

The Concept Note

1. Theme of the Seminar: Achieving Sustainable and Balanced Growth in Asia

2. The Basic Structure of the Seminar

- Total number of sessions: 10
- The number of sessions per day: 2
- The Duration of each session: two and half hours per session, including a 15 minutes coffee break. Morning session: 9:30AM—12:00PM. Afternoon session: 13:30-16:00
- Each session will have a chairman, a speaker and a discussant. The chairman will introduce the speaker and discussant, join the discussion, and monitor the progress of the session; the speaker will give one hour presentation, lead the discussion and entertain questions from participants; the discussant will make 30 minutes comments on the presentation and lead the discussion whenever it is necessary.
- A lunch welcome reception on the first day of the seminar;
- A closing dinner reception and certificate giving ceremony;

3. Main Topics:

1. World Economic Outlook and Global Policy Agenda

Speaker: Giovanni Ganelli, Senior Economist, IMF-OAP

Discussant: Yuqing Xing, Professor, GRIPS

Chairman: James Rhodes, President Advisor and Senior Professor of Economics, GRIPS

This session will provide the updated information on trends and challenges of the global economy. The presentation will draw on the IMF flagship publications (including, but not only, the World Economic Outlook) and on the Managing Director's Global Policy Agenda document.

Theme I: Managing Financial Stability and Capital Flows

2. Unconventional Monetary Policies: Scope and Future Prospects

Speaker: Ipeei Fujiwara, Professor, Keio University

Discussant: Tomohiro Kinoshita, Professor, GRIPS

Chairman: Ponpoje Porapakkarm, Assistant Professor, GRIPS

The conventional model for implementing monetary policy was challenged during the 2008 financial crisis. Central banks in advanced economies responded to this challenge by implementing unconventional monetary policies, such as lending to nonbank intermediaries or sovereigns, forward guidance and the purchase of private assets. This session will discuss the likely impacts of these policies, including the spillover effects to emerging countries, the precautions that need to be taken in the implementation of such policies and the scope for continuing to utilize them in the future.

3. Exchange Rates and Emerging Asian Economies

Speaker: Willem Thorbecke, Senior Fellow, Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI)

Discussant: Junichi Fujimoto (tentative), Associate Professor, GRIPS

Chairman: Alistair Munro, Professor, GRIPS

Exchange rate policies are an integral part of monetary policies. Many developing Asian economies peg their currencies to the dollar explicitly or implicitly. The rigid exchange regimes often become the source of economic instability and external imbalances. This session will review the theoretical relationship between exchange rate regimes and monetary policies, discuss

necessary adjustments on exchange rate policies as economies grow, and the consequences of rigid exchange rate regimes.

Theme II: Fiscal Management and Debt Sustainability

4. *Aging of the Population and Social Policies in Japan and East Asia*

Speaker: Naohiro Yashiro, Visiting Professor, International Christian University (ICU)

Discussant: Ponpoje Porapakkarm, Assistant Professor, GRIPS

Chairman: Shinsuke Ikeda, Assistant Professor, GRIPS

The rapid aging of the population is a common trend in East Asia. The speed of the aging process is particularly high in Japan and it puts a stronger pressure on the social security system, in particular on the public pension and health care systems. However, increasing tax and social security contributions would have negative impacts on the economy. Increasing labor supply of the elderly and women as well as utilizing the private initiatives for providing health and nursing care services through the markets are key measures for reducing the fiscal burden and keeping the economy on a steady growth path.

5. *Policies for Managing and Preventing Sovereign Debt Crisis*

Speaker: Atsushi Nakajima, Chairman of Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI)

Discussant: Hiroko Ota, Professor of Economics, GRIPS

Chairman: Roberto Leon-Gonzalez, Director of Macroeconomic Policy Program, Professor of Economics, GRIPS

The session will discuss methods to monitor fiscal sustainability risks and the theory of debt sustainability. It will use the

sovereign debt crisis in the Euro area and the mounting public debts of Japan as cases to analyze the process of debt accumulation, the consequences of fiscal crises and possible policy options for crisis prevention and management.

Theme III. Structural Reforms and Growth Policies in Asia

6. Policies to Stimulate Growth in Asian Emerging Economies

Speaker: Yuqing Xing (tentative), Professor, GRIPS

Discussant: Patarapong Intarakumnerd, Professor, GRIPS

Chairman: Tomohiro Kinoshita, Professor, GRIPS

Some Asian countries, such as Singapore, Korea, Taiwan Province and Hong Kong SAR, succeeded in maintaining rapid income growth until they converged to the income levels of advanced economies. However, although Asia remains as one of the world's fastest growing regions, there are signs of a growth slowdown in several Asian middle income countries and concern that this might delay the convergence to high income levels. Many factors can play a role in the development process such as the quality of institutions, the legal framework, the human capital, the structure and intensity of international trade, infrastructure and demographic factors. This session will look into the causes of the recent slowdown in Asia and the structural challenges that must be addressed in order to achieve faster growth and reduce poverty.

7. Asian Bond Market Development: Background and Progress(Scheduled on Feb.27 AM)

Speaker: Peter John Morgan, Senior Consultant of Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

*Discussant: Atsushi Takeuchi, Principal Economist, Japan
Center for Economic Research*

*Chairman: Dainn Wie, Assistant Professor of Economics,
GRIPS*

The smaller size and development of financial markets in Asia is one of the reasons that the savings of emerging Asian economies constantly flow into the US, thus fueling global imbalances. Developing efficient financial markets in Asia is critical for emerging Asian economies to invest their savings in the region and benefit from the robust economic growth. The Asian bond market formed by ASEAN+3 is a significant initiative to develop a regional financial market and promote portfolio investments within the region. This session will review the current status of the Asian bond market and its future perspectives.

8. *Achieving Economic Growth and Debt Sustainability by Developing the
Infrastructure & SME Finance and the Role of Long Term Institutional Investors*

Speaker: Naoyuki Yoshino, Professor, Keio University

Discussant:

Kenji Umetani, Professor of Economics,

GRIPS

Chairman: Yoichi Arai, Assistant Professor of GRIPS

This session will look into the conditions for sustainable growth and the causes of budget deficits.

Given the prominent role played by the SMEs in the Asian region and the necessity of infrastructure for sustainable development, it is crucial to attract long term institutional investors that enhance the infrastructure & SME finance. On the one hand much of Asian savings is not utilized in the region but instead invested in US/Europe government bonds. On the other, short term stock investment comes from Europe into the Asia/Pacific region. And so the question arises as to how to

mobilize Asian savings into Asian investment and thereby achieve sustainable economic growth.

9. How can Asia benefit from regional integration? (scheduled on Feb.26 AM)

Speaker: Yasuyuki Todo, Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Waseda University

Discussant: Yuqing Xing, Professor, GRIPS

Chairman: Ryuichi Tanaka, Associate Professor, GRIPS

Regionalism has maintained a strong momentum along with the progress of globalization. Bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements (FTA) and economic partnership agreements (EPA) have grown into a spaghetti bowl. A key issue is how Asian countries would be able to benefit from these institutional agreements. This session will review the current level of economic integration in Asia and discuss necessary policy measures for realizing the benefits of these FTA/EPA. This session will also pay attention to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its implications for Asia.

10. Wrap Up Session: Macroeconomic Policies and Structural Changes-- Practices and Challenges in Developing Asian Countries

Chairman: Roberto Leon-Gonzalez, Professor of Economics, GRIPS

This wrap-up session will provide a forum for all participants to share their experiences in policy making and relate them to the topics that were covered in previous sessions.