

The **7**th **GRIPS**STUDENT

CONFERENCE

PUBLIC POLICY FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Conference Booklet

4 September 2018 Tokyo



# 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.

The theme of this year's Conference is **Public Policy for Peace and Sustainable Growth**. We selected this theme after considering the events that have happened over the past year - the nuclear talks with Iran and North Korea, the rise of cybersecurity issues, the challenges to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, withdrawal of the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the alleged global trade wars .

This year's conference features 30 presenters from 11 different universities and institutes throughout Japan and overseas. Insights and expertise in important policy areas will be shared and discussed at the Conference.

We hope that the Conference would provide you with an opportunity to share your ideas about the pressing issues of the world today and reflect on the role of public policy in keeping the world safe and prosperous.

Sincerely,
The 7th GRIPS Student Conference Organising Committee

Venue: Schedule:	GRIPS, 7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo				
9:00 - 9:30	Morning registration outside Room 5M (5 <sup>th</sup> floor)				
9:30 9:35	Opening Remarks @ Room 5M  Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)				
9:35 - 10:20	1st Keynote Speech @ Room 5M				
	<ul> <li>1a. How can we make the most of social capital in achieving sustainability goals?</li> <li>Dr. Emiko Kusakabe, Visiting professor, Rikkyo University Graduate School,</li> <li>Co-President of Open City Institute, Inc.</li> <li>1b. A proposal for innovation in education based on the results of the Community Carte System well-being survey</li> <li>Dr. Motoo Kusakabe, Founder and Co-President of the Open City Institute, Inc.</li> </ul>				
10:20 - 10:40	Tea and coffee break				
	Session 1 @ Room 5E	Session 2 @ Room 5F	Session 3 @ Room 5G		
	International Relations Moderator: Nguyen Truong Giang	Economics Moderator: Benedict Makanga	Social, Heath & Education Policy Moderator: Ferth V.L. Manaysay		
10:40 - 10:55	Nguyen Truong Giang Maritime Dispute Settlement In The South China Sea: The Case Of Philippines – China Arbitral Awards And Implications	Edwin Okine Agriculture and Economic Growth in Republic Of Ghana	Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta How have Female Genital Cutting Bans Affected the Practice? Evidence from Africa		
10:55 - 11:10	Almas Dissyukov Central Asia plus Japan dialogue: From Idea to Implementation, 2004-18	A.K.M. Mohiuddin Kayes Recent Decline of Foreign Remittance Income of Bangladesh: Causes and Remedies	V.I.A. Weerasinghe Factors and impact analysis on the performance of the health sector in Sri Lanka		
11:10 - 11:25	Tobias Burgers The Concept of Security in the Age of New Technologies. Implications of the Rising Use of New Technologies on International Security Relations in East Asia	Dominic Mutua Emilio Do Capital Gains Taxes Reduce Investment? Evidence from Africa	Mamun Mohammad The Impact of Social Safety Net Programs on Reducing Rural Poverty: Evidence from Bangladesh based on Old Age Allowance		
11:25 - 11:40	Jean Tzu-Yin Chou Japan-India Strategic Partnership: A Case Study on Japan-India Civil Nuclear Deal	<b>Michael Kofi Asare</b> Tractor use among maize farmers in Ghana	Azusa Matsumoto Reardon Voices of Syrian Refugee Camp: Prioritization of Humanitarian Assistance via Choice-based Field Experiment		
11:40 - 11:55	Bazgha Syed Pakistan, Partition and Perpetual Prejudices	Satita Sirichotikul The Impact of Debt and Equity Inflows on Macroeconomic Variables: Evidence from Thailand	Chihyi Lin New Southbound Policy and Higher education in Taiwan: Strategies and Challenges		
11:55 12:10	Ikenna Steve Nweke The Resurgence of Terrorism in Egypt after the Fall of the Muslim Brotherhood	Q&A	Jhemarie Chris L. Bernas Learning Labour Migration from Taiwan: A Research on Return and Reintegration of Overseas Filipino Workers		
12:10 12:35	Q&A		Q&A		
12:35 - 13:20	Lunch break				

13:20 - 13:35	Afternoon registration	Afternoon registration			
13:35 - 14:20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Keynote Speech @ Room 5M (5 <sup>th</sup> floor)				
	Developmental Goals	nology and Innovation in me	-		
14:20 - 14:40	o Tea and coffee break				
	Session 4 @ Room 4A	Session 5 @ Room 4B	Session 6 @ Room 4F		
	Governance Moderator: Pauleen Grospe	Environment Moderator: Zulfiya Suleimenova	Economics (Cont) Moderator: Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta		
4:40 - 14:55	Aamer Shahid Measuring Corruption in Public Works Projects: Evidence From Contractors' Internal Records	Altansukh Bayarbileg Impact of air pollution on labor supply: Evidence from Mongolia	Ranga Prabuddhika Liyanage WTO-Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA): Sri Lanka's Progress and Challenges for Implementation		
4:55 - 15:10	Trin Aiyara Ballot, Budget, and Bullet Train: The Formulation of the High- Speed Railway Policies in Democratic Thailand and Indonesia	Md. Kamruzzaman Seismic Vulnerability of Soft First Story RC Buildings in Bangladesh and Sustainable Technique of Retrofitting	<b>Jed Elroy E. Rendor</b> Infrastructure Spending in the Philippines		
5:10 - 15:25	Majoro Fabien Political independence, economic dependence: Fragility of modern state in Africa	Marlet C. Bueno Abandoned Mine Lands Rehabilitation: The Case of Bagacay Mine, Western Samar, Philippines	Gamage Don Kapila Kumara Monetary Policy and Stock Market in Sri Lanka		
5:25 - 15:40	Kevin Christopher L. Go The Role and Capabilities of Cooperatives as Intermediary: A Multiple Case-Study on University-Urban-Based Cooperative Partnerships	Ferth Vandensteen Lusung Manaysay The Politics of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the Philippines: Opportunities and Constraints for Civil Society Participation in a Devolved Set- up	Sharleen Kristine K. Te Financial Literacy and Individual's Usage of Financial Products in the Philippines: A Demand Side Analysis		
5:40 - 15:55	Hamdard Hamdullah Factors that Contribute to Aid Effectiveness in Afghanistan	OR A	0.8 4		
5:55 16:20	Q&A	– Q&A	Q&A		
6:30 - 17:30	Presentation of certificates, followed by a networking reception at the GRIPS cafeteria (1st floor)				
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9:35 - 10:20

1st Keynote speech (1a)

How can we make the most of social capital in achieving sustainability goals?"



## Dr. Emiko Kusakabe

Visiting professor at Rikkyo University Graduate School, Co-President of the Open City Institute, Inc.

Dr. Emiko Kusakabe is a visiting professor at Rikkyo University Graduate School, also Co-President of the Open City Institute, Inc. She has a PhD in planning studies from Bartlett School of Planning, University College London, an MSc in geography (environmental planning) and an MSc in human geography research, both from London School of Economics.

From 2008 to 2010, she conducted an extensive research in Shiga and Kyoto prefectures, on the role of social capital in creating sustainable and participatory city-building, machizukuri, using both network analysis and qualitative interviews. She identified the existence and the workings of "braising social capital networks" in connecting key players within and across prefectures. She served as a presenter at Windsor Castle Consultation by International Council for Caring Communities supported by the UN HABITAT in 2017, received Pioneer Award from ICCC at UN Headquarters in 2015, was a presenter and panelist at a high-level working session of the HABITAT, UN Headquarters in 2012, and served as a panelist at Windsor Knowledge Management Roundtable by ICCC with the support of UN Public Administration Network. She also served as the Welcoming Committee Chairperson of the World Bank Family Network in 1998-2000 and was a visiting senior research associate at the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development in 1992-1994.

9:35 - 10:20

1st Keynote speech (1b)

A proposal for innovation in education based on the results of the Community Carte System well-being survey



# Dr. Motoo Kusakabe The Founder and Co-President of the Open City Institute, Inc.

Dr. Motoo Kusakabe is the founder and Co-President of the Open City Institute, Inc., which supports the enhancement of local governance and citizen participation in city development strategies, developed "Community Carte System (CCS)", a system tool that measures and predicts the risk transfer mechanisms of risk/resilience factors, vital information for creating an inclusive society.

He has been invited to speak at several UN and European conferences on city and welfare development strategies. He worked for the World Bank (1998-2003) as the Vice-President for Resource Mobilization and Co-financing in charge of creating global partnership to reduce poverty, by promoting ICT cluster development and community-driven initiatives in many developing countries. He also, worked for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London as the Senior Councilor to the President (1991-1994, 2003-2009), mainly promoting ICT clusters, incubators and seed funds in 14 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries.

He has a BA and MA in Mathematics from the University of Tokyo, and MPhil and PhD Candidateship (1974) in economics from Yale University, USA. He served as a Visiting Professor at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (2003-2014), at Environment Institute, University College London, UK (2008-2009), as an Enterprise Fellow at Essex University, UK (2003-2009), and as a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University in 2003.

Before he joined the World Bank, he served as the Deputy Commissioner, International Affairs of the National Tax Administration of the Japanese Government (1996-97), Deputy Director-General for Banking Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan (1994-96), Director of the Coordination Department, Japan Centre for International Finance (1987-89), Head of the Vice-Minister's Office for International Affairs (1986-87), Chief Economist, Institute of Fiscal & Monetary Policies, MOF(1985-86).

# Maritime Dispute Settlement In The South China Sea: The Case Of Philippines – China Arbitral Awards And Implications

# **Nguyen Truong Giang**

Ritsumeikan Asia-Pacific University

### **Abstract**

Regardless of tremendous efforts from the involving countries, up to the present, the South China Sea (SCS) dispute is regarded as the most complex and challenging ocean-related regional conflict in East Asia. It has been (01) one year since the date of arbitral awards for the case between Philippines and China, but it still raised the guestion of whether has this award actually been a good precedent of for the dispute settlement mechanism under the UNCLOS 1982 and whether it has any impact on the dispute settlement and state relations in the region. After the award was made, other scholars criticize that the case exhibits various shortcomings of the UNCLOS 1982 and the consequences thereof deteriorates the main function of international law. This study basically discusses the dispute settlement mechanism of UNCLOS 1982 and its application in the case of Philippines – China. The study is important for two specific reasons: (i) the use of negotiation among nations in the region has become a deadlock, the demand to use legal regime in international relations is increasing support by many scholars, and (ii) shortcomings of the UNCLOS 1982 will be discussed for better improvement in the future. This study finds that the tenacious dispute in the South China Sea is due to two reasons. Firstly, it is the risk of the inconsistent interpretation among state parties, especially the historical approach adopted by China despite the existence of UNCLOS 1982. Secondly, it is the lack of the mechanism of the Convention to ensure the parties' compliance with the award, when China explicitly declared that it will unilaterally reject the arbitral awards. These two reasons are inarguably critical since it may degenerate the almighty goal of an international legal regime in maintaining the "internationality" and "unity" and become a chronic problem that all countries in this region. However, the situation after one year since the award was made has proved that the rule-of-law can be used as an effective tool to improve interstate cooperation.

Keywords: dispute settlement, South China Sea, maritime dispute, UNCLOS 1982

# Central Asia plus Japan dialogue: From Idea to Implementation, 2004-18

# **Almas Dissyukov**

University of Tsukuba

### Abstract

To date, the issue of multilateral cooperation between Japan and Central Asia has not been widely covered by the international academic community. Indeed, the absence of this particular part causes doubt on the existence of initial publications about the presence of a full-fledged Japanese foreign policy strategy in Central Asia. Nowadays, in a narrow sense, the 'Central Asia plus Japan' dialogue is the only dialogue platform between Japan and Central Asia. The Dialogue is also a unique example of how Japan and Central Asia cooperate on critical issues of the regional and international agenda. The presentation is aimed at evaluating the current role of the 'Central Asia plus Japan' dialogue from the Japanese perspective. The goal is to examine the activities of the Dialogue from 2004 to 2018, starting with the key stages in the formation of the Japanese strategy towards Central Asia (1991-2018), including those that led to the creation of the Dialogue. Constructivism is the primary theoretical framework used in this thesis and resorts to the sub-theory of 'Conference Diplomacy' for a more in-depth analysis of the Dialogue as the communication mechanism. Research questions were answered by the author using the discourse analysis and desk research of relevant documents, belonging to the Dialogue, including speeches, presentations and outcome documents. In addition, the author conducted several important interviews with key former officials and scholars, who directly participated in the Dialogue's formation. The uniqueness of present work lies in the fact that the case of 'Central Asia plus Japan' dialogue has not been considered before in such detail. The study helped to reveal the essence of the Dialogue, including its principles and modus operandi. The author also could trace the process of the transformation of the Dialogue and its perception from the Japanese perspective.

**Keywords:** 'Central Asia+Japan' Dialogue, Central Asia, Japanese diplomacy



# The Concept of Security in the Age of New Technologies: Implications of the Rising Use of New Technologies on International Security Relations in East Asia

## **Tobias Burgers**

Free University Berlin/Keio Global Research Center

### Abstract

The steep rise in the use of digital and robotic technologies over the last three decades has changed security affairs: Drone strikes have become an accepted tool, no longer raising debate. Autonomous "killer robots" are becoming reality. An era of cyber conflict is taking shape. By removing the human role, these technologies have redefined the notion of security and challenge the existing nature of international security relations. Particularly as these technologies challenge existing concepts, frameworks, rules and norms of security. As Davis et.al. (2014) note: "The political, military, and economic consequences of new technology no longer plod along familiar pathways of development but are instead blazing new byways leading to unknown destinations." This absence of norms, rules creates a grayzone-framework, from actors, could seek to benefit. Essential in understanding the possible actions of such actors is their perceived threat perception: In conventional security relations, the factor of threat, and its perception, thereof, play an essential role. Threat perceptions provide the initial framework on which security policies are based and thus on the basis of security relations (Cohen 1979; Schweller 2010; Singer 1958). As is the case too in the East Asian region. Yet, with cyber and robotic systems, establishing adequate threat perception is difficult. If manned systems are black boxes, as according to Luttwak, cyber and robotic systems are near invisible boxes. This paper aims to understand how and to what extent cyber and robotic technologies are perceived as threats, how they would influence existing and future security dynamics in the East Asian region. It uses scenario building as the main methodological approach. Expected research result is that the rise of these new technologies could significantly threaten the existing security balance, could lead to further instability and would increase security tensions in the region.

Keywords: Security relations, cyber technology, robotic technology, future conflict

# Japan-India Strategic Partnership: A Case Study on Japan-India Civil Nuclear Deal

## Jean Tzu-Yin Chou

University of Oxford

### Abstract

This research aims to inquire into the significance and influence of Japan-India Nuke Deal, the memorandum signed on 12 December 2015 by the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and India's Narendra Modi, on the Indo-Pacific region. Followed the neo-realist theories, and analyzed through the conceptual framework of game theories including "cooperative game" and "imperfect information," this paper suggests two main arguments. First, the nuclear deal is a strategic partnership as a "grand strategy" between India and Japan. Second, expecting through the cooperative and imperfect game theory, this research to some degree expects the tendency to future development by means of a burgeoning nuclear deal between Japan and India. In terms of the first conclusion, under the agreement and subsequent deals, the Japanese government has strongly supported the rise of India's economy, particularly the energy sector. With the threat from both China and Pakistan, India consequently has refused to end its own nuclear programme. Thus, both Japan and India have shared the similarity of the need for nuclear deterrence. Summarising the second conclusion, Japan caught the chance to invest in South Asia by supporting Indian energy industry. Both the Indian Prime Minister Modi and the Japanese Prime Minister Abe and their governments are ambitious on foreign policies and military issues among Indo-Pacific region. Japan concerns that India likely to update its nuclear deterrence capability and destroy its (unofficial) agreement to nuclear weapons elimination so far. Japan also needs to concern about the potential of a nuclear test by its partner India. In such case, the nuke agreement shall be ceased. India has significant awareness about Abe's government. From India's view, Japan will endanger it in military security and foreign power, after the rights of "defend other allies" has been placed onto the table since 2014, and after the Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution was approved reinterpretation on 2015.

**Keywords:** Japan-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, Narendra Modi, Shinzo Abe, cooperative game, imperfect information

## Pakistan, Partition and Perpetual Prejudices

# **Bazgha Syed**

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

This paper pertains to a story of a boy who was born in united India and as a young man experienced the throes of partition in 1947. Being a Muslim he saw transformation of his newly formed country from secularism to extremism; of his religion from open mindedness to prejudices based on sects. Over the years he witnessed with horror the aftermath of terrorism in the shape of broken limbs, devastated faces, orphaned children and childless laps of mothers which made him wonder if this was really the country so dearly won through painful struggle and sacrifice of so many. He realized that the current extremist proliferation is against the idea of the state dreamt by the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah who indicated that religion was to be largely a personal matter, far from being a business of the state. But the role of religion continued to increase, it undermined accommodation of the idea of secularism defining the character of Pakistan. Secularism was judged not as healthy coexistence of diverse religions within a state but as an approach that carried potential to denigrate religion by undermining the supremacy of divine will. Such assertion of religious identity also resulted in rigid delineation of subtleties and nuances within sects and ethnicities. The Arabized version of Islam, therefore, spread under the persuasion of the Deobandi sect in Pakistan during both military and civilian regimes. The alteration towards conservatism and radicalism from a liberal perspective in Pakistan started arising somewhere in the 1970s which was further worsened by advent of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 where different non-state actors and terrorist groups gain greater influence. This was the situation from where there was no turning back for his country and he departed from this world wondering if ever his homeland will become the place which was the dream of the founder and of countless those who gave and are still giving their lives and blood for this country

Keywords: Radicalism, extremism, partition, prejudices, terrorism, sacrifice, liberal

# The Resurgence of Terrorism in Egypt after the Fall of the Muslim Brotherhood

## Ikenna Steve Nweke

University of Tsukuba

### Abstract

Egypt is an important country in the Muslim world. Its location, history, and contribution to Muslim scholarship are unparalleled, (Khan, 2003). As a British protectorate, British soldiers were stationed in the country, however, they continued to stay after independence in 1922. Their presence and support for King Farouk were disapproved of by most Egyptians, (Aaron, 2008). As a result, two forces emerged to challenge that status quo: the Islamist and the secularist Pan-Arabists. Thenceforth, there has been a consistent struggle between the Islamists and the Pan-Arabists over who should control the nation. The writings of Sayyid Qutb and Hassan Al Banna inspired firebrand Salafist groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Jama'a al-Islamiyya, and others which challenged the Pan-Arab movement. These groups later adopted terrorism as a method of achieving their goal, ranging from assassination to bombing, to mass shooting in public places, among others. It, however, declined in 1999 when the al-Jama'a al-Islamiyya renounced terrorism following repression from the Mubarak's regime. The Arab Spring that swept through Egypt in 2011 was seen by many as a positive wind that would affect political changes after decades of authoritarianism characterized by abuse of human right, corruption, and repression of any form of anti-government sentiment under the regime of Hosni Mubarak. Unfortunately, the country has witnessed a resurgence of terrorism following the overthrow of the Muslim Brotherhood which came to power thereafter by the Military, which has put the nation in a bad shape in all front, (Awad, 2017). This paper focuses on the factors that are responsible for this resurgence by analyzing data from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), and the Tahrir Institute of Middle East Policy.



# Agriculture and Economic Growth in Republic of Ghana

### **Edwin Okine**

Harran University
Graduate School of Natural And Applied Sciences

Keywords: GDP growth rates, Agricultural sector, OLS, SAP and ERP

### Abstract

The study is on Agricultural and Economic Growth of Ghana: which sector leads? The main objective of this work was to examine the contributions of the agricultural, service and industrial sectors to economic growth in Ghana, and to show the distribution and changes in growth rates from year to year and the current performances of the various sectors. Time series data from 1985-2014 on all the variables of interest was obtained from the World Bank Africa Database 2004, Bank of Ghana, Ghana Statistical Service, Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government. The Ordinary Least Squares estimation technique was used for the analysis. The results showed that a 1% increase in the growth of the agricultural sector will cause GDP growth to increase by 0.248%. Also, a 1% increase in the growth of the services sector will lead to 0.472% increase in GDP growth. Finally, a 1% increase in the growth of the industrial sector will bring 0.315% increase in GDP growth. Also, the regression is not non-sense or spurious since DW(1.94)>R2(0.694) and economically, about 70% of the total variation in GDP is explained by the explanatory variables. The remaining is 3.14% which is attributed to other factors. Overall, the regression equation is statistically significant. All the explanatory variables are statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. It is concluded that the service sector contributed most to the overall growth. It is recommended that for Ghana to achieve higher GDP growth rate, she should activate/strengthen the service as well as the agricultural sector to lead the growth in the Ghanaian economy.

# Recent Decline of Foreign Remittance Income of Bangladesh: Causes and Remedies

# A K M Mohiuddin Kayes

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

Remittance is a transfer of money by a foreign worker to an individual in his or her home country. It plays a big role in the economy of low and middle-income countries. Bangladesh is one of the top ten remittance receiving countries in the world. The contribution of Remittance in Bangladesh economy in FY 2014-15 was USD 15.31 billion which is equal to 6% of total GDP. Remittance is an important source of foreign earnings of Bangladesh; however, in recent years, the flow of remittance has declined sharply. The study looks into the causes and factors that lead to this decline. Both primary and secondary data were used to uncover the root causes. Primary data were collected from officials who are involved with the remittance process. Secondary data were used from different journals and publications. Results of the analysis suggest that the factors that worked as main reasons of declining remittance earnings of Bangladesh are nationalization policy (i.e., Saudization policy), informal money transfer system (Digital Hundi), and investment for igama. The finding from the study have implications for policy makers, academicians, and migrants. The paper offers recommendations for the government and concerned agencies so that they can take initiatives to maintain a good flow of remittance for the development of country's economy and for the betterment of living standard of the people.

Keywords: Bangladesh, nationalization policy, remittance



# Do Capital Gains Taxes Reduce Investment? Evidence from Africa

## **Dominic Mutua Emilio**

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### Abstract

Previous studies focusing on the impact of taxation on investment usually show a negative relationship between investment and taxation from a broad perspective. This paper creates a central focus on the manner in which tax on capital gains affects investment in both the short run and long run period. Distinct from other forms of taxes, capital gains tax is paid only when capital assets are transferred, and gains are made. This mainly occurs at the point of investment. Data for 37 developing countries which had introduced capital gains tax within a period of 36 years from 1980 to 2016 was used in the study. Through an event study approach, the level of investment per capita for many years prior to the introduction of capital gains tax and also after it was introduced was analyzed. The estimates show no decline in investment per capita for both periods prior and post imposition of tax on capital gains although the confidence intervals are quite large. There was no observable drop in investment per capita in both the short run and the long run period after the introduction of capital gains tax. Possible reasons for this are that investors are not much worried about the imposition of tax on capital gains since is a one-off tax payment or applicable tax rates may be low. As a recommendation, governments can raise more tax revenue by increasing tax rates on capital gains tax.

**Keywords:** capital gains tax, investment per capita, event study approach



# Tractor use among maize farmers in Ghana

## Michael Kofi Asare

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### Abstract

Poverty reduction is a goal for most developing countries. It is acknowledged that the chronically poor are mostly found in the agricultural sector. However, production in agriculture, which determines an agricultural workers' livelihood, seems to depend partly on farm power. As a consequence, this study is geared towards investigating the determinants of agriculture mechanization in Ghana and also assesses the impact of mechanization among maize farmers. It profits from household data collected by the International Food Policy Research Institute in 2013. This paper employs a quantitative methodology to understand the determining factors for adoption of machinery and its relationship with yield and fertilizer. Consistent with other studies, an increase in per capita land size of households leads to the propensity to adopt and intensify area of land under machine adoption. Likewise, findings show that adoption of tractors has an indirect potential benefit to the yield of maize farmers. However, results have been non-significant for fertilizer.

Keywords: Ghana, poverty reduction, agriculture



# The Impact of Debt and Equity Inflows on Macroeconomic Variables: Evidence from Thailand

## Satita Sirichotikul

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

The paper analyses the impact of debt and equity inflows on Thai macroeconomic variables, namely the output gap, inflation rate, foreign exchange rate, stock price index, credit-to-GDP ratio, and short-term interest rate using an external instrument in a structural VAR model. The quarterly time series data covering a 19-year period from 1999Q1 to 2017Q2 is used to estimate the response of Thai macro variables to an exogenous shock to different types of capital inflows. The results show that an exogenous increase in capital inflows has a significant impact on the Thai economy. The large and volatile capital flows have also led to greater macroeconomic and financial volatilities. However, most of these volatilities are largely due to debt inflows, not equity inflows, because of their volatile nature. Without taking into account the nature of shocks, the short-run macroeconomic impacts of exogenous debt and equity inflows are very similar. In particular, both shocks of equity and debt inflows lead to an increase in the output gap, inflation, and stock price index. Therefore, an effective macroprudential policy should be taken to strengthen the resilience of financial systems as a cushion to protect the economy from the volatility of short-term debt inflows.

Keywords: Capital inflows, Thailand



# How have Female Genital Cutting Bans Affected the Practice? Evidence from Africa

# Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

Female genital cutting involves all the acts of removing the part of female external reproductive organs for non-medical reasons. Despite its importance in child protection, public health, and human (children and women) rights, few large-scale quantitative analysis focuses on female genital cutting, particularly on the evaluation of national bans on the practice. Being motivated on this, we examine the effects of exposure to female genital cutting bans on their cutting status using a difference-in-differences method. We use nationally representative cross-sectional data set coming from pooling 17 African Demographic and Health Surveys. Our findings indicate exposure to female genital cutting bans around the cutting age leads to a significant reduction in the probability of being cut and the age at cutting. These may have policy implications related to the eradication efforts of the female genital cutting like promoting national bans on the practice and consideration of the unintended evolution of the custom in the design of such policies.

Keywords: Female Genital Cutting, Exposure to Ban, Cutting Status, Africa



# Factors and impact analysis on the performance of the health sector in Sri Lanka

## V.I.A. Weerasinghe

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### Abstract

Sri Lanka has remarkable health performance indicators when comparing with the Asian region. Moreover, some performance indicators are excellent as developed countries according to the statistics. The Ministry of Health provides the largest number of hospitals and the inpatient segment of the country under the public sector. Although the public sector operates the largest network of hospitals and preventive care facilities, there are considerable disparities in perceived performance and availability of public healthcare provision in district levels. The resulting imbalance of utilization these provisions such as human resources, physical resources, and financial allocations have led to long waiting lists, overcrowding in tertiary health care hospitals, and low health performance in some districts. This paper analyzes the impact of various factors on the performance of the health sector in the country. The study examines correlations among the population, human resources, physical resources, and health expenditure per capita and their effects on health performance indicators measured by maternal mortality rate and non-communicable diseases death rate. The secondary data is gathered through governmental and nongovernmental organization reports in the 2010 and 2015 years to do a cross-sectional analysis. Findings suggest that in the districts where human resources to population ratio are not satisfied, health performance indicators are not good. Even with sound physical resources health performance indicators are not satisfied if other factors are not provided accordingly. In addition, increasing health expenditure per capita does not give a positive impact on health performance when human resources and physical resources are not available. These findings suggest that government should focus on reducing the disparities among districts in terms of available resources and population before considering expenditure increase.

Keywords: Human resources, Physical resources, Health expenditure per capita,

# The Impact of Social Safety Net Program on Reducing Rural Poverty: Evidence from Bangladesh based on Old Age Allowance

### Mamun Mohammad

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

#### Abstract

Poverty among the rural poor elderly people is a crucial issue for Bangladesh since most of the people live in rural area and rural people are poorer and vulnerable compared to the urban population. The Old Age Allowance Program (OAAP), under Social Safety Net Programs (SSNPs), is one of the initiatives and interventions of government to solve this problem. This study tried to explore the effectiveness of OAAP for reducing poverty among its beneficiaries, rural poor elderly people, through Qualitative Methodology by applying semi-structure interview and secondary sources. The findings of the present research showed that OAAP has a positive impact to reduce poverty among the rural poor elderly people. Especially, OAAP ensures the access of its beneficiaries to improve food and calorie including increasing their status within their families as well as in the society. However, outcomes also suggested ensuring more transparency during the enlisting stage of beneficiaries along with increasing allowance and coverage, involving local civil society during the primary stage of enlisting beneficiaries, publicity program for increasing awareness among the targeted people, reducing complexity during withdrawal of allowance etc. Based on the finding, the researcher provides some policy recommendation such as allocation based on poverty index and population density, relaxation of age and land criteria for poor elderly people etc. for achieving poverty and hunger-free country, which mentioned in Goal 1, 2 and 3 under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, the current study can contribute to formulating appropriate policy to the policymaker regarding OAAP especially to reduce poverty.

Keywords: Elderly People, Old Age Allowance, Rural Poverty, SSNP

# Voices of Syrian Refugee Camp: Prioritization of Humanitarian Assistance via Choice-based Field Experiment

## **Azusa Matsumoto Reardon**

Hiroshima University

### **Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the multiple needs for assistance in a refugee camp and to prioritize the interventions based on the preference of beneficiaries. UNHCR and INGOs state the importance of including the opinions of beneficiaries in the planning, evaluation, and implementation of humanitarian assistance. There have been attempts in the literature by applying discrete choice experiments in disaster or conflict response situations (Holquín-Veras et.al., 2013). However, there exists no causal estimation, field experiment, nor multi-sectoral comparison conducted with the beneficiary-based approach in refugee camp setting. This study proposes a tool to prioritize multi-sectoral assistance in emergency response situations from a beneficiary's point of view. The study took place in Zaatari camp in Jordan, known as the largest Syrian refugee camp in the world. To quantitatively estimate the demand, Randomized Conjoint Experiment (RCE) was conducted. I presented hypothetical situations of camp and respondents were asked to make ranking on the choice profiles based on their preference. Each component was randomized; therefore, RCE provides us a causal estimation of each type of assistance on the probability of the choice profile to be chosen. The team contacted pure-random list of the primary contacts of households and conducted the interviews with 165 respondents which represents all households of the entire camp. The study found strong demand for electricity supply and road pavement improvements, whereas water and ICT were unexpectedly found insignificant. Moreover, heterogeneous effects were observed based on the respondent's socio-economical characteristics such as gender, educational level, marital status, or residential area. The operating agencies are recommended to specialize the projects based on the characteristics of residents, especially for vulnerable groups. The study confirmed that prioritization of assistance is feasible and applicable using RCE. It provides a new approach for project planning to provide the humanitarian assistance based on the true demand.

**Keywords:** refugee camp, humanitarian assistance, choice-based experiment, stated-preference, beneficiary-based approach

# New Southbound Policy and Higher education in Taiwan: Strategies and Challenges

# **Chihyi LIN**

Sophia University

### **Abstract**

The Taiwanese government has launched the New Southbound Policy (NSP) as a grand diplomatic strategy in September 2016. One feature of NSP is the emphasis of enhancing "people-to-people ties" where education acts as the agent. In terms of higher education, internationalization and talent cultivation are two critical dimensions; thereby, the Ministry of Education in Taiwan started the "New Southbound Talent Development Plan" in January 2017. It aims to seize existing practices as well as take effective and further initiatives. The purpose of this paper is to explore changes/differences of the strategies in higher education in line with NSP thus far. Accordingly, the research questions are as followed: 1) What outlines the present strategies regarding internationalization and talent development in Taiwanese higher education? 2) What are the targets and features addressed in "New Southbound Talent Development Plan?" 3) How is it approached since NSP was launched? In MOE's Talent Development Plan, Market, Pipeline, and Platform were set up as three axes. This paper utilized document analysis and the concept of supply and demand as the analytical framework to identify changes/differences of strategies along with the three given axes. Preliminary analysis results find that due to NSP's emphasis on a broad dimension of enhancing cooperation, the Talent Development Plan also shows a variety of strategies in different dimensions and levels of educational approach which is necessary; meanwhile, it entangles goals and targets as well. Hence, clear identification of targets/actors in the sense of supply and demand should be helpful to allocate funding with more efficient outcomes in the long run.

Keywords: New Southbound Policy, Taiwanese higher education, ASEAN, supply and demand, cultivation of talent

# Learning Labour Migration from Taiwan: A Research on Return and Reintegration of Overseas Filipino Workers

## Jhemarie Chris L. Bernas

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

### Abstract

Taiwan has a targeted delineation for the type of workers and industry to which migrant workers are accepted. However, despite having progressive labor migrant policies, Taiwan lacks the consciousness of shared responsibility as far as Reintegration is concerned. This case study aims to explore the profile of overseas Filipino workers that could indicate their returning and reintegration needs and preferences under the context of the Taiwanese labor migrant policy. Reintegration is defined in this study as a process to which the migrant is reintroduced and reinserted to the country of origin under three (3) identified dimensions: Economic stability, Social Networks, and Psycho-social. Using a mixed method approach, the study conducted a descriptive survey, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. By looking into the whole migration cycle experience of the workers meaning a retrospective documentation of pre-deployment, deployment, arrival, and current experiences; the study analyzed their prospective insights for return and reintegration. It has been found out that OFWs in Taiwan considers their limited time as a temporary stage in their migration experience. Continuity to develop skilled specializations and improve in the ladder of their careers in the industry (manufacturing and service) is rare. Integration remains low and is mostly focused on establishing their daily lives (language) and routines (social behaviors). Thus, aside from the maximum allowable years of stay, the low level of integration is a major driving force that calls for efforts to strengthen reintegration. There is a need to include discussions of reintegration in bilateral labor agreements (BLAs), in OFW training and seminars. It so that Return migration may not be seen as an end nor failure of labor migration but as the goal for all temporary contract workers as a means to establish a better life in their home country.

Keywords: migration, development, globalization



13:35 - 14:20

2<sup>nd</sup> keynote speech
The Role of Science, Technology and
Innovation in meeting Sustainable
Developmental Goals

# Dr. Michiko lizuka Professor at the National Graduate Institute For Policy Studies (GRIPS)



Michiko Iizuka specializes in the policy studies on development, innovation in the area of sustainability, natural resources and agriculture in developing and emerging countries. She is a professor at the National Graduate Research Institute on Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan from April, 2018. She also holds positions as affiliated fellow at United Nations University Maastricht Economic and social Research and training center for Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and associated fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at University of Sussex.

Prior to joining GRIPS, she was a research fellow at United Nations University Maastricht Economic and social Research and training center for Innovation and Technology, as an environmental officer at United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean and a researcher at the International Development Center of Japan.

She is currently working for a project on Global Value Chain in mining sector for Inter-American Development Bank. She had contributed works for UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, GIZ, JICA and SIDA on the issues on Science, Technology and Innovation in developing countries.

She holds a DPhil in Science and Technology Policy from Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex, an MPhil in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at University of Sussex and a Post Graduate Diploma on Environment Management from the Imperial College, University of London.

# Measuring Corruption in Public Works Projects: Evidence From Contractors' Internal Records

## **Aamer Shahid**

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

This study provides both qualitative and quantitative evidence on the extent of corruption in public works projects contracted out by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) of the provincial government of Punjab in Pakistan. The quantitative evidence is based on internal records of bribe payment by 28 construction contractors, as well as an independent expert assessment of contract execution of 20 water supply projects. The qualitative evidence consists of interviews with NAB officers, contracting firms, end-users of the construction projects, and PHED engineers. Both quantitative and qualitative evidence suggests that the level of bribes depends heavily on whether the contract was awarded competitively or effectively by the engineer in charge of the project. Only about one-third of contracts in the sample were awarded competitively. Without competition, PHED contractors on average pay about 15% of the project budget in bribes. About 12% is paid to the engineering department and about 3% is paid to the politicians who sponsored the project. When there is competition for the contract, the average total bribe percentage is only about 10%, with 8.5% going to the department and 1.5% going to politicians on average. Contractors' profit margins are about 13% on average, irrespective of competition. Both the level and distribution of bribes, as well as profit margins, have been stable between 2007 and 2017.

Keywords: Pakistan, corruption



# Ballot, Budget, and Bullet Train: The Formulation of the High-Speed Railway Policies in Democratic Thailand and Indonesia

# **Trin Aiyara**

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

The primary aim of the paper is to make a comparison of the formulation of the high-speed railway (HSR) policies of democratic countries in Southeast Asia. In particular, the paper emphasizes how Thailand under Yingluck Shinawatra (Yingluck) and Indonesia under Joko Widodo (Jokowi) formulated the policies of the HSR development. The paper applies the framework of the western Marxist school of political economy to analyze the HSR policies of Thailand and Indonesia. This framework focuses on how interactions of domestic social forces and state managers shape policies of the railway development. Rather than assuming a state as the unitary entity, the paper perceived the state as a constellation of institutions that is an arena of competing interest groups. For methodology, the paper primarily relies on qualitative data from online articles, secondary sources, and interview. The paper will articulate three arguments based on the experience of both countries. First, the characteristics of the HSR policies of the governments of Yingluck and Jokowi have been consistent with the demands of the voters because their political survival and legitimacy have relied on popular supports and electoral outcomes. Second, the availability of the budgets dedicated for HSR significantly shapes the financing and construction plan of the policy proposal since the governments have needed to allocate the resources to other projects that relate to their popularity. Third, the proposal of the HSR strategy in Thailand and Indonesia have interacted, directly or indirectly, with policies in other spheres, such as agriculture or regional development. In summary, the paper will argue that the regimes alone cannot explain the variation of the HSR policies.

Keywords: Thailand, Indonesia, high-speed railway, election, government budget

# Political independence, economic dependence: Fragility of modern state in Africa

# **Majoro Fabien**

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

**Abstract** 

Political independence, economic dependence: the fragility of the modern state in Africa From Ghana's independence in 1957 to the independence of South Sudan five years ago, Africa state has struggled to deliver key functions of a modern state. Africa was characterized by coups, internal armed conflicts, embezzlement and corruption, rentseeking and non-inclusive political and economic institutions. This has greatly contributed to a lack of or low economic growth in Africa. The worst, and probably the less discussed challenge African states are facing is that they never had economic independence. This paper argues that for the African state to modernize, the claimed political independence should be accompanied with economic independence. Furthermore, in order for Africa to realize its full potential as formulated in the report released in 2013, Though the control of economies grouped under CFA franc is the one that raised debate in recent years especially in youth from French-speaking countries, other countries' economies in Africa are not spared. Besides, the game to subjugate African economy is changing players where France and UK are no longer the main players. Today, Germany, China, India, Turkey, Russia, Japan and the US are disputing their share in Africa's abundant renewable resources. Economic dependence has a reverse effect on the political independence of African states. The fact that political leaders are not controlling their national economy and finance makes them vulnerable to foreign leaders who can sabotage them anytime. This explains the allegiance of some African leaders to foreign Metropolis. Thus, any policy that aims at developing African states should consider strengthening at the same time political and economic independence of these countries.

Keywords: Africa, modern state, political independence, economic independence

# The Role and Capabilities of Cooperatives as Intermediary: A Multiple Case-Study on University-Urban-Based Cooperative Partnerships

# Kevin Christopher L. Go

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### Abstract

A broader understanding of innovation intermediaries is necessary to promote a more inclusive approach in innovation policy, most especially in developing countries. This research examines the performance and capabilities of urban-based cooperatives as intermediary organizations for a university and a fourth helix actor (communities) in the Philippines. Semi-structured interviews with staff from three cooperatives and a university's community-engagement office show cooperatives performing intermediary roles consistent with traditional intermediaries studied by other scholars. These cooperatives are also found capable of learning and developing key capabilities to enhance their organization's resources and networks. These findings have implications for the organizations involved in the study, and organizations that plan on developing collaborations similar to that in this study may adopt these implications. Furthermore, the research also provides implications for governments that seek to widen their scope of intermediaries while promoting inclusive innovation.

Keywords: inclusive innovation, quadruple helix, cooperative, university collaboration



# Factors that Contribute to Aid Effectiveness in Afghanistan

## Hamdard Hamdullah

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

### **Abstract**

Afghanistan, a fragile state and low income developing country, which is located in South Asia or Southern Central Asia, has received a large amount of aid since 2002. Its GDP in 2013 was 20,310.9 million with a GDP growth of 1.9% and its population is around 30 million. In spite of receiving a huge amount of aid from donors, the aid effectiveness is questioned and criticized by both donors and government as well as by the civil society. Hence, the purpose of this paper is to study, identify and analyze the factors that might have contributed to aid effectiveness in two successful cases (i.e., the Hairatan to Mazar-e-Sharif Railway Project, and Basic Package of Health Services) that are considered in this paper to both answer the research question "what factors associated with aid effectiveness apply to Afghanistan?" and to provide a policy implication for both donors and government to improve aid management for implementation of the future development projects. Qualitative methodology was used in which I conducted interviews with officials of the government ministries and donor agencies in Afghanistan, and I also used the available literature on the topic to specify the factors of aid effectiveness. The framework of the paper is based on the challenges that exist in Afghanistan, the view of Stephan Browne on ownership of the developing country, and the Paris Declaration. By looking at two cases of aid effectiveness, the paper found these aid effectiveness factors: ownership of the government over its policies, strategies and program; alignment of donors' aid with the national priorities and institutions of the country; harmonization of aid; project readiness and pre-implementation activities to avoid delays in the project implementation; the availability of reliable funds; managing towards achieving the results or results-based management approach; clear priorities; participatory decision making approach; donors' involvement during the implementation of the projects, especially in mega infrastructure projects; combining complementary projects into a single contract; establishment or creation of executive committee especially in projects in which the involvement of several agencies is required; and the accountability. Finally, the paper is concluded with some recommendations to the government and donors to maintain their achievement and think of some creative solutions for implementing the projects in the future when donors' aid will be reduced. The results and findings of the paper should be interpreted with caution.

Keywords: Afghanistan; donors; aid effectiveness; corruption; security

# Impact of air pollution on labor supply: Evidence from Mongolia

# Altansukh Bayarbileg

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### Abstract

Air pollution and its impact on society, human health, and economy have become a serious problem for both developed and developing countries. Poor air quality raises the issue of millions of people's not only health but also economic aspects. The existing epidemiologic studies have been suggested that air pollution has a negative effect on human health. Nevertheless, fewer studies had done in the area of impact of air pollution on economic activities. This study estimated the impact of air pollution on labor supply in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, using air pollution data and Labor Force Survey (LFS) data. We used weekly average data, which cover the time period from February 2015 to December 2017. Due to data availability sulfur dioxide (SO2) and particulate matter (PM10) are served as explanatory variables. To determine the short-term effect, we introduced a one-week time lag of the explanatory variable. This study employed the standard Tobit model and the Craggit model with fixed effects. We found that air pollution affects both the decision to work and how long work. The results suggest that air pollution has a negative and significant effect on labor supply. In addition, we examined the nonlinearity in the dataset by employing a threshold regression model, although we did not find any threshold point.

Keywords: Mongolia, air pollution, macroeconomics



# Seismic Vulnerability of Soft First Story RC Buildings in Bangladesh and Sustainable Technique of Retrofitting

### Md. Kamruzzaman

Disaster Management Policy Program by Building Research Institute, Tsukuba, and GRIPS

### **Abstract**

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries. Along with many natural disasters like floods, cyclones, drought, it is under threat of moderate to strong earthquakes. The scarcity of land has compelled to construct multi-storied buildings with the open ground to be used as vehicle parking/ stores. Using masonry infills as a nonstructural element in the upper stories keeping the ground floor open causes lateral stiffness difference. According to the definition of ASCE7-05 and BNBC-2015, when the first story has a stiffness less than 70% of the upper story, is called soft first story building. The structural configuration with soft first story proved to be very vulnerable and performed poorly during past earthquakes like the 1995 Kobe earthquake, 2015 Nepal earthquake. The main intents of this research are to find seismic vulnerability/ behavior of soft first story buildings and proposing a sustainable approach to retrofit to prevent collapse during an earthquake. In this research, a six (o6) storied RC soft 1st story building in Bangladesh is selected. Seismic evaluation and structural performance level checking by Japan Building Disaster Prevention Association's guideline, ATC-40 and FEMA-356 are conducted. Nonlinear static pushover analysis by finite element modeling is done to understand the progressive damage pattern of the soft first story and estimating the structure's capacity by capacity spectrum method. This research has found that large displacement and damage concentrates on soft story columns during an earthquake. Proper retrofitting can improve the seismic performance of soft-story significantly. The strategy of soft first story retrofitting is rather different from conventional retrofitting of RC buildings. FRP; a composite material; has a very good quality of high strength, lightness, and durability. Retrofitting with a combination of FRP and steel bracing can be a viable option. It can eliminate stiffness difference, control excessive lateral drift. This policy of retrofitting will prevent collapse, save lives and ensure sustainable growth for Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** soft story, non linear analysis, seismic vulnerability, Retrofitting

# Abandoned Mine Lands Rehabilitation: The Case of Bagacay Mine, Western Samar, Philippines

## Marlet C. Bueno

University of Tokyo

### **Abstract**

Over the last thirty years, several large-scale mines have shut down their operations in the Philippines. These mines were abandoned and not rehabilitated accordingly due to the absence of legislation for closed mines before the institutionalization of the Mining Act of 1995. And since no more owners can be held responsible, the burden of clean-up was left to the government following the Executive Order No. 270 of 2004 which requires the remediation and rehabilitation of abandoned mines. Abandoned mine lands (AMLs), when left untreated pose numerous risks such as environmental degradation, public health and safety, and socio-economic drawbacks. In the Philippines, only one AML is undergoing a full rehabilitation process — the closed copper and pyrite mine in Hinabangan, Bagacay, Western Samar. The purpose of the study was to examine the rehabilitation measures in terms of 1) the objectives and parameters of the project itself; and 2) the perception of local residents regarding the rehabilitation efforts through both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The study employed a questionnaire survey, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs). The questionnaire survey adopted basic descriptive statistics in analyzing the public perception on the rehabilitation of the former Bagacay Mine. KIIs and FGDs were conducted in order to triangulate the results of the questionnaire survey. Results showed that AML rehabilitation is still a relatively new concept for developing countries like the Philippines. The country has a long way to go in terms of establishing a strong governance that is willing to take accountability of AMLs. In the case of Bagacay, the rehabilitation effort is still in its early stages and needs further improvement. A strategic rehabilitation plan which encompasses all the rehabilitation components must be established.

Keywords: Bagacay, Philippines, Abandoned Mine Lands, Rehabilitation

15:25 - 15:40 (Session 5)

# The Politics of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the Philippines: Opportunities and Constraints for Civil Society Participation in a Devolved Set-up

# Ferth Vandensteen Lusung Manaysay

Waseda University

### **Abstract**

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have played an active role in the development of the Philippine disaster governance over the past few decades. This presentation describes how civil society has found an opening to participate in the decision-making process of the country's disaster governance system within the devolved frameworks of the 1991 Local Government Code of the Philippines and the 2010 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act. Drawing from concept of political opportunity structure, this presentation demonstrates that the devolution of disaster governance in the country has provided the much-needed political and institutional mechanisms for greater civil society involvement at the national and local levels. The paper argues that better access to information, higher financial resources, and closer connection to the government have empowered local and national CSOs with more dynamic roles and higher levels of participation in the process of building new plans, frameworks, and policies within the context of the country's DRRM governance. The discussion also includes the role of the Disaster Risk Reduction Network of the Philippines in advocating for the 2010 DRRM law and the 2013 onslaught of the Typhoon Haiyan to support and contextualize the arguments of the presentation. A closer examination of the structural constraints confronting the Philippine CSOs reveals that although the current disaster governance framework considers civil society as partners and had made changes in its systems and processes to better accommodate devolution, the present structure can still be considered top-down in approach. There is a need to re-calibrate the devolved functions and available resources at the local level. In sum, the presentation, nevertheless, suggests that the political and institutional changes have strengthened the relationship between the state and civil society in the governance of disasters in the Philippines.

**Keywords:** political opportunity structure, resource mobilization, disaster risk reduction and management, civil society participation

# WTO-Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA): Sri Lanka's Progress and Challenges for Implementation

# Ranga Prabuddhika Liyanage

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

This study investigated Sri Lanka's progress and challenges with respect to the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). An empirical qualitative strategy was used through interviews and focus group discussions conducted with both government and private sector stakeholders. As revealed in this study, Sri Lanka as a signatory country to the TFA in 2016, has not made significant progress in the TFA implementation and only accomplished 6 measures (16.6%) out of a total of 36 measures outlined in the TFA while the average rate of implementation among developing countries is 59.1%. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB) support have been requested to implement 69.3 % of the TFA measures and has not yet been received completely. There are 39 government agencies and 582 legislations governing international trade identified. Sri Lanka's poor performance in implementation of the TFA is due to various interrelated challenges: inadequate political leadership, structural backwardness and fragmented institutional arrangement, and an outdated legal framework and trade union resistance are the overall issues. Also, an inability to proceed with action-oriented implementation in the absence of TACB support and the varied level of commitment of the government agencies are the key obstacles for the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and its Secretariat to proceed according to the National Action Plan (NAP). Moreover, unsatisfactory level of IT availability and literacy, friction to disclose some information, and natural unwillingness to change are identified as the main constraints in the process of developing the Trade Information Portal (TIP). These challenges can be overcome by providing direct political leadership to the NTFC with strict and frequent progress assessment and also to accelerate the amendments and enactments of existing legislation to accommodate and reflect the TFA. Measures identified as requiring TACB support actually require additional political commitment and leadership—rather than technical assistance—in order to be implemented.

**Keywords**: Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), Trade Information Portal (TIP)

# Infrastructure Spending in the Philippines

# Jed Elroy E. Rendor

University of Tokyo

### **Abstract**

The National Capital Region of the Philippines is often labeled as the "Imperial Manila," with much of the growth coming from the Metro Manila region. It is often noted that that distance from Manila considerably affects infrastructure allocation, and in turn, the province's per capita income. Infrastructure allocation, however, is often said to be a very political process with the "power of the purse" residing on the Congress. In this paper, I explore these relationships by looking at the impact of looking at the impact of distance and party politics on infrastructure allocation, then of the latter on per capita income of the province. Using the available panel data for 87 provinces in the years 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012, I find that distance significantly affects DPWH infrastructure budget allocation. While party affiliation impacts infrastructure at a national level, this is not the case at a regional level. This can be due to the nature of the budget process and that the budget preparation may be may important in determining the regional variance of infrastructure allocation than the budget legislation phase. Furthermore, infrastructure, through distance and party affiliation, has a small impact on per capita income. As such provincial and regional targeting remains important in the Philippines.

**Keywords:** Philippines, infrastructure, provincial income, party politics



## Monetary Policy and Stock Market in Sri Lanka

# Gamage Don Kapila Kumara

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### Abstract

The study investigates the dynamic relationship between monetary policy and the stock market performance in Sri Lanka. The Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) is used in order to examine the impact of monetary policy on the stock market performance and to assess the effectiveness of stock market as a channel of the monetary policy transmission mechanism (MPTM), using monthly data for the period from 2010:1 to 2016:12. Moreover, the Granger-causality test, the impulse response analysis, and the variance decomposition analysis are used to analyze further dynamics among the variables. The proxies for shifts in monetary policy are based on the Average Weighted Call Money Rate (AWCMR) and the other variables in the model are real GDP, Consumer Price Index (CPI), and All Share Price Index (ASPI). The VECM analysis reveals that the monetary policy drives the stock market in the long-run. However, the stock market performance does not alter the monetary policy. Notably, the stock market has a positive effect on inflation confirming the stock market as an effective channel in monetary policy transmission mechanism in Sri Lankan context and also suggesting that monetary policy authorities in Sri Lanka should look at stock market performance when formulating future monetary policy. Further, the study stresses the importance of an efficient stock market in the economy so that monetary policymakers can effectively use the stock market channel in the MPTM.

**Keywords:** Monetary policy transmission mechanism, The Stock market, The Vector Error Correction Model (VECM), Average Weighted Call Money Rate (AWCMR), All Share Price Index (ASPI)



# Financial Literacy and Individual's Usage of Financial Products in the Philippines: A Demand Side Analysis

## Sharleen Kristine K. Te

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### **Abstract**

This research aims to identify whether financial illiteracy limits the demand or usage of financial products and services in the formal financial sector. Using the linear probability model, it aims to identify the correlation between an individual's financial literacy score and financial inclusion measurements in the Philippines. For the validity of results and additional robustness, this paper then compares the result with the probit model and provides an estimate for the bias-adjusted treatment effect of financial literacy on financial inclusion. In addition, this paper examines for heterogeneity effect and nonlinearity of financial literacy on financial inclusion. While the results show a consistent significant positive correlation between financial literacy and financial inclusion, a few increases in financial literacy may not have an impact on the financial inclusion measurements. Further, this paper finds no heterogeneity effect of financial literacy on financial inclusion between different subgroups. These results may contribute to the formation of effective and efficient policies to increase the financial inclusiveness of the unserved and underserved market and sustain an overall financial stability in the Philippines.

**Keywords:** Financial Inclusion, Financial Literacy, Philippines



