

Report on Ph.D. Thesis Defence

Reaching Universal Health Coverage through Tax-based Financing Schemes: Challenges of Informal Economy and Population Ageing

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Referees	James R. Rhodes Minchung Hsu Tetsushi Sonobe Hu Yunfang (Tohoku University)

Result: Pass (subject to minor changes)

1. Thesis overview

Both policymakers and the general public have paid much attention to Universal health coverage. Xianguo Huang's research has contributed to understand the effects of universal health coverage on social welfare and the government burden by giving a case study of the Thai Economy and using heterogeneous-agents DSGE model. His analysis takes the features such as informal sector and the fast trend of population ageing of Thai economy into consideration.

By constructing counterfactual experiments through simulations, he found that there is a consistent welfare gain of running the universal coverage scheme. Then, he constructed three scenarios ((i) consumption tax, (ii) labor income tax, (iii) capital income tax)) based on 2050 population structure in order to examine the financing burden of ageing and health expenditure inflation. He found that the choice of tax financing schemes make a difference for the outcome of welfare and other macro variables. Capital income tax is preferred due to its effect of increasing labor supply.

2. Result /Notes from the Examining meeting / Final Evaluation

- a. Table and Figure Parts shall not have subsection numbering. (Prof Sonobe)
- b. Use "abstract" instead of "Executive summary" (Prof Sonobe)

- c. The modelling limitation shall be clearly stated (Prof Sonobe)
- d. Title is too broad and it shall be specific (Prof Rhodes)
- e. The research motivation shall be stated clearly (Prof Rhodoes)
- f. The chapter of policy implication shall be reorganized (Prof Rhodoes)
- g. The overall grammar shall be improved through proof-reading (Prof Rhodoes)
- h. The computational procedure of the modelling shall be well introduced (Prof Hu)
- i. A more detailed treatment of labor market related to informal economy can be a potential area for future research (Prof Hsu)