomes in terms of people's well-being. The paper seeks to examine the years 2006-2010 when a concrete economic development plan was implemented (the Sixth Five-Year Plan, NSEDP). During the implementation of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the country achieved many proposed targets such as the economy grew continuously with stable macroeconomic climate and there were steps to change from agriculture based to industrial based economy. Per capita GDP grew to more than a thousand dollar PPP (\$PPP), the poverty rate declined and there were some significant progresses in other areas as well (MPI/DIC, 2010). However, the country experienced constraints and challenges with valuable lessons learned. There is an introduction and then a description in detail of the economic planning implemented from 2006-2010. The third section describes the outcomes of economic planning in terms of its impact on the overall economy as well within different sectors with a special emphasis to the well-being of its people. The fourth section examines the constraints and challenges faced by Laos in economic planning. The final section suggests the potential trends in the immediate future.

Overcoming ethnic conflicts by the election process in Myanmar

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Abstract

The paper first examines the years 2003-2009 during which Myanmar slowly inched towards holding a democratic election. The ethnic situation in the country and the ceasefire process between the military government and the ethnic groups are discussed. With more than 100 ethnic groups, the continuation of long-standing ethnic conflicts in the post-independence period has affected political and socioeconomic conditions of Myanmar. Between 2003 and 2009, various attempts were made by the military government to construct peace with several ethnic groups. Prior to 2004, Prime Minister Khin Nyunt played a leading role in setting and implementing the seven-step road map for democratic transition and ceasefire agreements in Myanmar. Yet these agreements became fragmented after 2004. Despite the steady political progress, Myanmar produced political refugees who were largely ethnic minorities moving to neighboring Thailand. Sanctions were imposed by the global community and China became an ally to Myanmar. The 2010 election changed the parliamentary structure and had an impact on the ethnic dimension. After accomplishments of the National Convention in 2006, some ethnic political parties were established and planned to take part in 2010 elections. There were events that unfolded in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The paper attempts to develop a theoretic structure to explain the relationship between ethnic conflict and the election process. The National Constitution of Myanmar (2008) includes the establishment of self-administered zones, with a chance to acquire self-administration among some ethnic groups. Yet, the refusal to accommodate federalism and ethnic rights by the government has triggered disagreements among ethnic groups and enhanced continuation of long term conflicts all over the country. The paper explains the imperative reform processes of the new civilian government. Efficient and effective techniques are still in need to achieve social cohesion which in turn can help construct trustworthy political, social and economic conditions in Myanmar. The paper also discusses why Rohingya problem overshadowed all other ethnic conflicts. In conclusion there is an insight into the potential future trends for Myanmar.

Overcoming inequality among the ethnic groups in Malaysia

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Abstract

This paper investigates the inequality existing among ethnic groups in Malaysia. Despite the long-running debate on political, economic and social inequalities in Malaysia, the paper confines itself to observing the outcomes in the 21st century. As many problems have originated from the management of ethnicity in economic distribution, the first section of the paper provides a description of the New Economic Policy (NEP). It shows that positive discrimination policies pushed by NEP to raise the participation of members of an economically disadvantaged group in areas of education, employment and business excluded the poorer sections of minority groups from the economic outcomes. The next section describes the outcomes for the Chinese, Indians and non-Malays as they experienced negative discrimination from the pro-Malay affirmative action policies. As ethnic inequality intensified among ethnic groups, criticism of the government policy also increased, which was accompanied by instability and protest to the government in many parts of the country. The paper suggests that Malaysia is unable to pursue its discriminative policies in a global economy where it needs the talents of its entire people to compete. As the global economy has incorporated Malaysia in a knowledge based economy, ethnic inequality within Malaysia has become detrimental to its attempt to become globally competitive. The transition has thrown up newer challenges as middle-class Malays and disadvantaged Chinese and Indians are not supporting the ruling elites. The final section shows how Malaysia's ruling party is caught in a dilemma of achieving a globally competent economic status while overcoming the ethnic divides it has produced owing to its past development policies.

Cross-cultural interactions and adaptations by *Tamils* in the multi-ethnic city of Yangon in Myanmar

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Abstract

The cultural contacts and trade between *Tamils* and Myanmar can be traced to antiquity. *Tamils* migrated in large numbers in the pre-war period to trade, invest and provide labor in the economic transformation of Burma during the British colonial period. In the post-war period, however, the trend was reversed with thousands fleeing Burma due to the onset of the Second World War, and after the Burmese independence owing to policies of nationalization of all economic enterprises. Despite the reduced population size, it has been estimated that a million *Tamils* decided to stay put in Burma and become citizens. While attempts were made to cherish their language, the younger generations have become more fluent in Burmese while adapting to ways of living among the Burmese and other ethnic groups that continue to form the multi-ethnic make up of contemporary Yangon city, where the fieldwork of this study was carried out. The Tamil community was observed in the way Hindus, Muslims and Christians among them have adapted themselves to living as Myanmar citizens in the multi-ethnic city. The paper details the changed demographic characteristics of the community in the post-war period. In-depth interviews were conducted with leading community leaders and organizations besides using the available official statistics on Yangon. The places of worship and institutions related to community maintenance among the *Tamils* were noted which include Tamil Hindu temples, Tamil Muslim Mosques, and churches and Buddhist temples patronized by *Tamils*. The Hindu temples show an acceptance of Buddhist iconography within them and the celebration of Buddhist festivals within their precincts. The paper details the adoption of Buddhist and Burmese related cultural features, such as food, clothing styles by even changing their names to Burmese names. A similar process is observed among Tamil Muslims and Christians despite the vast difference in the religious beliefs between Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. The concluding section will reflect on the theories that lend themselves to help explain the adaptations observed among the *Tamils* in Yangon city.

The significance of village associations in maintaining matrilineal roles among Minangkabau female migrants in Jakarta

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Abstract

Known as the largest matrilineal society in the world, worldwide attention has been given to *Minang* matrilineal tradition and Islamic beliefs. Males had always been encouraged to leave their mothers' house to seek education and their fortune in the world. *Minang* women have remained as the central pillar of their matrilineal tradition and the traditional home (*rumah gadang*). They were given special rights to take care of their traditional and their ancestral land passing from mothers to daughters. Privileged rights and special roles provided *Minang* women the authority in their villages. As the head of the family, they were supposed to stay at home but in the last two decades *Minang* women have migrated and left their privileged rights to seek education and work. Their migration crossing their matrilineal borders of village and society has brought about vast changes within their matrilineal community. The paper examines how the changed roles of Minangkabau women in Jakarta is recreating a hybrid form of matriarchal society that is not rooted in the traditional land and home but in the new roles directed towards their natal villages. The paper inquires as to the sustainability of the matrilineal culture in a culturally diverse megacity and how the village associations help maintain their matrilineal hierarchical relationship with their family and relatives in their homeland. The data for the paper was gathered from research conducted among *Minang* women in Jakarta. It involved in-depth conversations and observations of *Minang* women's life in Jakarta. The main conclusions of the study are that Minangkabau women in Jakarta are actively engaged in activities that promote affinity with other *Minang* women and men from the same village. Village gatherings (or *arisan*) have attained importance in exerting their status and role as a Minangkabau woman. Such gatherings have also led to other networked activities that help reinforce their former traditional roles. The paper also examines the dimensions of these new roles that allow them to ameliorate the distance from their village by creating new ties with their villages.

A revaluation of the economization of society based on a framework of epistemological and reflexive approach

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Abstract

Sustainability, dependent on habitats, habits and inhabitants, involves the analytical understanding of the building blocks of social capital. It involves an ethical revaluation of the economization of society and how intergenerational knowledge and values can be sustained (Radcliff 2000). This paper outlines a preliminary attempt on how a framework of epistemological and reflexive approach can be developed and to examine the following question: What are some of the epistemological approaches that can sustain multilingual and multicultural education, knowledge, values and worldviews? As dominant societies and cultures exert power shifts and dogmatic approaches to knowledge and values, a counter approach is proposed to provide for an emergence of progressive models for ideas and knowledge that value social innovation and can contribute to the wellbeing of the world. This is through the impact of educational change through innovative practices. An ethical knowledge of sustainability is needed to develop ethical life skills of how to make a living and of how to live. The paper will share some of the exciting work by innovators who integrate sustainability, social values, and service design framework for sustainability of the wellbeing of the community. Using dialogical principles, they argue for small, local, open and connected communities (Ezio Manzini, Jurgen Bey, Marti Guixé, *Knowledge, Technology, Policy* 2009). Similarly Nobushide Sawamura (2002) discusses *wakon yosai*, the use of creative local knowledge, Japanese philosophy and experience in international projects. Hayao Miyazaki, the creative artist, is critical of capitalism and globalization and encourages an exploration of creativity and ecological consciousness that contribute towards a vision of the world through romanticism and humanism.

Teacher talk in early primary Tamil classes

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Abstract

Language is a very powerful tool which empowers teachers with the strength to influence children and enable them to comprehend abstract concepts. Its power lies in one's choice of language because the very differences in the way languages encode cultural and cognitive categories also affect a speech community's thoughts and actions (Saphir-Whorf's hypothesis). In a classroom setting where Tamil is taught, the pedagogical approach used by teachers to interact with students is the very essence of speech. Teacher talk can thus provide observations on pedagogical approaches. The teachers, while teaching, should simultaneously raise interest amongst the students towards the language being learned by offering them the independence to explore the language within and beyond the classroom setting. Furthermore, by creating an interactive and inclusive classroom setting (Cohrssen et al, 2014), teachers can help students draw parallels to real-life scenarios where students can apply procedural skills to solve real problems (Schoenfeld, 1988), enhancing their acquisition of the language. Data from video and audio recordings of classroom observations collected from 10 early, lower primary Tamil classes have been analyzed for this study.

Correlation between cultural and social identity among Vietnamese spouses living in Taiwan

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Abstract

A considerable number of studies in relation to Vietnamese female spouses in Taiwan have tried to explore many crucial issues such as life adjustment, knowledge empowerment, the life of new generations, marriage motives, post-marital life and the process of matchmaking to facilitate an understanding of this particular ethnic group; however, few studies have focused on their cultural and social identities after they settle down in Taiwan and commence a new life on one hand, and construct their social networks and enhance their social status on the other hand. In this research, three Vietnamese wives in Taiwan were interviewed. The interviews were conducted and recorded in Chinese and then translated into English. Reoccurring themes or ideas from the interviews were categorized as follows: personal abilities and traits, remittances and ethnic identity, filial piety as the eldest daughter and daughter-in-law, holding an incense, male heir in a Taiwanese family, dual and dynamic personal identity, the process of acculturation, culture diffusion including food and karaoke, the maintenance or management of transnational marriage, and a description of social exchange. Through above-mentioned findings, the process of transformation regarding cultural identity and social identity of Vietnamese spouses is to be better perceived and understood in the phenomenon of transnational marriage in Taiwan. The research findings suggest that Vietnamese female spouses have the ability to take advantage of their surroundings by involvement in cultural capital activities such as Vietnamese cooking and language related skills. Moreover, these wives further enhance their cultural capital by spending time to develop their skills in local Taiwanese languages and customs. These Vietnamese spouses have learned how to flexibly utilize their cultural and social capital while interacting with Taiwanese locals, other Vietnamese spouses, and Vietnamese migrant workers inside the family premises or in public places like eateries or factories. Likewise, by participating in more activities held by the government or non-governmental organizations, they have gradually enhanced empowerment and increased their own social status. The findings of this research can both help transnational couples in Taiwan and also provide suggestions for improving their quality of life.

Uncovering attitudes toward bilingualism/multilingualism at an international university in Japan

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Abstract

It goes without saying that at present the archetypal global citizen is bilingual, or more precisely, multilingual. To function effectively in international business settings and cross-cultural relations of any sort, possessing foreign language skills is crucial. A question that proceeds from this assumption is: “Who is a ‘global citizen’ and who is not?” May all young people think of themselves as global citizens, or should this designation be reserved for those who specifically pursue ‘international’ interests or careers? Those who support the former notion and believe Japanese people (or its youth in particular) ought to become more global-minded, are likewise expected to be promoters of bilingualism/multilingualism. A quantitative study was conducted at an international university in Japan that investigates this topic from the perspective of students, both domestic and foreign. A two-page survey was designed for this purpose and completed by 122 participants. The questionnaire items probe respondents on their attitudes and beliefs about issues related to bilingualism/multilingualism from frames of reference both personal and societal. Comparisons were made between responses offered by Japanese and foreign students, taking into consideration factors such as age and self-rated second language (L2) ability. Open comment boxes, which the majority of students filled in, were analyzed with grounded theory methods and the results were added to the quantitative findings. Overall, participants tend to view bilingualism/multilingualism in a positive light, and value it more as ‘additional language’ ability increases, and although opinions vary, for the most part, believe it ought to be more prevalent within Japanese society.

Legal pluralism for land administration in West Sumatra with the implementation of local communal land tenure (*Nagari*) regulations

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Abstract

Land administration has always been a delicate issue in the history of nations, and Indonesia, a country where a significant number of the population lives a pastoral life is not exempt from this reality. This paper discusses land tenure issues in West Sumatra, an Indonesian province which is home to the *Minangkabau* people with their long existing village management system known as *Nagari*, established to settle disputes based on *adat* (custom) principles as well as to protect the rights of the community members. These rights include communal land (referred to as *tanah ulayat* hereafter). Long before the Dutch occupation of Indonesian archipelago, the *nagari* government was vested with powers to regulate communal land in West Sumatra. However, this authority was constantly overlooked by the then Dutch colonial administration as well as the post independence governments (both central and regional). To reinforce the *Nagari* government as the guardian of the customary law (*hukum adat*) and to specify its jurisdiction, the Regional Government of West Sumatra enacted two laws between 2000 and 2008: Law No. 9/2000 repealed by Law No. 2/2007 and Law No. 6/2008 on communal land tenure. Although these two laws provide legal grounds to address land issues across the region, land conflicts still prevail among West Sumatran populations due to unsynchronized and contradictory regulations. The protests against the army (*Korem*) in *Nagari Kapalo Hilalang*, against the oil palm company in *Nagari Kinali*, and against a cement factory in *Nagari Lubuk Kilangan* are cited in this paper as case references.

The impact of the withdrawal of international forces on investment in Herat, Afghanistan

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Abstract

In the past decade, Afghanistan got a chance to enhance investment and economic development around the country with the influx of international aid. The Government of Afghanistan and the international communities have been striving for a prosperous and free country. Specially, the attention of the international communities brought hopes to the people of Afghanistan and attracted domestic and foreign investment. Many investors were encouraged to establish factories in different parts of the county. During the first 6 years, all their activities were progressing smoothly with almost high productivity. Unfortunately, rumors of the withdrawal of the international forces from Afghanistan in 2014 have negatively impacted on the mood and behavior of all segments of society, especially on investors. Recently, all the mass media are broadcasting the news regarding the withdrawal of the international forces from Afghanistan. Withdrawal of the international forces as well as decreasing of the international aid causes Afghanistan to face a severe economic crisis and it is feared that it can be lead to starvation in the country. Therefore, withdrawal of the international forces as well as declining of international aid will bring new challenges to the country. For instance, the motivation of man-power is declining as well as investment, and the rate of unemployment has increased and capital flight has developed. The entire view of the people of Afghanistan is that after the 2014, collapse and instability will prevail in Afghanistan. In order to present the real situation in the country this paper demonstrates the impact of the withdrawal of international forces on investment in Herat province. The issues discussed in this paper are based on the viewpoints of different respondents such as professors, investors, and governmental employees.

Panel Chair: Professor Takashiba

Ethnic politics as a right claiming trajectory from *de facto* movement to *de jure* representation in Nepal

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Abstract

Ethnic politics in Nepal has become one of the trajectories of claiming equal rights for ethnic participation and representation, and a mechanism to assure equal access for all groups to the state resources. Ethnic politics stands as *de facto* ethnic movement that influenced *de jure* ethnic participation and representation in the parliament. Assurance of the rights of various ethnic groups will be possible if they can participate in the parliament through their representatives, while it may be difficult to accomplish because of political division among groups based on their different ideologies. This is the irony of ethnic politics in Nepal where it is highly influenced by political ideology; this has paralyzed the state affairs after the declaration of democracy in 1990s. Collective *de facto* ethnic movement for the development of ethnic communities plays an important role in establishing the 'Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities' (NEFIN) as an umbrella organization to help individuals develop into ethnic leaders and to increase awareness among the people about equal rights among all ethnic group. Ethnic politics works in the form of the right of claims on political parties to give priorities to deprived communities within their party structure. In this process, many indigenous ethnic individuals affiliated with political parties have got a chance to get into the first constituent 'assembly' as members of the parliament. However, very few indigenous leaders affiliated with NEFIN were able to get this opportunity. Only those ethnic leaders affiliated with political parties with good access could step up into this level. This paper raises the issues of ethnic politics and their targets for the parliament to claim for their rights. Data was collected by interviewing forty five ethnic leaders in Kathmandu. The findings are analyzed and discussed based on the collected information.

China's security priorities under Xi Jinping leading to a political deadlock in the democratization process in Hong Kong

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Abstract

Hong Kong is operated as a 'Special Administrative Region' in China under 'One Country, Two Systems' since 1997. Promised by the Beijing Government, the political system of Hong Kong will be fully democratic by installing universal suffrage in choosing its Chief Executive and the Legislative Council. However, during discussions and consultations in 2013-2014, the Beijing government and pro-Beijing groups reemphasized their position of comprehensive jurisdiction over Hong Kong. They insisted that it must be ensured that only patriotic (pro-Beijing) candidates may be nominated for the universal suffrage in the Chief Executive election held in 2017. This has led to a deadlock between the Beijing government/pro-Beijing groups and pro-democracy forces. Even though it is commonly regarded that the success of Hong Kong model may serve as an exemplar to Taiwan for future reunification, Xi Jinping and his colleagues do not want to take any 'risk' (which is almost impossible) by allowing anti-communist candidates to run in the election. On the other hand, with a potential breakdown of lobbying and discussions, the pro-democracy groups have called for a civil obedience movement, 'Occupy Central', to threaten the central government. So, what has gone wrong? This paper attempts to examine the political deadlock in Hong Kong democratization by addressing how the Chinese government under Xi 'interprets' and prioritizes national security. The paper begins with delineating the national security challenges currently faced by China and examining how and why the Chinese leaders are concerned that Hong Kong democratization may become a national security threat. The paper discusses political tensions throughout the consultation of Hong Kong democratic reform in 2013-2014 by adopting an analytical framework of central-local interaction model. The paper concludes that the security concern of the Chinese leaders is prioritized at the expense of a genuine democratic reform in Hong Kong.

The conceptualization of government policy/stratagem for political sustainability in China

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Abstract

Unpopular unrest, rioting, protests and breakdown of law and order occur in many nations, challenging the political era of their nation state, as witnessed in the Arab Spring. The people are demanding for people-oriented governments that would serve the core interests of the people. Governments and regimes are saddled with the responsibility of preserving and sustaining their eras either by employing ideologies and policies or adopting a firm stance against such anti-state behaviors or elements. China faces a herculean task in the wake of such uprising; I argue that the government has relied on putting the interests of the people first by ensuring people's need and demands are met within the shortest time frame. The Chinese government has adopted state sponsored doctrines in ensuring that the needs of the people are a core focus of the ruling party. The ability to embrace a people centered approach in its governance relies on "*ren ben*", a people ideology which is centered on "putting the interests of the people first", an aged long tradition of philosophy emanating from the works of Confucius and Mencius to ensure the legitimacy of the current regime and. The adoption of traditional philosophies in governance in China is nothing new; the government has used this approach to preserve its regime over the years. While the adoption of this concept gives it the right to rule, it also empowers the people to rebel against regimes that cannot respond to the yearnings of the people. The "Mandate of Heaven" empowers rulers to rule as "sons of heaven" by engaging in selfless governments for the benefits of the people; simultaneously it also empowers the people to take away the "Mandate of Heaven" from such regimes if they fail to exhibit virtue and reflect the will of the people. China in recent years has seen a flood of protests, some which come in the form of showing dissatisfactions with the instruments of the law, the rights of the people, the welfare of the people and the excessive power and wealth demonstrated by public officials. The government ability to deal and respond to such challenges is a core factor to sustain itself in recent years; its ability to adapt by pursuing policies of concessions, dialogues, tolerant and repressions are fundamental instruments in recent years. This work sets to examine the government institutional approach of ensuring its legitimacy, sustenance of its regime and responding to the demands of the people. It intends to build a framework that regimes can only be preserved only when the government is sensitive, responsive, and attentive to the needs and the aspirations of the people.

Panel Chair: Professor Yoshimatsu

Taiwan's Control Yuan as a participant in anti-corruption and integrity-building initiatives

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Abstract

Ever since the latest global financial crisis unfolded in 2008, with revelations of financial abuses and improper and reckless decision-making, definitions of corrupt behavior have been changing all around the world, and academic and practical discourse on the direction of anti-corruption policies have been taken to new heights. These debates are going on against the backdrop of reconsideration of state-society relations in general, considering the modern-day challenges. There are again calls to overhaul government systems for more transparency, more inclusion, more accountability plus educating and involving citizenry; these demands not only cross political and geographical borders, but prompt policy-makers and concerned citizens to look for new solutions by studying country-specific ways of dealing with governance issues, including integrity-building. Fair and transparent governance today is considered a necessary precondition for human security and successful development. Taiwan's experience in dealing with the above-mentioned issues differs because of its political history and unique five-branch government system designed by Dr. Sun Yat-sen and proved viable over the years. Integrity-building in Taiwan starts at secondary school level, gradually being built into a process of political socialization. Control Yuan can and should assume the leading role due to its constitutionally defined position of government watchdog which lends itself most favorably to solving the problem of official and political corruption and heading country-wide clean governance efforts. Moreover, it is a constitutional embodiment of a centuries-long censor tradition which is familiar to general population. In modern days, it continues to provide a channel for citizens' grievances and non-judicial control in case of suspected, but not yet proven cases of malfeasance. Corruption is a very media impactful phenomenon and when implicated one may have to deal with the consequences for years to come; so following the procedures and operating above partisan divisions is of paramount importance.

A comparative study on the international trade policies of Indonesia and Malaysia in response to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

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Abstract

The paper discusses the Southeast Asian perspective on the United States (US) proposal of free trade agreement (FTA), namely the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with particular reference to Indonesia and Malaysia. The paper seeks to find the determining factor behind Indonesia's reluctance and Malaysia's willingness to participate in TPP. The paper uses a comparative approach by entailing international and domestic factors, namely 'the need to forge closer relations to the US' in the former and 'the degree of domestic cohesion' in the later. Internationally, political-security needs are more relevant to Indonesia's case as the country fears that the US-led TPP will get rid of ASEAN 'centrality principle' in Asia-Pacific, while for Malaysia the political-economic benefit is more prevalent given the importance of the US huge market to the country's export. Domestically, in Indonesia a protectionist policy still forms the main outcome while in Malaysia reforms are under way to secure its future as a trading nation. Both cases demonstrate an important theoretical insight on trade policy in Southeast Asia by showing that: 1) state is not a unitary actor; and 2) civil society also plays an important role in policy-making.

Filipino irregular migration to Japan and the repercussions of immigration control

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Abstract

This study explores the specific phenomenon, outcome, and the consequences of irregular migration in the form of immigration detention and/or deportation of migrants from the Philippines based on the recipient country response which includes immigration enforcement measures such as arrest, detention and deportation (i.e. Japan's migration control). It attempts to further elucidate the reasons behind the seemingly sustained phenomenon of distressed migrants and their precarious status as the borders of their country of destination are governed by strict immigration policies that may facilitate or hinder their entry. Further, this research focuses on the interplay of the migration industry and the experiences of former undocumented migrants and their family, including their children. The collected data reveals that the state's discretionary or selective application of the law appears to be consistent with the current trend in advanced welfare states, at least in the case of Japan, which is bent on excluding irregular immigrants and not moving forward on extending citizenship rights to the large group of unwanted immigrants. To address this rival explanation, the study also highlights the role of selected non-state entities (NGOs, church-based organizations) and self-help groups in the Philippines and Japan, which becomes a catalyst to ensure protection of migrants' rights, serving as 'watchmen' to ensure that these are constantly upheld through a negotiated status.

Structural change, resource sustainability and the environment: China's development and its impact on the Asia-Pacific Region

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Abstract

In worldwide specialization, developing countries may constantly face the issue of shifting out of low-tech goods where their current comparative advantage resides and into high-tech industries where they may currently lack a comparative advantage but may foster such a comparative advantage in the future as a result of a greater growth potential or positive intersectoral interactions. This structural change may have significant environmental implications as different industries generally carry different pollution intensities. In the past few decades, China has experienced substantial structural transformation, which has supposedly exerted a deep impact on the rest of the world, particularly as the Chinese economy is being opened to greater foreign trade and foreign direct investment. However, while the processes of opening up and development have increased the level of income and reduced overall poverty, there has been a heavy reliance on increasing inputs of environmental resources. Environmental damages are now a very serious problem in China, where unsustainable environmental practices are posing serious threats to China's ecosystems and energy supplies. Environmental degradation and resource depletion accompanying China's rapid opening up and development has thus become a growing concern calling for continuous attention of government policies. To explore the potential impacts of opening up and economic development on resource sustainability and the quality of the environment in China, one central issue is to find out whether China is using up excessive amounts of environmental resources in producing its economic output, so that environmentally friendly (or 'green') growth and development cannot be sustained. The present paper, under a theoretical framework of dynamic comparative advantage, and by applying the basic concept of the environmental Kuznets curve, investigates China's structural transformation and the evolution of the pattern of its opening up, their impact on resource sustainability and the quality of the environment, as well as the role China is playing in the development of the Asia-Pacific region.

Panel Chair: Professor Timothy LEE

Sustainability of geo-tourism: a review of the Japanese and international experience

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Abstract

Our research on the issues pertaining to the development of geo-tourism based on volcanic geo-parks in Japan funded by a 3 year research grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is now in its second year. This paper reports on the first stages of this project and investigates in detail the background, incorporating themes of geology, history and culture, education, marketing, site preservation, visitor management, geographic location, safety, and extreme tourism within a geo-park setting. Japanese national and quasi-national parks are almost all geo-parks, but only a few have been registered with the Global Network. We also discuss geo-tourism as a change in orientation for nature and other tourists, towards experiencing the environment as a form of '*active learning*'. The paper concentrates on case studies of geo-tourism from around the world and Japan, and explores their applicability to new forms of tourism for Beppu, Kyushu Island and the Asia Pacific. This is combined with an analysis of the significant future market for inbound tourism to Kyushu, a unique area for volcanoes, geo-parks and their associated visitation, including a comparison between tourism and non-tourism based efforts to stimulate the economy of the island, and an analysis of the diffusion of the social and economic impacts of increased tourism across Kyushu. The intention of the study is to build a new working model of the stimulus to regional development provided by geo-tourism that can ultimately be generalized to the Asia Pacific Region as a whole; this paper chronicles the beginning of this process.

‘Health tourism’ or ‘medical examination and treatment abroad’; a study of the phenomenon from economic angles

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Abstract

Medical care has traditionally been largely supported within a framework of state welfare. However, ‘medical examination and treatment abroad’ is recently expanding beyond national borders, reflecting the globalization of the world, which includes the international expansion of private health insurance businesses. The term ‘health tourism’ does not sound appropriate, because those who travel internationally are mostly patients, not tourists looking for shopping and/or a pleasurable holiday. Thus, health tourism had better be termed in a different way, such as ‘medical examination and treatment abroad’, or ‘international patient business’ from a supply-side point of view. This study considers ‘Medical Examination and Treatment Abroad’ from economic angles. First of all, this speaker reviews the nature of transnational treatment based on the quality and costs of the services. Secondly, a regulatory framework of ‘international patient business’ is to be examined. Private healthcare services are often considered to form a competitive market. However, how to monitor and assure the quality / safety of the private healthcare service abroad is a crucial issue. It also includes price issues.

Is the UNESCO inscription positive to Ha Long Bay? A question from visitor management perspective

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Abstract

The global heritage includes sites and monuments of worldwide importance and recognized as World Heritage Sites (WHS) by UNESCO. Some countries have reported an increase in visitor arrivals at heritage properties once they have been listed as WHSs (Su & Lin, 2014); other studies have found that such listing has both negative and positive outcomes to social and environmental sustainability (Jimura, 2011). Acknowledging the controversy of the topic, this paper aims at analysing the case of Ha Long Bay of Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam. By reviewing the issues of visitor management over twenty years (1994-2014) since the inscription, authors argue that even though the inscription has contributed to the development of tourism, but uncontrolled visitor influx resulting from the designation has negatively affected the conservation for universal value of the WHS.

Bilateral tourism between Taiwan and China

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Abstract

The 2012 cross-strait relationship between mainland China and Taiwan has enabled easier access for Chinese tourists to travel to Taiwan. Initially, the majority of the Taiwanese stood against this agreement, but failed to convince the government to stop the negotiation. As the first few waves of Chinese tourists started to enter, it resulted in predictions of a significant positive impact on economic growth to Taiwan and its infrastructure. However due to political and historical events, there are still local Taiwanese residents that hold a grudge against innocent Chinese tourists. On the other side, the mainland Chinese are curious about Taiwan while they were hardly able to travel to this island before 2012. This sudden demand has created a mass influx of Chinese tourists, causing crowding, pollution, and social conflicts. Having the same language and appearance, foreigners commonly mistake Asian mandarin speakers as Taiwanese. Therefore indirectly, Chinese tourists have become a part of Taiwan's destination image; this may hurt the market for countries other than mainland China. This research will examine Taiwan and China's social issues, as of how local Taiwanese residents view the Chinese tourists, and vice versa. While conducting face-to-face interviews, the researcher has recorded the participants' opinions and collected common indicators to figure the reasons of negative feelings inside Taiwan. Unfortunately, despite the strong economic contribution, it appears that currently the Taiwanese may not positively view the Chinese tourists.

Design thinking and sustainable development: the role of social entrepreneurs in promoting alternative social realities

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Abstract

In the recent past, social entrepreneurship has attracted significant attention as a potential approach and actor within the third sector in order to address major global problems. So far, the third sector has played an interactive and complimentary role to the activities undertaken by various actors to achieve sustainable development (Brinkerhoff *et al.* 2007). The growth of the social entrepreneurship sector within the third sector altogether has attributed to the incremental improvements within the efficiency of the third sector on one hand (Dees 2001, Chell 2007) and promoting fundamental social transformation through reaching out to the more needy with various innovative methods on the other (Waddock and Post 1991, Mair *et al.* 2006). In the process, design thinking has emerged as a key attributor in addition to social innovation and entrepreneurial processes that social entrepreneurs adopt. Design thinking helps the concerned communities to design the solutions and products relevant for their own inclusion in mainstream societies. Social entrepreneurship as a process facilitates such actions. The entire process promotes alternative social realities where the concerned communities become empowered. With this background, the current paper discusses the significance of design thinking in achieving sustainable development and addresses the processes involved in the application of design thinking with four in-depth case studies.

Analysis of citizen-based suicide prevention activities in Japan

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Abstract

Since 1998, suicide has been a major social problem in Japan. As observed in the slogan of WHO “Suicide prevention is everyone’s business”, all people must be involve in the prevention of suicide. However, there are still many barriers to the participation of the general public in the activities for suicide prevention. In this study, an analysis of the activities of the ‘Tokyo Life Line’ is offered, as a case of suicide prevention activities by citizens. Through the interviews and questionnaires to the volunteers, the problems faced by volunteers in the activities were explored. This study attempts to discover measures for enhancing participation in the activities of suicide prevention by all citizens. ‘Tokyo Life Line’ is a volunteer organization that performs activities for suicide prevention by phone. It has been working for many years in the front lines of activity of suicide prevention in Japan. In Japan, there are several private organizations that perform suicide prevention activities. But Tokyo Life Line shows a pioneering presence among them. Their activities not only represent a civil movement, but also have caused a great deal of impact on the study of suicide prevention and the policy of suicide prevention in Japan. By clarifying the issues and effects of these activities, not only clues may be found to help identify the shortcomings of current countermeasures in Japan, but also valuable suggestions may be provided to change the direction of such countermeasures in the future.

Panel Chair: Professor Pishva and Professor Nishantha

A global human-computer multi-services platform for promoting rural business innovation

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Abstract

In this paper, we present a novel system of ‘webs of wisdom’ (WoW) that essentially harmonizes collective efforts of machine intelligence and human intelligence scattered geographically with different capabilities, skills, preferences, and availability to achieve common objectives at high accuracy, low cost and reduced production time. The developed ‘WoW’ platform can be used to implement several pragmatic applications for rural enterprise. The system is currently being tested in Sri Lanka and Japan by serving the ‘Precision Agro-Informatics Platform’ (PAIP), cross language grid translation system (*transwow*), and multipurpose digitizing system (*digixwow*). A proposed smart, resilient and sustainable community development initiative in Sri Lanka, as an exemplar project to mark Sri Lanka Japan business and research partnership will also be fueled by WoW service infrastructure.

A programming approach to optimize convenience stores' distribution with web scraping and Google API service

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Abstract

Convenience stores are indispensable for the Japanese society and on the average 8 convenience stores serve up to 20,000 people in Japan per day (Statistics Japan ODOMON, 2009). In this paper, a practical approach that utilizes computer techniques to find an optimal vehicle routing scheme for goods and service delivery to multiple convenience stores is investigated. A mathematical 'network flow model' is first developed to examine the problem. Next, geographical data of convenience stores, their associated warehouses, garbage dump sites and gas stations is examined through programming with the 'webscraping' technique. A computer program is then developed that utilizes the retrieved data and Google API service to solve any possible networking problem. Several example networks of convenience stores throughout Japan are modeled. Pertinent data that include names, addresses and service details of roughly 55,000 convenience stores and 37,400 gas stations are retrieved. The created program is capable of searching through all the convenience stores, and their associated warehouses and garbage dump sites in a certain geographical location in order to find an optimal route for a network problem of up-to 8 convenience stores based on references from a user. Because of heavy dependency on geographical data sources, availability of the Internet, Google API, as well as lack of a standard to evaluate the optimality of the results, the research performs an extensive testing and comparison with an evolutionary algorithm to justify the optimality of the approach. Out of 1765 input locations in Oita prefecture, 754 example networks of convenience stores were found, and in 95% of them the program could come up with an optimal routing solution with effective timing performance. Hence, the approach can be extended for practical applications.

Panel Chair: Professor Young-Jae KIM

Theme: Economic Theory and Application, Korean Economic and Business Association (KEBA) in Asia Pacific Conference (APC)

Demand for financial assets with changes in risk under risk aversion

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Abstract

This paper proposes two concepts of changes in risk which are the subsets of first-degree stochastic dominance (FSD) changes called an ‘FSD shift with respect to a point k ’ (k-FSD shift) and a ‘monotone probability ratio FSD shift with respect to a point k ’ (k-MPR shift). These shifts can be applied to specific economic models such as the standard portfolio model or the coinsurance model which is linear in both the decision and the random variable. In the standard portfolio model or the coinsurance problem, point k can be the sure interest rate or the insurance premium, respectively. This paper explores that the MPR shift in Eeckhoudt and Gollier (1995) is the subset of the k-MPR shift and any k-MPR shift can be decomposed into two FSD shifts, one k-FSD and the other MPR. When we restrict the payoff function to be linear in the random variable and limit our analysis to risk-averse decision makers, we obtain interesting comparative statics results for these two shifts. When comparing the result for the MPR shift with the comparative statics result for the k-MPR, a trade-off is observed between the restrictions on the set of changes in the cumulative distribution function (CDF) and the structure of the concerned payoff function.

Provincial FDI inflows and differential growth in different provinces in China

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Abstract

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have been known as a key growth driver in China for the past several decades. On national level, only a few studies were done on whether and how FDI inflows contributed to China's economic growth and they confirmed very often that FDI did stimulate economic growth for China. However, China's open and reform policies were very discriminatory among regions in that they were limited to coastal provinces and cities along Eastern China. In this study, we investigate whether the above opening-growth formula worked at the provincial level, too. Using a provincial panel data, we try to evaluate how crucial FDI inflows have been used in generating income in provinces of China.

An analysis of the welfare effects of sectoral net exports in Korea

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the welfare effects of net exports by sector and the optimal net export in Korea. For this purpose, we made a simple CGE model composed of 4 sectors. We applied the model to the case of South Korea and conducted a simulation analysis. We then analyzed the effects of net export to find the optimal level of net exports by industrial sectors. This study shows that the welfare level of Korea depends on economic structure and the net export size by sector. It also shows that the optimal net export size doesn't have any particular patterns. When analyzing the optimal net export size, we applied the same tax revenue condition to the alternative cases. Compared with the present net export size by sector, the optimal net export size in an alternative case is different from that of the base case.

Factor determinants of total factor productivity growth for OECD countries

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Abstract

This study investigates the interaction between productivity growth and its factor determinants by empirically estimating a model that includes embodied technical progress, externality effects, and openness, along with other control factors as sources of productivity growth for the OECD countries. Specifically, the study investigates factor determinants of productivity growth that simultaneously include both disembodied and physical capital, embodied technological progress, human capital, learning by trade, and other external effects at the industry level. First, the study estimates the impacts of new capital goods measured by vintage of capital goods to represent capital-embodied productivity growth. In addition, physical capital is divided into IT capital and other physical capital to isolate the impact of IT capital on TFP growth. Secondly, the study includes human capital, which is represented either by average wage or labor quality, as an explanatory variable to estimate labor-embodied productivity growth. Third, the study analyzes the contributions of disembodied variables such as IT and R&D capitals as sources of industry TFP growth, and considers industry-specific learning-by-trade and unpriced externalities resulting from industry-wide IT and R&D investments.

Panel Chair: Professor Gi-Seung KIM

***Theme: Graduate Session on Applied Economics, Brain Korea 21 (BK21),
Busan National University in Asia Pacific Conference (APC)***

Efficiency analysis on the water shortage in Beijing and Tianjin Tang industrial zones in China

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Abstract

Water shortage particularly for industrial use is a serious issue in China, where industrial water use efficiency is not high and wastewater reuse has low efficiency. This paper selected China's four major industrial areas for study by the Super SBM (slacks-based measure) efficiency model. The results of the analysis of the shortage of water resources in Beijing and Tianjin Tang industrial zones are presented, with a focus on the main reasons based on the theory of fuzzy weight vector probability. As the results show, the main reason for the shortage of industrial water in Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan region can be summarized in two main areas, natural causes and socio-economic reasons. The main natural causes are a lack of precipitation, with seasonal rainfall distribution being uneven, and the man-made causes include excessive agricultural water use and pollution of water.

The impact of ICT industry development on adjustment to a low carbon economic structure in China

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Abstract

This study analyzes the low carbon effect brought by the ICT industry development in China. Using the province longitudinal data from 2005 to 2010, this paper employs urbanization, industrialization, and information-ization as independent variables on carbon intensity based on the STIRPAT model (Stochastic Impacts by Regression on Population, Affluence and Technology). Apparently, the ICT industry can effectively reduce carbon intensity. We used Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition to reveal the contribution level of influential factors on carbon intensity. The results show that the ICT gap between developed and developing regions accounts for most of the differential in carbon intensity.

Use of survival analysis to study employment instability in Korea

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Abstract

Recently the size of the flexible employment labor market has enlarged. Unlike the past, the concept of keeping a permanent job has become loosened and various employment types such as regular, temporary, service contract and part-time employment are common in the labor market. Especially, the average of continuous service years is currently the lowest in Korea among OECD countries. It means that the rate of voluntary or involuntary turnover of Korean workers is high. High flexibility in the labor market makes it possible to increase the diversity of using workforce but it may also cause job insecurity. The resultant job instability can lead to income insecurity, which could act as a scale factor for income inequality. Therefore we analyze the extent of employment instability in the domestic labor market in Korea using 13 years of the KLIPS (Korea Labor and Income Panel Study) data, and find the relation between income and job instability through survival analysis.

Panel Chair: Professor Suzuki and Professor Barai

Theme: “Economic and Energy Sustainability in Japan and Emerging Economies”

Development of a model for the North-South intellectual property rights conflict in the pharmaceutical industry

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Abstract

First included in the Uruguay Round of the GATT trade negotiations (1986-94), ‘intellectual property rights’ (IPR) have emerged as a source of conflicts between the developed (North) and the developing (South) countries in the world. The conflicts have become more acute and frequent particularly in the pharmaceutical industry. This study is to develop an extended North-South model to analyze the IPR conflict with possible policy implications for the pharmaceutical industry. In this empirical model, innovation from the North, followed by imitation in the South (India, Bangladesh, China and other select East Asian countries) and foreign direct investment (FDI) are treated as endogenous. We find that tighter IPR benefit the North and South due to a large market structure. It seems that in an oligopolistic market induced by vertical innovation, tighter IPR may hurt both economies; while in a monopolistic competitive market induced by horizontal innovation, tighter IPR may benefit both economies as long as the degree of IPR protection is appropriately chosen. Thus we argue for an optimal degree of IPR protection in the South, which may help differentiate it from that in the North.

The entry and survival strategies of multinational enterprises in emerging economies

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Abstract

With electronic commerce and collaborative commerce, the survival of small and medium enterprises (SME) in developing countries has faced immense challenges. The technology, intellectual property rights, and tech savvy marketing strategies offer potential challenges to the inclusive growth policy of developing countries. In their economies, the SME sector lack modern management skills, technical knowhow and risk taking ability to survive the onslaught of multinational corporations (MNC). Ironically, the 2008 economic crisis and the aftermath global slowdown have put a question mark on the survival and growth of big transnational corporations across the globe. Their business model cannot help them sustain their business and penetrate into the new markets. In fact, the economic reset has provided an opportunity and an environment to build new strategies centered upon the policy of relationship to overcome these challenges. In essence, the strategy of non-linearity co-operantism and endearment are answers to the crisis with the promise to provide a win-win situation. This paper discusses the potential challenges ahead for the survival and growth of both big and small enterprises operating in emerging economies which have opened their markets to global players. It prescribes a roadmap and a business model of non-linearity that offer a survival strategy for the 21st century enterprises. The paper studies some business cases and discusses one case in detail to highlight the success of the model.

Ethical investment instruments for financial sustainability

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Abstract

The United Nations 'world summit' in 2005 identified the three major pillars of sustainability in economic development, development of society, and environmental protection (United Nations, 2005). The issue of financial sustainability, at both micro and macro levels, is a major concern for the stakeholders of enterprises since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and 2010 Eurozone crisis when financial instability and capital mobility became prominent issues. In fact, macro and micro level sustainability could be bidirectional. Investors, doomed in losses from failed investments and bankruptcies, started to include ethical investment instruments such as Islamic equities and major commodities in their portfolios. This paper intends to investigate whether ethical investment instruments could lead to a stability of return in investments with an ultimate objective to achieve financial sustainability. The goal is significant since ethical investment instruments have gained momentum to ensure financial sustainability. Many experts and scholars also view that ethical equity based financial instruments would be a relatively safer investment for investors in general because of their unique features, such as low leverage ratio, risk sharing and genuine asset backing. The paper uses the return series of equities (conventional and ethical) and commodities starting from 1990s and covering major financial crises, particularly the Global Financial Crisis in 2008. The outcomes are expected to indicate that ethical equities and commodities would provide better diversification benefits particularly during periods of financial crisis when the extent of correlations tend to go up and result in decreasing portfolio diversification benefits in general. The findings of the paper could help both investors and policy makers by helping them make strategic financial decisions with ethical investment instruments, and creating and regulating markets for a safer and more sustainable investment environment, respectively.

Energizing development: towards energy sustainability in Japan

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Abstract

Japan is the third largest economy as well as energy consumer in the world. Presently it consumes about 500 MTOE (million tons of oil equivalent) of energy per year and is projected to consume nearly the same amount of primary energy annually till 2030. However, meeting energy demand has always remained a challenge for Japan as it is one of the weakest nations in energy security among the developed countries, having only 4 percent of energy self-sufficiency (excluding the nuclear power). It lacks significant domestic reserves of oil, coal, natural gas and other energy resources, including uranium. The river based hydroelectricity production is not plenty. So Japan has to rely on imports of these resources to power the nation. This dependence on foreign resources makes Japan's energy sector fragile and exposed to contingent risks and structural risks. While the former may happen in the form of political events in supplier countries like wars, riots, embargo, terrorist acts or accidents, the latter impacts through structural change or imbalance at the demand side and/or supply side, exemplified by the 2011 tsunami in Japan that forced a nationwide shutdown of nuclear power plants. In the present paper the authors introduce the contingent and structural risks in energy sector in Japan. This paper argues that to maintain and energize its overall development and reduce energy dependence on others, Japan has to explore non-conventional and renewable energy options like wind energy, ocean energy, geothermal energy, photovoltaic energy and biomass energy along with the skillful utilization of solid waste energy and energy cascading possibilities. Towards the goal of energy sustainability, nuclear energy may play an important role in Japan in the foreseeable future.

Replicative innovation versus '*jugaad*' innovation: the way forward for India

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Abstract

In India, there is a focus on what is known as '*jugaad*' or frugal innovation, which is the use of limited resources to create new products and services, usually at below global standards. This is based on the erroneous premise that innovation always means something completely new, rather than something different, and thereby excludes existing technologies or processes that are 'new-to-us'. By restricting the definition of innovation to only the completely new, and given the inability of developing countries such as India to invest heavily in R&D, it then logically leads to the extolling of frugal innovation. However this approach completely disregards the most successful form of innovation today, which is doing something that is new to the beneficiaries of the process or technology, even though the technology may have been invented and deployed decades ago elsewhere. While frugal innovations are well intentioned, superior global alternatives to these frugal innovations already exist and if implemented via a broader perspective on innovation, could rapidly propel the poor into the middle class, in a way that *jugaad* innovation, by its very nature, cannot. This paper explores the reasons for the existence of *jugaad* innovation, by looking at technological adoption from an ecosystem point of view, and posits that when new technological systems are only partially adopted, subsequent breakdowns in such partially replicated and thereby incomplete systems lead to *jugaad* innovation, to fill in the gaps. As such this paper argues that holistic technological adoption (replicative innovation), and not *jugaad*, holds the key to economic growth in India, and that Chinese style replication of entire technological ecosystems is the way forward.

Theme: “Business Ethics and Sustainability: Japan and India in Focus”

India-Japan perception gap on the “*Mottainai*” ethics

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Abstract

Why do the Japanese still hesitate to visit India? Although many researchers and practitioners refer to the cultural or perception gap between the two societies as a reason, less has been done to investigate the specificities of the gap. This paper aims to shed light on a dimension of the cultural or perception gap, mainly referred to as the concept of “*mottainai*” in Japanese language. The *mottainai* ethics was originally based on one’s modesty and subjective ideals to respect the virtues of thrift, moderation and self-realization. Professor Wangari Maathai, Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel Prize winner, is well known as a promoter of *mottainai* as an environmental protection concept. When she visited Japan for an event related to the Kyoto Protocol in 2005, she was given a shirt with the word “*MOTTAINAI*” written on it. She wore that shirt at the Kyoto Protocol conferences and asked the audience to use the word in their everyday lives. She became a widely recognized celebrity particularly in Japan for this. We attempt to point out that the perception gap on ‘wastefulness’ or ‘inefficiency’ between India and Japan should be recognized to ease the mutual barriers to entry and to overcome the cultural gap for strengthening economic relations between the two countries.

A theory of ‘justice seeking’ analyzed through the rent seeking approach

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Abstract

We aim to propose a fairly new conceptualization, a theory of *justice-seeking*, by expanding the general approach of *rent-seeking*. Justice seeking is the quest for seeking justice towards justice as fairness. However, what is fair or unfair depends on the incumbents’ ‘subjective’ judgment which is driven by such forces as economic motivation, political ideology, religious sentiment, etc. Drawing upon the rent-seeking literature, we develop a matrix showing the likely cost and outcome of justice seeking and then illustrate some episodes of justice seeking under this broader framework. We argue that justice seeking activities sometimes lead to a change in institutions engaged in distributive justice towards fairness. But they can also lead to painful rebellion towards a chaotic outcome. These episodes further illustrate that the by-product of justice seeking can be a vacuum in leadership, inadequate development of some critical spheres of economy and the resulting dysfunctional economic performance.

Simonian perspectives on Islamic altruism

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Abstract

One of the salient contributions by New Institutional Economics (NIE) is to support the proposition that effective contracting is dependent upon *institutions* in terms of “rules that constrain economic behavior”, including *informal* or *intangible* institutions such as religious, cultural and customary practices. The paper draws on the theoretical contributions of the NIE and Transaction Cost Economics (TCE) and applies some of these contributions to an analysis of general altruism and reciprocity in the Islamic economies. Although there should not be an overemphasis on the cultural factors, this paper argues that Islamic altruism may play an important role in reducing the transaction costs of contracting. Cizakca (2011) is of the opinion that venture capital (VC) is going to be the rising star of Islamic finance, because VC is a *Shari'ah* based instrument and though risky, embodies a huge profit potential. This paper aims to argue the Islamicity and feasibility of VC through the lens of the NIE and TCE traditions, in particular, the salient contributions by Herbert Simon on bounded rationality and altruistic behavior.

Creation of shared values by Indian enterprises-

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Abstract

In today's globally inter-connected and changing socio-economic and political environment, there is a shift of economic power from West to East, with increased global political awareness because of media, the Internet and other fast technological changes. The global problems of poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare and illiteracy also continue among the vast majority of population in the world. The issue of climate change is likely to increase the misery of poor people and countries. The solution to these problems requires resources and willingness while most governments lack the needed resources. Economic activities are being organized under corporate entities with the governments withdrawing from economic and welfare activities for a lack of resources. Enterprises have become the dominant economic and political players in all countries though there is a variation in institutional governance system. The economic resources and technology owned and managed by these enterprises are massive. It is expected and debated at global economic forums that these enterprises should be asked, motivated and persuaded to help mitigate the social problems of climate change and others. Michael Porter (2011) has argued for the creation of shared values by corporates adapting their strategies to service social needs. By combining economic value and serving social needs, a "shared value" is created. Porter argued that "for profit" companies are well suited to solve social problems while serving their shareholders' interest to maximize investor returns. In comparison with CSR programs, shared values are an integral part of successful corporate strategies. The present paper aims at examining the role of Indian enterprises in creating shared values and meeting social responsibility. For this purpose, the top 30 companies listed on the Mumbai Stock Exchange that also are part of SENSEX are selected to identify their corporate strategy, their sustainability efforts and other activities to serve the society. The main focus of the paper is to examine the type of effort made by Indian enterprises to create shared values as explained by Porter.

Innovative and sustainable micro enterprises of hinterland India

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Abstract

Micro enterprises have remained an important part of the Indian economy from ancient times. Uniquely innovated through 'craft technology', some of their products like '*Muslin*' were a source of pride in mediaeval India and attained fame in foreign countries till the emergence of factory made cloth. Even today, these enterprises are at the helm of harnessing innovations for commercial purposes. However, they need technological synergies through collaboration with R&D institutions. The developed nations have made concerted efforts to create and maintain this vital linkage for developing a business environment in which both established and start-up enterprises can benefit immensely. Though the linkages of R&D institutions with smaller firms have huge potential for innovations and job creation in developing countries including India, they are lagging far behind in this regard. Pro-science technology and innovation environment were almost absent in pre-independent India. After independence, there was little deliberate effort to establish linkages between industry and R&D institutions including universities for sharing technological innovations for business use. Small enterprises had a marginal position in the picture. This paper aims at exploring the business models and practices of micro and small enterprises of hinterland India to find their innovative practices, entrepreneurial ability and sustainable models that may be replicated in other developing countries for inclusive growth. It will also attempt to standardize those business models, their innovations and practices, with possible synergies through institutions/universities for others to follow, if they want to. Furthermore, the paper intends to analyze the sustainability of these micro enterprises and entrepreneurs after looking at their financing patterns.

Recent developments in environment disclosure practices of companies in India

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Abstract

Climate change is a global threat with catastrophic consequences for the entire ecosystem. Greenhouse gas emissions, the main reason behind climate change mainly stem from industrialization. While economic development without industrialization is not feasible, it leads to environmental degradation that affects economies in the long-run. Thus the emphasis now is on a stable and sustainable growth path whereby companies integrate sustainability in the process of development. In this context, companies have started providing information about their environmental performance and policies to various stakeholders. The present paper attempts to study the extent of environmental reporting by Indian companies. A sample of 30 Indian companies was taken and their annual reports were examined to gather information about the initiatives taken by these companies towards making India a low carbon economy. Content analysis was used to convert qualitative information in annual reports into quantitative information, and an environmental disclosure index was calculated on the basis of themes identified for environmental information. Our results show that companies in the automobile and IT sector have the highest environmental score while companies in banking sector had low scores.

Live and let others live with dignity: the imperatives for environmental ethics

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Abstract

The Earth bears the greatest brunt of human depredation and has been recklessly treated by humans so much so that the planet is getting increasingly unsafe for the contemporaries and shall be more so for the posterity. Global warming, depletion of ozone layer, acid rain, air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, desertification, disturbed cycles of seasons, recurrent depressions above the sea, frequent cyclones and storms, loss of biodiversity, fragile mountains and deforestation are indicative evidences of the state of natural environment throughout the world. The right to a healthy environment is an immediate prerequisite to the right to live. While tinkering with the environment we have to remain conscious of our obligation for our successors who would wish to inherit a healthy natural ambiance as much as we expected the same from our predecessors. Issues in environmental ethics revolve around the pivotal question: Whether humans have ethical obligations towards entities or forces in the biotic domain and the natural environment? Aldu Leopold wrote that there was a need for a “New Ethic”, an ‘ethic dealing with the man’s relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it’. Many other ecologists have wanted to preserve the integrity of the biosphere for its own sake; irrespective of the possible benefits that humans might lose in so doing. Many thinkers for decades have responded differently to this fundamental issue and given their distinct views. The present paper would like to address the concerns raised above and discuss the views and attitudes towards the natural world and environmental ethics. The paper also argues the need for developing an environmental ethic at the global level by linking ecology and ecosystem to various aspects of development and human wellbeing. This will be based on the global framework that emerged from the 1992 Earth Summit and the latest state of Rio +20 Conference which vowed for fruitful actions to integrate development with environment for universal wellbeing for now as well as for the future generations.

Ethics in governance and education in Bangladesh

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Abstract

There are a total of 79 private universities in Bangladesh, all of which are approved by Bangladesh University Grants Commission. It is socially perceived by the stakeholders that most of the private universities are unable to provide a quality education to the students. One of the main reasons of the lack of quality education is a lack of good governance of these universities. This in turn is related to unethical practices of the universities which are mainly market-oriented and profit-oriented rather than social oriented, although all education institutions are legally non-profit in Bangladesh. However, whatever the motives of the government, the practices of private universities do not reflect that they are non-profit oriented and social oriented. The government institutions appear not to properly monitor higher education by imposing the law as expected by the society. Higher education is critical, both directly and indirectly, to human security and sustainability. On the other hand, education may be influenced by globalization, poverty, environmental and natural risks, internal conflicts in the organization, population dynamics, social structures, economic uncertainties, and political pressures in the Asia Pacific Region. These aspects also influence the practices, both ethical and unethical, in the education institutions in Bangladesh. Our concern is to examine the degree of influences of these aspects on private universities in Bangladesh. To this end, both secondary and primary data have been collected and examined. Both a survey method and a case study approach have been considered to collect the primary data. In the survey method, data are collected from three hundreds students of various universities, and a structured questionnaire is used. In the case study approach, three cases (i.e., universities) are considered. An in-depth interview technique is applied to collect the data from relevant executives, vice-chancellors, and board members of the universities. Both categories of data are analyzed using relevant statistical tools and techniques. It is hoped that the results of this study will create a new ground in the area of ethics in governance and education where there is no significant study in Bangladesh, as a guideline for both policy makers and practitioners.

Panel Chair: Professor Haidar

**Public service values: a study of the experiences and preferences of NSW Australia
local government councilors**

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Abstract

More than two decades ago, with the introduction of the Local Government Act 1993, NSW saw fundamental changes in the power relationship between councilors and the council staff but almost no serious study exists that assessed the views of councilors about this relationship. This study, based on a survey of well over one hundred councilors triangulated with interviews across urban and rural councils, finds that councilors perceive that the council staff is largely neutral which they expect them to be. Councilors prefer the council staff to be neither responsive nor trustee and in the councilor experience council staff conform to the councilor preferences on both the values.

Employees' perception of female leadership effectiveness in the service sector in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Though women are considered as a crucial factor in the labor force of all countries in the world, still their representation in managerial positions is considerably low. According to Carli & Eagly (2001), Heilman (2001), Maddock (2005), and Eagly (2007), the qualities of having a female gender role, the assumptions of women having less work experience and less education, perceiving women as lacking the necessary leadership skills and other prejudicial beliefs are expressed in the view of inappropriateness of women for leadership roles and their lack of effectiveness as leaders; such barriers to women deny them leadership positions and cause them to end up with less status and smaller salaries. Moreover, Florence (1993) revealed that such stereotypes were typically held by women against female leaders. Sri Lankan women represent more than 50% of the population and 35.6% (2013-2nd Quarter) of the total workforce and in contrast to other Asian countries they enjoy the social, educational and economical freedom of the country. For instance, the adult literacy rate in Sri Lanka for females is 97% and among the youth (15-24 years) the literacy rate is 99% (2013). Although they play a crucial role in the economy and are known as the backbone of many industries such as plantation, garment manufacturing and migrant work, still very few women are in leadership positions. This study discusses the question of to what extent a leader's behavior impacts the employees' perception towards women's leadership effectiveness? Do the selected demographic factors of respondents affect the perception of employees towards women leadership effectiveness? The sample consisted of 120 employees who had experienced working with women bosses in the service sector. The results show there is no statistically significant difference related to demographic factors (gender, age, educational level and length of service) in perceiving women leadership's effectiveness based on four leaders' behavioral aspects (communication skills, usage of power, decision making skills, personal character). Besides, there is a significant correlation between women leaders' behavioral features (communication skills, usage of power, decision making skills, personal character) and women leadership's effectiveness.

Economic growth and human development in Ethiopia

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Abstract

This presentation examines the economic growth and human development in Ethiopia by looking at the determinants of economic growth and human development in Ethiopia and comparing them with other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Most developing countries in Africa show sustainable economic growth. Exceptionally, Ethiopia has registered double digit economic growth for the last 10 years, and this figure is much higher than the average economic growth of sub-Saharan African countries that registered 5 percent GDP growth. Thus Ethiopia has been emerging as a key player in Africa. To identify the associated factors in this exceptional growth, I use empirical data analysis and extend theory, using a quantitative approach on economic growth data and human development index data for the period from 1960 to 2013. The research also applies time series regression, and cross countries statistical regression analysis, as well as cross regional statistical calculations. My methodology is based on panel regression analysis which is an important approach to determine the core engine behind the sustainable double digit economic growth and human development in Ethiopia in the last ten years.



The use of feed-in tariff (FiT) policy to promote renewable energy use in Oita prefecture, Japan

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Abstract

Renewable energy has been strongly promoted for the development of a sustainable society. Feed-in tariff (FiT) is a very effective policy mechanism designed to accelerate investment in renewable energy development. The FiT obligates an electric power company to purchase the electric power generated by renewable sources at a fixed price above the market price during a fixed period at the time of the installation of the system. In fact, the FiT has accelerated the investment in renewable energy and has enhanced the development of renewable energy in European countries including Germany and Spain. The FiT policy was introduced in Japan in July 1st, 2012 to promote renewable energy production, following which the Photovoltaic (PV) systems rapidly increased. The PV domestic shipments reached 8.5 GW expanding 2.2 times from the previous year. The renewable energy business including PV business is rapidly expanding in Oita prefecture. These are good news for energy sustainability. However, there are some problems, such as the monopoly of PV systems. The PV system has a monopoly on renewable energy with 95.7% of the accredited system numbers at the end of March, 2014. The other problems include ‘last-minute’ accreditation, etc. These issues related to sustainable energy promotion by the feed-in tariff (FiT) policy are analyzed in the case of Oita prefecture and in Japan.

Poverty alleviation through women's entrepreneurial activities in rural Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

In India, despite continuous efforts to accelerate the economy, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and alleviating rural poverty remain serious challenges for policy makers. Various reasons including a lack of access to institutional/farm credit, a lack of innovative approach for agricultural development, steep increases in the prices of fertilizer, high indebtedness, and imperfect market conditions, etc. have become the major hurdles in ensuring livelihood security for the poor and excluded. In addition, a lack of institutional support often traps them into a cycle of perpetual debt and poverty. In extreme conditions, the rural poor are even deprived of access to food that leads to an increasing spate of suicides. In these circumstances, ensuring livelihood security of the poor through promotion of various small-scale entrepreneurial activities has received critical attention as a source of inspiration. Having recognized the need and the tools necessary to fill the gap, rural banks are entrusted with the responsibility to provide adequate and affordable credits to the rural people to improve their livelihood opportunities. In this context, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have become instrumental in delivering tiny loans to the poor women through banks to promote various entrepreneurial activities. Particularly in Andhra Pradesh, a southern state, the SHG movement has been playing a pivotal role by bringing a radical change in the position of women from daily-wage laborers to self-employed entrepreneurs. Given this backdrop, as an empirical analysis, the paper critically examines the potentials of SHGs to emerge as institutions of rural entrepreneurship, and the possibilities of running various small-scale business ventures by poor women in Andhra Pradesh. Besides, the paper attempts to highlight the major operational challenges in functioning of SHGs against its claims.

Consumers' preferences for bundling by a multiproduct monopoly in a competitive market

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Abstract

In this article, we analyse the incentive of pure bundling by a multiproduct firm which is a monopoly in one market but competes in another market, under two situations: product specific preferences and firm specific preferences. We show that under consumers' product specific preferences, the multiproduct firm always prefers individual pricing and the rival never leaves the market. However, under consumers' firm specific preferences, the multiproduct monopoly will use bundling so that the rival will leave the market when consumers' reservation value is high enough. Firm specific preferences, e.g., brand royalty or reduced cost due to one stop shopping plays an important role in the different outcomes of interacting product and firm specific preferences.

Consumer characteristics affecting consumer preference between online travel agencies (OTA) and airline websites

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Abstract

Online air ticket booking system is a typical e-commerce success story. In the online air ticket market, there are two major players, namely 'online travel agencies' (OTA) and 'airline websites'. OTAs refer to intermediary websites that sell various types of travel products by multiple suppliers. Airline websites are those which are created and operated by the airlines themselves. This research aims to study who among a large number of diverse air ticket buyers, is more likely to use OTAs and who is more likely to use airline websites to book air tickets. In other words, the research examines the relations between consumer characteristics (cultural, social, personal and psychological characteristics) and their website preferences. This is a descriptive study using a survey method to gather data. An online survey was conducted on 59 Japanese and non-Japanese residents currently living in Japan. The survey on 59 respondents showed that (1) the habit of multiple bookings on one single website positively correlates with a preference for OTAs; (2) the perception of website quality and transaction security positively correlates with website preference; (3) the purpose of travel has an influence on website choice. However, the study did not show that price sensitivity and travel frequency are relevant to consumer preference of booking websites. These findings suggest the links between consumer characteristics and their choice of air ticket websites. The research provides application for air ticket marketing as well as other e-commerce sectors in adapting their services to different segments of travelers.

Innovative solutions to integrate monitoring of the health services in Malawi

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Abstract

Malawi's current clinical monitoring system relies on vertical data collection by the staff using paper-based checklists, and is not adequate to help strengthen the quality of health service delivery; there are systematic inefficiencies such as fragmented facility performance reporting. Malawi's Ministry of Health (MoH) with support from the USAID-funded "Support for Service Delivery Integration- Systems" (SSDI-Systems) has piloted a revised clinical monitoring system in three districts of Malawi, in tertiary, secondary and primary facilities. The revised system aims to transform the current monitoring system into a 'supportive' supervision system which integrates data collection from vertical programs, employs smartphone technology to collect and analyze performance data, and provides feedback to health facility managers in real time. During monitoring visits facility managers and supervisors have the opportunity to discuss results and identify the needed corrective actions. The system also sends email alerts to specific MoH program managers and policy makers on critical problems as soon as the associated monitoring data is submitted to the online database. There was a program assessment of the pilot system in January 2014 to provide information on the feasibility of institutionalizing the system country-wide. According to the results of this assessment, supervisors believe smartphone is a better tool for conducting supervisions, due to the ease of understanding the color coded results and the ease of preparing for supervision. Using smartphones for monitoring purposes was seen as an improvement over the previous paper-based checklists because of the immediacy of the results and the ability to develop action plans to address problems. The supervised personnel reported receiving feedbacks and that facility staff were making efforts to make the improvements suggested by the results of the supervision. Based on the findings of the assessment, SSDI-Systems will make slight revisions to the system to assist the MoH to roll-out smartphone supervision across 15 districts.

An alternative view of the ‘trap’ of poverty in rural Bangladesh

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Abstract

In spite of international aid and support as well as various developmental projects, many impoverished countries or poor people fail to progress or overcome the poverty trap. This paper attempts to explore an alternative the reason behind the failure of development initiatives. This paper will not look at global, regional or national level data rather it will try to understand the concept of the ‘aid trap’ by using cases from a rural area in Bangladesh. Due to extreme climate events, some adaptation projects have been introduced for the poor to combat the climate adversities. This research tried to understand the responses of the beneficiaries, who are being referred as the extreme poor, towards development initiatives of that area. This research follows a qualitative framework and adopts a ‘case study’ methodology and employs a variety of data collection procedures from various sources to explore the situation over time. The research findings show that like the ‘American welfare trap’ or ‘British unemployment trap’, some poor people try to represent themselves as extremely poor to get the aid or become the beneficiary of a project. Perceiving the financial benefit of remaining poor and getting aid might be better to them than the financial return of simply working in a job. They are more interested in aid grants rather than getting rescued from the poverty trap. It is also envisioned that these poor people may remain at the razor edge of poverty and still not want to take risks to change that. On the other hand, the developmental organizations are using this poverty situation to catch new developmental programs or to attract more aid.