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MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF ASIAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Discussant: Dr. Hiro Katsumata, Assistant Professor WIAPS, Waseda University

PRESENTATION 1

Regional Environmental Cooperation in East Asia: From Track 1 ODA to Track 1.5 Business Arrangement

ODAIRA Takeshi

Abstract

Now the concept of East Asian Community is discussed in both the political and academic realms much more often than the past. Besides, the need of international environmental cooperation is claimed in the same realms. Therefore, it is meaningful to produce a paper on the study of regional environmental cooperation in East Asia, as global frameworks of the environmental cooperation such as UNFCCC have not developed to universally effective means of protecting the environment. This logic is equivalent to that of FTA researchers and policy makers who tend to deal more with regional economic arrangements when the development of universal trade arrangements such as negotiations at WTO are much less prospective in its speed of progress. How does the regional environmental cooperation develop in East Asia? To this research question, a few researchers have given their answers. Matsuoka, Matsumoto and Iwamoto (2008) assumed that the track 1 official environmental cooperation leads to the track 1.5 cooperation as a part of the first stage of the development of the regional environmental regime. However, they did not examine how this process in the first stage proceeds in East Asia. Therefore, it is necessary for the following researchers to conduct case studies to examine the relevance of the aforementioned assumption. This paper conducts a qualitative case analysis on verifiable official documents and press releases. The analysis illustrates that bilateral track 1 de jure environmental cooperation such as ODA is leading to the emergence of track 1.5 de facto cooperation involving the corporate sector in East Asia.

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PRESENTATION 2

Globalization, Education and Development: a comparison between *successes* and *failures* in the Asia-Pacific

Pramila Neupane

Abstract

Link between globalization, education and development is one of the major subjects of interest in the contemporary discourse on international development. Increasing global interaction and interdependence has expanded opportunities for those countries in Asia with better levels of education but has made progress more difficult for countries with low levels of education. Thus, what are the relationships between globalization and education in the region and to how important is investment in human resources for gaining more benefits from the increasing trend of globalization and ultimately for the development of a country? To answer these questions, this paper compares the education, globalization, income and health indicators of successful and unsuccessful countries in terms of per capita income growth over the period of 1970 to 2006. The study finds that countries with high levels of education, savings and good socioeconomic policies have attracted foreign direct investment and advanced technology, and have achieved rapid export growth and other aspects of globalization. On the other hand, countries with low levels of education have found it more difficult to achieve progress. They have experienced very slow growth in per capita income and have not been able to effectively integrate with the global economy and society. Rather, globalization has made it more difficult to secure investment in education in these countries, because government expenditures in the social sector have been severely reduced to adjust to the negative consequences of globalization. Consequently, the development gap has been widening in the region. Successful countries have a good spread of education that leads to high growth and more resources for further educational development, whereas failing countries have poor human resources that lead to very low growth and limit their capacity to build up their educational systems. Thus, how to secure the necessary investment in the education sector in such countries is the urgent issue for further research.

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