



The 6th GRIPS Student Conference

Public Policy and the 2030 Agenda: The Way Forward

Conference Booklet

Welcome Message

Since 2012, the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) has been hosting the annual GRIPS Student Conference. The Conference brings together a diverse group of students, researchers, and professionals from various disciplines and aims at promoting the scholarly exchange, encouraging new ideas and rigorous inter-disciplinary research on various political, social, and economic issues the world faces today.

This year's conference, titled **Public Policy and the 2030 Agenda: The Way Forward** focuses on the new universal development Agenda and brings together 30 presenters from 8 different universities throughout Japan and overseas.

As you are aware, the hope for a better world paved the way for the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000. Considerable progress has been made to implement the MDGs that expired in 2015. Building on the success of the MDGs the global leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. The SDGs cover a tapestry of issues, including poverty eradication, human rights, empowerment of women and girls, economic growth, strengthening universal peace, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

The SDGs of the 2030 Agenda make up a blueprint for the world to further sustainable development and are called to stimulate actions in the priority for the humanity and the planet areas. The 17 goals and 169 targets put forth an ambitious plan that aims to address the needs of people in both developed and developing countries and achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

We hope that the Conference would provide you with an opportunity to reflect on your ideas about the pressing issues of the world today and the role of public policy on delivering on the 2030 Agenda in the coming years.

Sincerely,

The 6th GRIPS Student Conference Organising Committee

Schedule

9:00 - 9:30 Morning registration outside Room 1A

9:30 - 10:20 1st Keynote Speech @ Room 1AB

The 2030 Agenda: Formation & Challenges

Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

10:20 - 10:40 Tea and coffee break at the GRIPS cafeteria

	Session 1 @ Room 1A	Session 2 @ Room 1B	Session 3 @ Room 1C
	Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development Moderators: Keshav Raj Pokhrel Victoria Garay	International Political-Economy Issues and Institutional Challenges Moderators: Jenny Balboa Richard Fosu	Poverty Reduction, Health-Care, and Education Related Issues Moderators: Nirmal Kumar Raut Phoebe Anne Manila
10:40 - 11:00	Keshav Raj Pokhrel Operational sustainability of rural electrification program through an effective fee collection strategy: Case study of the Philippines	Jenny Balboa Has there been major changes in the Philippine trade and investment situation under President Duterte? A political economy perspective	Katrina Miradora Impacts of Decentralization on Health Outcomes and Health Equity in the Philippines
11:00 - 11:20	Victoria Garay Analysis of HidroAysén Dam Project in Chile: energy policy and citizen participation -	Nalin Chea The Effect of Duty Rate on Tariff Evasion in Cambodia	Amanuel Teklay Determinants of rural women performance in entrepreneurial activity: case of selected vicinity in Ethiopia
11:20 - 11:40	Puspita Ayuningtyas Prawesti Infrastructure Development and Poverty Reduction in Indonesia (Municipal Level Panel Data 2002-2013)	Richard Fosu The impact of preferential trade agreements on international trade: evidence from six African countries under interim economic partnership agreements with the European Union	Shayani Raneesha Jayashinghe The Health and Welfare Concerns of Migrant Sex Workers in Japan: A Case Study of Foreign Female Escorts in Tokyo -
11:40 - 12:00	Akbar Jalilov Investment in sustainable tourism development in Uzbekistan -	Yedil Medeu What factors are significant in determining the Tenge (KZT)/U.S. Dollar (USD) exchange rate in a short-run since the introduction of the floating exchange rate regime in 2015?	Nirmal Kumar Raut Do Poor Benefit from Free Health Care Policy? Empirical Evidence from Nepal
12:00 - 12:20	Zarinah Singayao Aligsao Issues and Challenges in Evaluating Impact of Social Transfers	Ruamporn Prawarmuang The Impact of Farmer's Credit Card Policy on Production Activities in Rural Areas of Thailand	Phoebe Anne Manila Health Care Access and Infant Health in the Philippines
12:20 - 13:15	Lunch break		

13:15	-	13:30	Afternoon registration		
13:30	-	14:20	2 nd Keynote Speech @ Room 1AB		
Taking an Integrated Approach to SDGs in Asia Dr. Eric Zusman, Senior Policy Researcher, Sustainability Governance Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)					
14:20	-	14:40	Tea and coffee break at the GRIPS cafeteria		
			Session 4 @ Room 1A	Session 5 @ Room 1B	Session 6 @ Room 1C
			Good Governance Moderators: Richard Fosu Raphael Ayibor	International Political-Economy Issues and Institutional Challenges Moderators: Yasmin Adam Zulfiya Suleimenova	Poverty Reduction, Health-Care, and Education Related Issues Moderators: Don Jeffery Quebral Hailegabriel Fenta
14:40	-	15:00	Russell Jef D. Castaneda Unlocking Citizen Satisfaction: The Case of Devolved Municipal Services in the Philippines	Ikenna Steve Nweke Boko Haram and the Struggle for Ethnic Domination in Nigerian Politics	Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta The Impact of Sibling Size on the Nutritional Status of Young Children: Evidence from East Africa
15:00	-	15:20	Ayano Hirose Nishihara Ethical Shift in Management: Co-creating Values with the Society	Zulfiya Suleimenova Innovative methods to approach the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the toolbox for success	Don Jeffery A. Quebral Effect of International Parental Migration on School Attendance of Children Left in the Philippines
15:20	-	15:40	Joseph Githinji Nyambura The impact of I-tax system on domestic revenues in Kenya	Tatsuro Debroux Japan's Foreign Policy under the Abe Administration?-A Role Theory Analysis of Japan's Foreign Policy Initiatives between 2006-2007 and 2012-2016	Restuning Dyah Widyanti Wage Inequality and Return to Education in Indonesia: A Quantile Regression Analysis
15:40	-	16:00	Magali Dreyfus Policy implications of SDG 7 on clean and affordable energy	Sheryan Pentaliday Guialel Secularization, Islamization, and Integration: Basic Educational Reform in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	Nguyen Kim Lan Crop choice restriction, child labor and schooling in Vietnam
16:00	-	16:20	Pandu Utama Manggala Assessing Indonesia's Maritime Capabilities and Future Projection	Radzil Allexeder Raphael Malaysian Response to Maritime Threats in Eastern Sabah	Francisco Mugizi Conflict-Induced Displacement and Land Disputes in Post-war Northern Uganda: Implications on Agricultural Productivity
16:20	-	16:40	Tea and coffee break at the GRIPS cafeteria		
16:40	-	17:10	Wrap-up Session @ Room 1A		
17:10	-	18:30	Presentation of certificates by Oktay Kurtulus (Student Conference Committee Leader), followed by a networking reception at the GRIPS cafeteria		

9:30 – 10:20

1st Keynote speech

The 2030 Agenda: Formation & Challenges

Dr. Akihiko Tanaka

**President of the National Graduate
Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)**



Dr. Akihiko Tanaka is President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). Before assuming the present post, he was President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from April 2012 till September 2015. He spent much of his career at the University of Tokyo, as a Professor of International Politics at the Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies and at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, as Vice President (2011-2012), Executive Vice President (2009-2011), and Director of the Division of International Affairs (2008-2010).

Dr. Tanaka earned his B.A. in International Relations at the University of Tokyo in 1977 and his Ph.D. in Political Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981.

His specialties include theories of international politics, contemporary international relations in East Asia, and Japan's foreign policy. He has numerous books and articles in Japanese and English and he received the Medal with Purple Ribbon for his academic achievements in 2012.

Operational sustainability of rural electrification program through an effective fee collection strategy: Case study of the Philippines

Keshav Raj Pokhrel*, Naoya Abe

Tokyo Institute of Technology

Abstract

Rural electrification in remote areas of developing countries with renewable energy sources has been a major phenomenon for the past few decades. Operational sustainability is a fundamental concern amid the rapid diffusion of renewable energy technologies in the developing countries. This research assessed the present status and problems being faced by the Solar Home System (SHS) users in Alumar island, Philippines. In 2008, the Philippine Department of Energy (DOE) in partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided solar home systems (SHS) to 50 households of this island under the project titled as "Sustainability Improvement of Renewable Energy Development in Village Electrification". It has been found that more than 90% of the users have already stopped paying their monthly tariff of 200 pesos despite having the ability and willingness to pay. Cluster Analysis and Chi-square tests were performed to observe the association behind users' dissatisfaction with the price and various others users' demographic characteristics, willingness to pay, satisfaction levels with the cooperative and electricity provision. Observation of the income and expenditure pattern of those users revealed a major strategical difference between the payment for SHS and the payment for other daily basic utilities. Contrary to general assumption that poor payment morality results from the expensiveness of the electricity tariff, it was the payment method that was not compatible with the expenditure pattern of users. This study suggests a fee collection system on a daily basis rather than a monthly basis as an effective solution to prevailing budget deficit problem and to ensure the operational sustainability of SHS projects.

Keywords: Rural electrification program, Operational sustainability, Fee collection strategy

Analysis of HidroAysén Dam Project in Chile: energy policy and citizen participation

Victoria Andrea Garay Vargas

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

Chile was one of the pioneering countries during the 80s in deregulating its electric power sector and according to The World Bank (2017) has a total access to electricity of 100 per cent for both, urban and rural population. Nonetheless, the energy supply of the country depends greatly on external sources as Chile imports two-thirds of its primary energetic matrix: 98% of crude oil, 75% of natural gas and 96% of coal. Given this scenario, the country has sought to foster national production and diversify national energy mix through the exploration and development of renewable energies in line with United Nation's Sustainable Developing Goals in order to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy (Goal 7: "Affordable and Clean Energy"). HidroAysén was a joint venture developed in 2006 with an estimated cost of US 3.2 billion. It was designed as the largest hydroelectric project in the country comprised of a 2,000 kilometers power line (with towers of 70 meters high) and 5 dams located in the in the XI Region of Aysén. The realization of this project would have required clearing a significant amount of rainforest and flooding 29km² of natural reserve lands. Nevertheless, and despite the fact that HidroAysén represented an important step towards developing domestic renewable energy technologies, the project was canceled by the government in 2014 due to pressure from environmental groups and inhabitants of Aysén region following a controversial approval process that required three addendum processes. Later, the Ministry of Energy began a novel inclusive process called "Energy 2050", which incorporates Chilean citizen's participation in the development of projects related to energy throughout the country. This case provides insight into the challenges a country seeking to develop renewable energy sources might face; the creation of hydroelectric plants requires infrastructure and as such it does affects surrounding communities. It is not enough to implement policy instruments that address only barriers of entry (regulatory and financial types) but it also requires procedures that resolve conflicts associated with the local opposition that projects raise and a framework capable of addressing, both the negative effects of distribution and environmental issues. As a result, for a successful renewable energy policy to be implemented it is necessary to have citizen engagement in order to find an acceptable level of community disruption in support of a quality life improvement.

Keywords: Renewable energy policy, hydroelectric plants, environmental groups

Infrastructure Development and Poverty Reduction in Indonesia (Municipal Level Panel Data 2002-2013)

Puspita Ayuningtyas Prawesti

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

This study attempts to find out the linkage between infrastructure development and poverty reduction in Indonesia. To achieve this objective, it uses quantitative methodology with municipal panel level data in Indonesia from 2002 – 2013 by utilizing the analytical framework from international development proposed by Pernia and Ali showing that there is a correlation between infrastructure development and poverty reduction. This study found that there is inequality across city and regency, across islands and across western eastern regions in Indonesia. The correlation matrices among all variables show that all basic infrastructures have positive correlation coefficient to the poverty alleviation, such as electricity, water and sanitation, as well as the government expenditure on infrastructure, health, and education. In addition, the panel data regression in all 511 municipalities in Indonesia and in western and eastern part of Indonesia shows that all basic infrastructure and government expenditures contribute to reducing the poverty prevalence except for government expenditure for infrastructure. It is caused by the fact that the infrastructure expenditure that is mostly used to build transportation infrastructure facilitated the mobility of rich people more than the poor people causing the incline in the poverty rate. The policy recommendation that can be drawn from this study is that the government should formulate more effective mechanisms to make the transportation to be able to assist the poor people to improve the income to reduce the poverty rate. Another policy recommendation is that the government should improve the allocation of the sub-national sharing within the framework of fiscal decentralization to reduce the inequality in Indonesia.

Keywords: fiscal decentralization, inequality, Infrastructure development, poverty reduction

Investment in sustainable tourism development in Uzbekistan

Jalilov Akbar

Nagoya University of Economics

Abstract

The tourism sphere in countries with rich cultural heritage definitely holds a key to spur the economic development. It is itself an industry which presents a symbiotic relationship with the economic growth, job creation and social change in the country. Hence, acknowledging the fact that it is a key to economic growth, the betterment of infrastructure, and social change, following the independence, the government of Uzbekistan adopted a number of laws, presidential decrees along with an official policy to structure its tourism industry and create an environment conducive to the development of tourism industry. However, there are a number of problems needs to be solved. Also, there is a lack of research done on analyzing the core issues, investment prospects in the tourism industry and in general how to develop sustainable tourism in Uzbekistan in the long run. In my paper, I want to focus on how we can create sustainable tourism industry by first analyzing the issues related to the tourism development by focusing on the ways of enlarging and diversifying the industry with an extended application of cultural and creative tourism strategies. In this, also I want to study how we can attract/appeal investment, both foreign and domestic, in the application of cultural and creative tourism strategies, and creating this sustainable tourism in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Investment and tourism

Issues and Challenges in Evaluating Impact of Social Transfer

Zarinah Singayao Aligsao

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

Advancing awareness on impact evaluation is essential in the light of its growing importance. To gain insights how households change their behavior in response to government programs is fundamental in designing poverty reduction strategies. While national surveys provide a rich source of information, there is a caveat in utilizing it for program assessment. A nonexperimental research design that does not solve the issue on endogeneity will yield spurious estimates deemed not useful in understanding impact of government policies. This paper discusses the potential issues on program design and implementation; investigates likely sources of endogeneity; presents methods for addressing the problem; and, proposes a sound research design for future empirical work.

Keywords: Impact Evaluation, Endogeneity Problem

Has there been major changes in the Philippine trade and investment situation under President Duterte? A political economy perspective

Jenny Balboa

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

The past two decades, the Philippines has established an open economic regime as a result of economic reforms undertaken since the democratization years starting 1986. The country has become one of the region's most outward-oriented economy, as evidenced by the active participation in RTAs and active campaign to improve competitiveness and attract FDI. However, since the Philippines elected a new President in 2016, the Philippine economic direction has become more uncertain. Duterte's mercurial personality and antagonistic tirades against the country's traditional Western allies, US and EU, had changed the policy direction of the country in many aspects. While the government's economic managers assure the international community that it is 'business as usual', the frequent verbal attacks of Duterte against the US and EU, and his warnings not to interfere with his ongoing 'drug war' had created a lot of tension between the Philippine leader and the West. For sure, the political relationship between the Philippines and the West has been changed by Duterte's strong remarks against US and EU. Has this tension spilled over to the economy? Using a political economy perspective, this paper will discuss how Duterte has affected the economic relationship between the Philippines, US, and EU by looking at the trade and investment situation. Based on preliminary trade and investment data on the last quarter of 2016 and first quarter of 2017, there has been a slowdown in FDI inflows from US and EU. Domestic politics, particularly the behavior and signal given by the political leadership, has a strong impact on FDI flows.

Keywords: domestic politics, trade, investment

The Effect of Duty Rate on Tariff Evasion in Cambodia

Nalin Chea

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

Import duty is a form of tax that is imposed on importation for the purpose of collecting revenue as well as protecting domestic industries. However, when the burden of import duty is high, there is an incentive for importers to evade tariff. As a result, increasing the duty rate will generate fewer customs revenue. The impact of this fiscal policy is more pronounced in the developing country where government revenue largely depends on customs duty. To study the impact of import duty on evasion, commodity level data of trade flow from Thailand to Cambodia were used. The baseline on the model is developed based on Fisman and Wei (2004) to examine the inconsistency of trade statistics between exporting and importing countries of each commodity in relation to its import duty rate. The result shows that there is a significant correlation between import duty rate and the inconsistency in trade data, which provides evidence of tariff evasion. Further investigation into each type of evasion scheme suggests that tariff evasion mostly take the form of under-declaration of quantity rather than undervaluation or misclassification.

Keywords: tariff evasion, import duty, undervaluation, misclassification

The impact of preferential trade agreements on international trade: evidence from six African countries under interim economic partnership agreements with the European Union

Richard Fosu

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

In this study, a panel gravity equation with fixed effects using trade data covering 2002-2014 was used to estimate the impact of the interim economic partnership agreements (IEPAs) between six African countries—Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe—and the European Union. The results indicate that the agreement has led 25% increase in trade between these African countries and the EU pointing to trade creation. The study finds no evidence of trade diversion. Evidence for the natural trading partner hypothesis was also found.

Keywords: Preferential Trade Arrangements; Interim Economic Partnership Agreements; Gravity Equation; European Union; Africa; International Trade

What factors are significant in determining the Tenge (KZT)/U.S. Dollar (USD) exchange rate in a short-run since the introduction of the floating exchange rate regime in 2015?

Medeu Yedil

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

The study examines whether the UIP conditions hold in Kazakhstan and selected oil-producing countries or not by using UIP (Fama) regression. Also, the impact of oil price and inflation rate differential were tested by using OLS regression. The research cover such oil producing countries as Kazakhstan, Russia, Indonesia, Canada, Norway, and Mexico. It was found that the slope coefficient of UIP (Fama) regression in selected oil producing countries are not significant at all levels and only the oil price effects on the exchange rate, while other variables are also not significant. Additionally, the foreign market efficiency was tested. According to results the foreign market in Kazakhstan and other oil selected oil producing countries, in general, is recognized as an efficient market. All these findings have an important implication. In case of high volatility of exchange rate and oil price, the central banks by monitoring of oil price can use the results of regression to decide whether to intervene in foreign exchange market or not.

Keywords: Exchange rate, UIP, oil price, foreign market efficiency, Fama regression

The Impact of Farmer's Credit Card Policy on Production Activities in Rural Areas of Thailand

Ruamporn Prawarmuang

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

The agriculture industry is a primary driver of the economy in Thailand. One third of the population is involved in agricultural sector. Over half of the agribusinesses are by rice farmers. However, most farmers face a problem of access to financial services in rural area. The well-known microfinance scheme in the agriculture sector is the "Farmer's Credit Card policy" which was launched in February 2012 by Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural cooperative (BAAC). The financial product was available to rice farmers for the first time. Therefore, this paper investigates the impact of farmer's credit card policy on production activities and other factors. The data was from the Townsend household survey project in Thailand between 2010 and 2013. Differences-in-Differences model is applied to the analysis of the data. The evidence shows that farmer's credit card policy does not have a clear effect on the production activities and other aspects such as total debt, total expenditures and total farming expenditures per household. In addition, the relationship between geographical region and policy was also not statistically significant.

Keywords: Agricultural productivity, Microfinance, Farmer's Credit Card

Impacts of Decentralization on Health Outcomes and Health Equity in the Philippines

Katrina Miradora

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

This research explores the impacts of the decentralization program on selected health outcomes that were identified under the Philippines' health-related MDGs. It also assesses the effect of decentralization on equity in health service provision and outcomes. Estimates using linear and probit regressions show that stronger local autonomy in both municipal and provincial levels contribute to the advances in access to clean drinking water, skilled personnel assisted births and facility-based births. The descriptive analysis shows that while inequalities in health service provisions and outcomes persist over time, gaps among the regions had decreased and disparities in some health outcomes across types of local government units were reduced after decentralization. This research recommends a more decentralized taxation policy that would allow local government units to raise and keep more of their own revenues to further empower them and to enable them to make decisions that better suit the needs of their respective constituents.

Keywords: decentralization, health outcomes, health equity, Local Government Code of 1991

Determinants of Rural Women Performance in Entrepreneurial Activity (Evidence of selected vicinity in Ethiopia)

Amanuel Teklay

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

The prime essence of this study was to investigate the determinants of rural women participation in the entrepreneurial activity in rural Ethiopia. Ordinary least square regression model used to explain how variation in the outcome variable which is profit depends on the variation in a predictor's variable. Based on the finding, interest-free loans as start-up capital come from relatives', women entrepreneurs are thus left to rely on informal sources of finance such as Equb (traditional rotating savings system) and relatives. The study found that educational level and initial- capital are important determinants of profit in the rural businesses owned by women. Market distance is also a pivotal determinant as those near to markets are better to enjoy higher profit since intermediaries are minimized among others. Moreover, the study found that, in comparison to those who sell their products in their surrounding market, those who manage to sell in a big city and the big market have strong profit margins due to their access to markets. The result also shows that, despite lack of government support and limited access to micro finance institutions, they are focal in the success of entrepreneurial venture for rural women.

Keywords: rural, women, entrepreneurship

The Health and Welfare Concerns of Migrant Sex Workers in Japan: A Case Study of Foreign Female Escorts in Tokyo

Shayani Raneesha Jayasinghe

Sophia University

Abstract

This study aims to understand the health related challenges concerning foreign female migrants who are involved in the Japanese sex industry as escorts and the measures which they take in handling these types of challenges. By using Dervin's Sense Making Theory as a theoretical framework, the research materials composed of first and second-hand data. In addition, this study links the importance of health and well being of individuals as mentioned in one of the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). The first-hand data comprises of data obtained from interviews and fieldwork conducted in Kabukicho and Roppongi. Second-hand data comprises of information obtained from scholarly articles, newspaper articles, and web reports. From the first-hand data, this study reveals that the escorts are exposed to many physical and mental health related complications. This is due to the nature of their occupation and the challenges which they face from their working environment, clients, family members, and healthcare professionals. The health and personal safety of sex workers depend on the context and location of their transactions, and the intensity of their working life. The health and welfare of migrant sex workers show positive signs in situations where they have a higher educational level and status measured by their ability to earn a high income, the ability to take independent decisions, and access to proper healthcare services and community-based organizations. This paper calls for more efficient mechanisms and health policies to address these grievances and bring about positive changes in the lives of sex workers. Future educational and awareness programs need to focus on strategies which can improve the active participation of sex workers and bring different stakeholders together to improve the health and welfare of sex workers as well as their status and living conditions.

Keywords: Sex Industry, Sex Work, Escort, Health Policy, Empowerment

Do Poor Benefit from Free Health Care Policy? Empirical Evidence from Nepal

Nirmal Kumar Raut

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

We analyze the impact of free health care policy on health care utilization and health spending at public facilities. We develop a theoretical model for the choice of health care provider as revealed by individual's (from various socioeconomic strata) response towards the introduction of free health care policy. As an estimation strategy, we apply difference-in-difference method using the data obtained from second and third rounds of Nepal Living Standard Survey. Our empirical results show that the utilization of public care normally increases among individuals at the lower end of endowment distribution. However, not contradictory to the theoretical prediction, further investigation by socio-economic status of individuals show that the utilization by the poorest cohort is less significant than the middle-income cohorts. Our results also show that the richer sections continue visiting private care. In addition, we do not find any effect of policy in reducing the out-of-pocket expenditure on health at a public facility.

Keywords: free care, health, Nepal

Health Care Access and Infant Health in the Philippines

Phoebe Anne Manila

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

This study examines whether higher health care availability increases a mother's utilization of prenatal and postnatal care and improves infant health. This research uses data from the Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey for 2008 and 2013, and the Department of Health's List of Licensed Government and Private Hospitals and Field Health Service Information System Reports. We include a comprehensive set of covariates, including parental education and marital status, regional gross domestic product per capita, province-specific trends, and province and year fixed effects. Results show that higher hospital bed density is associated with higher probabilities of getting the adequate number of prenatal care visits and delivering inside a hospital. Moreover, a higher density of public health workers is associated with a higher likelihood that the mother seeks the assistance of a health professional during delivery. Based on provincial-level vital statistics, we find higher public health worker density has a significant impact in reducing the risk of infant mortality. On the other hand, the effect of hospital bed density is small and statistically insignificant in reducing infant mortality and maternal mortality. Our results have policy implications for the planning of health care infrastructure, assignment of public health workers, and formulation of pregnancy-related health programs.

Keywords: health care access, health care utilization, infant health, developing country

Afternoon Session

13:30 – 14:20

2nd keynote speech

Taking an Integrated Approach to the SDGs in Asia

Dr. Eric Zusman

Senior Policy Researcher

Sustainability Governance Centre

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies



Eric Zusman is a senior policy researcher/area leader at the Institute for Global Environmental Studies in Hayama, Japan. Dr. Zusman holds a bachelors degree in Mandarin Chinese from Rutgers University, a dual Masters Degree in public policy and Asian studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

For much of the past decade he has worked on environmental issues in Asia. This has included publishing articles and book chapters on water scarcity, air pollution regulation, environmental law and state capacity in greater China. It has also included working with China's Yellow River Conservancy Commission and the Chinese Research Academy on Environmental Science. He also held research assistantships with the Woodrow Wilson Center's China Environment Forum as well as Taiwan's Academia Sinica.

In his current position, he is looking at the co-benefits of climate policies in developing Asia. He recently published an edited volume on co-benefits in Asia's transport sector entitled Low Carbon Transport in Asia: Strategies for Optimizing Co-benefits.

Unlocking Citizen Satisfaction: The Case of Devolved Municipal Services in the Philippines

Russell Jef D. Castañeda

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

The New Public Management and other recent models of public administration highlight the value of reform towards more citizen-centric governments. Drawing decisions based on citizen's or client's feedback is one of Reinventing Government's key position. These ideas may have inspired governments to use citizen surveys as tools for service delivery improvement towards or alongside meeting local and society-level development objectives such as the new Sustainable Development Goals. However, the use of citizen satisfaction survey data has been overwhelmed with challenges such as the difficulty in interpretation and its possible misuse when juxtaposed with traditional performance management systems. In the Philippines, the use of the citizen satisfaction data in the municipal level has been long deferred because of authorities' frustration to reconcile it with objective scorecard performance management systems. In order to further understand it in these contexts, this study aims to investigate the determinants of overall satisfaction using actual citizen satisfaction data. This study finds that overall citizen satisfaction with municipal services reflect very little about the local government's performance or the citizens' socio-demographic background, contrary to common knowledge, while other factors that need further attention play big roles in influencing it. The results provide directions in imagining potential value addition of the use of citizen satisfaction data in the nexus between government performance management and governance.

Keywords: citizen satisfaction municipal services local government

Ethical Shift in Management: Co-creating Values with the Society

Ayano Hirose Nishihara

Rikkyo University

Abstract

The theme of the paper is to present recent trend in business which may be called an “ethical shift in management” and propose how public and private sectors may co-create values for the society. Since the 2000s, private firms have conformed to CSR (corporate social responsibility), and more recently to CSV (creating shared value: Porter and Kramer, 2011) and ESG (environment, society, and governance). After the introduction of SDGs by United Nations in 2015, leading firms have been adopting it as the guideline to access and to improve their businesses. This trend may be summarized as “ethical shift,” which is a departure from the “homo economicus” view of human beings in neoclassical economics to more humane view. This shift promotes consideration of stakeholders in business in wider perspective, to include not only those in business value chain but also the community, society, and environment. Applying the organizational knowledge creation theory (cf. Nonaka and Takeuchi, 1995; Nonaka, Toyama, and Hirata. 2008), which was originally developed from the studies of private firms, to community development and public administrations (cf. Hirose Nishihara et al. (eds.), forthcoming), we have identified that including diverse stakeholders may lead to co-creating value for the society. Using the case study method and grounding on the organizational knowledge creation theory, this paper aims to propose how public and private firms may co-create values for the society.

Keywords: Ethical, Innovation, Sustainability, Knowledge Creation

Policy implications of SDG 7 on clean and affordable energy

Magali Dreyfus

CNRS Researcher – GRIPS Visiting Scholar

Abstract

Goal 7 of the SDGs deals with “Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. The introduction of this sector-specific article draws from a growing international recognition of the potential contribution of the energy sector to sustainable development. By way of illustration, the United Nations Assembly named 2012 the year of “Sustainable Energy for All”. In fact, energy is a relevant entry point to address several challenges of sustainable development. From an environmental point-of-view, it tackles issues of sustainable production and consumption patterns, managing natural resources and fighting climate change. From a social and economic perspective, it questions our infrastructural and technological systems but also households’ access to basic services such as lighting, cooking, and heating. This paper is based on a literature review. It examines the policy implications that the development of sustainable energy systems accessible to all implies. These are multi-sectoral (transport, buildings, industry, energy supply) and multi-level (local, national, international). We address in particular the issue of energy decentralization to see how local governments and citizens are increasingly becoming key actors of the energy supply process and thus contribute to the implementation of global goals such as the SDG 7. The presentation will provide a few examples of local energy projects in Japan and other countries.

Keywords: Energy, Local Governments, SDGs

The impact of I-tax system on domestic revenues in Kenya

Joseph Githinji Nyambura

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Abstract

The introduction of the I-tax system in 2013 marked the start of a new era for tax administration in Kenya. The system automated the tax administration processes and made it easier for the tax authority to monitor and detect non-compliance. The system also provided a user-friendly interface through which the taxpayers could conveniently file and pay their taxes. This study seeks to investigate empirically the impact of the I-tax system on domestic tax revenues in Kenya using tax-office level data from 21 tax offices. The model used is Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) multiple regression estimation. The model has included fixed effects and controlled for serial autocorrelation using standard errors (HAC/clustered errors). The results show that the I-tax system has had a positive and significant effect on the VAT revenues. Further, the system has a positive and statistically significant impact on the large tax offices as compared to the medium tax offices. The paper thus concludes that the I-tax system has contributed significantly to the growth in domestic tax revenues in the country. This is especially so for the large taxpayers. Consequently, the revenue authority should intensify investment in the I-tax system in order to increase tax revenues. There is also need for increased focus on the medium and small tax payers to enhance compliance.

Keywords: I-tax, tax revenues, automation, value added tax

Assessing Indonesia's Maritime Capabilities and Future Projection

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Abstract

Indonesia is a maritime nation. Indonesia's past maritime glory covered all the islands in the archipelago united by the seas. It is indeed, that with around 17,499 islands and 5.9 million square kilometers of water territory that is rich with marine resources, Indonesia has so many potential to project its international standing as a great maritime power. Indonesia's geo-strategic position further implies that notion. Indonesia is located between two continents (Asia and Australia) and two oceans (the Indian and Pacific Ocean) as well as home to six crucial maritime choke points for global trade (the Malacca, the Sunda, the Lombok, the Ombai and the Wetar straits). However, a once maritime-oriented nation, Indonesia seems to be moving further away from its true identity and have moved into a land-based perspective. Instead of seeing the sea as a source of opportunity, Indonesia has long been neglecting the sea, under-rate the relative importance of its maritime domain. Prof. Geoffrey Till claims that Indonesia, be it the Government and the people have suffered from "sea-blindness" . Taking cognizance of the strategic importance of its maritime interests, Indonesia's new administration under President Joko Widodo aims to transform the country into a 'Global Maritime Axis' that consists of five pillars: (1) embedding maritime cultures; (2) developing maritime infrastructures; (3) boosting Indonesia's marine resource development; (4) placing special emphasis on maritime and border diplomacy; (5) strengthening maritime security. In order to realize this vision, there is a need for an assessment of Indonesia's capability in maritime-related sectors. This paper attempts to assess Indonesia's capability along with the policy plan maritime-related sectors for the next 5, 10 and 20 years ahead.

Keywords: Indonesia; Maritime; Maritime Capabilities; Global Maritime Fulcrum

Boko Haram and the Struggle for Ethnic Domination in Nigerian Politics

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Abstract

Nigerian politics is quite unique. Being a multi-ethnic nation state with sociocultural differences among its component ethnic groups, there exists a form of cultural dichotomy. These cultural differences are manifested in, for instance, the dissimilarities in language, cuisine, dress, and types of social system. Unfortunately, it has also created competition among the ethnic groups with regard to political relevance and domination always creates groups who are sympathetic to the agitations of their own ethnic group, and seek to enforce them by adopting methods available to them (Oluwasanmi, 2014). These groups, sometimes, are either hijacked by certain members of the elite or choose to chart their own course. This is exactly where Boko Haram, MEND, MASSOB, OPC, and other ethnic militant groups fall in. Nigeria was created in 1914 with the amalgamation of the northern and southern protectorates by the British colonial authorities. Northern Nigeria consists mainly of the Hausa and Fulani ethnic groups, who are predominantly Muslim, while Southern Nigeria consists of the Yoruba and Igbo ethnic groups, who are predominantly Christians and animist worshippers. In the Northern part of Nigeria, religion has long been used as a uniting tool (Campbell, 2014). The Fulani Jihad of 1804-1808 established an environment where religion has become a dominant ideology and practically influences virtually everything, including politics. Sadly, the elite manipulates it to their own advantage. Evidence suggests that Boko Haram has been very effective in using Islamic ideology to recruit, organize and sustain its battle against the Nigerian state, but it is set out to enthrone ethnic domination rather than religious proselytization by hiding the ethnic coloration of the group's struggle. The composition of Boko Haram shows ethnic coloration. Its membership is drawn from northern Muslims, while the Muslims from South West are considered infidels.

Keywords: Terrorism, Boko Haram, Ethnic politics, Ethnic domination

15:00 – 15:20

Innovative methods to approach the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the toolbox for success

Zulfiya Suleimenova

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Abstract

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in December 2015 by the world leaders puts forth an ambitious plan that considers eradication of poverty, ensuring access to basic services, addressing problems of environmental degradation, and enhanced engagement and partnership. It explicitly recognizes that 'bold and transformative steps' and a holistic approach are required for the progress to be made. Since business-as-usual approach can no longer be seen as an option in both planning and implementation, there is a need for innovative approaches to meet the sustainable development goals. This work aims to look at what are the approaches required for the progress on the Agenda, where is the state of the art today in working out the holistic approach that would deal with issues systemically, and what are the gaps to be addressed.

Keywords: Sustainable Development

Japan's Foreign Policy under the Abe Administration?- A Role Theory Analysis of Japan's Foreign Policy Initiatives between 2006-2007 and 2012-2016

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Abstract

The paper is based on my Ph. D thesis "Japan's Foreign Policy under the Abe Administration? A Role Theory Analysis of Japan's Foreign Policy Initiatives between 2006-2007 and 2012-2016." Role theory is utilized as a theoretical framework. Role theory gives the opportunity to clarify state's objective, duty, and responsibility in analyzing national role conceptions (NRC), defined as shared, value-driven expectations shaped in the society about the appropriate roles the state should play in the world. Japan's NRCs are analyzed, but also the possible role contestation within Japan, role conflicts, consistency and inconsistency between Japanese NRCs and behavioral expectations (alter-parts) held by countries such as the US, China, Australia, India, ASEAN countries, the UK and France. A qualitative content analysis is used to analyze speeches. Role theory assumes that speeches of top political decision-makers represent the constituents and ascribed role given by the international community. Speeches are selected and categorized into the main role conceptions related to foreign and security policy considered important from a role theory viewpoint. Japanese speeches are examined first and foreign political leaders' speeches reflecting alter-part expectations and perceptions of Japan's NRCs are examined. Although role theory is an interpretive tool, it is possible with the systematic way to answer the questions about whether, why and how Japan's NRCs have evolved and to what extent Japan interacts with alter-parts. When NRCs change, they may trigger alter-part NRCs change and, subsequently some alter-parts support them and others oppose them and try to enforce or weaken the trend.

Keywords: Role theory, Abe administration, security, values, economy, history

15:40 – 16:00

Secularization, Islamization, and Integration: Basic Educational Reform in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Sheryan Pandaliday Guialel

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Abstract

This paper explored the Philippine basic educational reforms in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). While existing studies have paid much attention to political issues, armed conflicts, and poverty, this research have tried to look into the other perspective that involves the society themselves by exploring the different approaches of educational reform such as secular, Islamized, and integrated education. This paper discussed the development of education in ARMM and its impacts to the enrolment, cohort survival, and functional literacy rates in the Moro society. This study suggests that an integrated educational approach that holds both secular and Islamic education in one public system is appropriate for the Moro society. Furthermore, the researcher argues that policies on education in ARMM are moving forward through the genuine efforts of the government officials and policymakers of the region. In line with sustainable development goals, this paper aims to demonstrate that educational policies in ARMM showed improvements on all later policies, and thus resulting to a developing quality of education. As a final point, this paper suggests that the government, policymakers, and the Moro society should work together to develop the Muslim region.

Keywords: armm, education, reform, moro, secularization, islamization, integration, educational policy

Malaysian Response to Maritime Threats in Eastern Sabah

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Abstract

This paper discusses and analyses the existing maritime threats in Malaysian waters, specifically the rising threats in eastern Sabah. Maritime threats, such as sea robbery, piracy, and vessel hijacking, are most prominent in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and the South China Sea. Meanwhile, kidnappings for ransom and attacks from outside groups only occur in eastern Sabah, as their perpetrators are linked to a group based in the southern Philippines. This paper provides an in-depth discussion on kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf Group, and a case study on the Lahad Datu incident in 2013. Despite dispatching a large number of vessels for its operations in eastern Sabah, the Malaysian authorities are still having trouble with containing the threats in the area. This paper analyzes the strategies implemented in the Straits of Malacca, the South China Sea, and eastern Sabah in combating maritime threats. Accordingly, this paper argues that eastern Sabah is vulnerable to maritime threats because it is missing a functioning sea surveillance system, which is an essential element of maritime security. Until the missing element is rectified, the authorities will continue its current ineffective operations, prompting the threats in eastern Sabah to continue to increase. The findings of this paper dictate two policy adjustments; establishing an adequate sea surveillance system in eastern Sabah, and strengthening and empowering the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency as the sole law enforcement agency in Malaysian waters.

Keywords: Maritime Threats, Sea Surveillance System

The Impact of Sibling Size on the Nutritional Status of Young Children: Evidence from East Africa

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Abstract

Though there is a large literature on the effect of family composition on child educational outcome variables, the impact is less focused on the health outcome variables and particularly under researched for the case of East Africa. Having motivated on this, I examine the effects of sibling size on the nutritional status of young children using pooled survey data for seven East African countries. Undertaking a Probit regression of the nutritional status of young children on the sibling size linear specification and sibling size dummies separately, I find insignificant effects. For the sake of addressing the endogeneity of sibling size, I use instrumental variable approach. Three instrumental variables are used separately to instrument sibling size, including the occurrence of twins at third birth, at fourth birth, and at fifth birth. However, this method generally suggests a positive and significant effect of sibling size on the proportion of stunted, wasted, and underweighted children irrespective of the instruments at different parity. This finding is in line with the classical trade-off between quantity and quality of children. But it may not support the recent common findings showing no significant effect of sibling size by using mostly educational outcome variables. Given the high average total fertility rate in developing countries, these results show that the young children might have better nutritional status if their family had been smaller. In other words, having smaller family is preferable in order to make the children healthier. The result may have a policy implication as it can be a justification for a family planning policy at the national level.

Keywords: Sibling Size, Nutritional Status, Young Children, East Africa

15:00 – 15:20

Effect of International Parental Migration on School Attendance of Children Left in the Philippines

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Abstract

Studies on the impact of international parental migration and children's schooling in the Philippines are scarce and below par compared with foreign research in both methodology and data. This paper attempts to provide empirical findings on the effect of Overseas Filipino Workers' (OFWs)' migration on the school attendance of their children left in the Philippines, a topic which is commonly discussed qualitatively. Controlling for specific child and household characteristics, regression analysis on repeated cross sectional data from the 2008 to 2016 Philippine Labor Force Survey (LFS) revealed that international parental migration is associated with higher likelihood of school attendance among children.

Keywords: Migration, school attendance, regression analysis

Wage Inequality and Return to Education in Indonesia: A Quantile Regression Analysis

Restuning Dyah Widyanti

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Abstract

According to the Human Capital Theory, the rate of return to education is viewed as the rate of return on investment, and the income earned by individuals is the product of accumulated investment. Despite the beneficial effects of human capital development on economic growth as a result of an overall increase in skilled labor, it can also lead to negative outcomes such as income inequality. More specifically, the difference in the return to education across the quantile of wage can result in wage dispersion between and within educational attainment. This paper investigates the association between return to education and wage inequality in Indonesia. Specifically, the quantile regression technique is applied to compute the return on the investment at different points of the wage distribution. Using the National Labor Survey (Sakernas), we find that even though the wage distribution shows an equal distribution, wage inequality exists because of the percentile of the median and the highest wage increases since 2003, while the percentile of the lowest wage is likely to stay the same. The main findings are that education contributes to an increasing wage inequality due to the significant variation in the rate of return to education in every quantile and increasing wage dispersion within the same educational attainment. Furthermore, this study also finds that the return to education in Indonesia has a positive correlation with the duration of formal schooling and a higher level of educational attainment.

Keywords: Wage inequality, Returns to education, Wage dispersion, Quantile regression, Indonesia

15:40 – 16:00

Crop choice restriction, child labor and schooling in Vietnam

Nguyen Kim Lan

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Abstract

For food security purpose, the Vietnamese government has implemented crop restriction policy which strictly restricts 35 percent of national land for rice cultivation. This paper examines the impact of this policy on children's labor and schooling in rural Vietnam. Using panel data from 2008 to 2014 of children aged 7-14, we find that crop choice restriction makes children work more but does not disrupt children's schooling or harm children's health. We found no gender differentials in child's work, however, the oldest group aged 11-14 is likely to work more when more crop restriction is imposed. Increasing number of cultivated seasons, low-income generating activities and small-scale farm are the main drivers of increasing child labor.

Keywords: crop choice restriction, child labor

16:00 – 16:20

Conflict-Induced Displacement and Land Disputes in Post-war Northern Uganda: Implications on Agricultural Productivity

Francisco Mugizi

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Abstract

For a period of about 20 years since 1986, Northern Uganda experienced civil war resulting in the internal displacement of about 1.8 million people. Following ceasefire agreement in 2006 nearly all the displaced persons have now resettled to their original homes. This paper exploits exogenous variation in conflict-induced displacement experiences to examine the impact on land disputes in the post-war period. At an extensive margin, we find no significant differences in incidences of land disputes between households that were displaced and those that were not. However, at an intensive margin, we find noteworthy results: households that were displaced outside their sub counties during the war are more likely to have new land conflicts, more likely to be concerned about future land conflicts, have more new land disputes, and still are expecting more land disputes. The number of years the household spent without doing farming in the home village is found to be one of the possible transmissions of the obtained results. I also find a negative association between land conflicts and crop yield suggesting that land disputes do hurt agricultural productivity.

Keywords: conflict-induced displacement, land disputes, agricultural productivity, Uganda

Memo

