News Bulletin of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan

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Toward Our 70th Anniversary in 2020

Kenichi ENATSU, President

The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan (hereafter referred to in short as "The Union") was established in 1950 as an organization consisting of various academic societies conducting research on economics and other sciences related to economics. We actually have a history of 67 years. Today, The Union has grown into a large academic organization including 63 member societies and 43,000 individual members.

We owe our growth to the respective council committee representatives elected from each member society and each successive council committee members who have actively participated in The Union's highest decision-making group, not to mention the members of the board elected by the council committee, and their selfless efforts in managing The Union over the years.

I should like to take this opportunity to once again express my admiration and appreciation for their achievements.

The Union has implemented diverse projects to meet the contemporary social demands in appropriate ways.

Currently, we have worked on the following three activities that could be called our annual routine: I Promoting the so-called 3 assisting projects, namely 1) Assistance for international academic society members to attend overseas conferences, 2) Assistance for academic societies to invite foreign scholars and administer their stay in Japan, 3) Assistance in funding academic activities and conventions related to academic research; II Publishing the annual Information Bulletin in English; III Issuing the News Bulletin of The Union.

However, we have made several revisions and improvements in recent years based on the awareness that the current times present an urgent issue, for The Union as well, to accommodate the rapid social progress in high-level information technology and what may be called the need for globalization. Through this process, we have acutely sensed that we should address the issues of not only providing more substantial services to the individual members of our member societies but also meeting the increasing demand to transmit our message to the society.

First, we achieved to provide better services to our member societies and

individual members and actually increased our social contribution by subcontracting our business to the liaison office.

To be specific, we upgraded The Union home page, improved the speed of communication by sending out The Union Mail Letter, uploaded the digital versions of the back-number issues of our Information Bulletin and the News Bulletin issues in Japanese and English on The Union web site, and released the English versions of our Information Bulletin on J-STAGE. Through these successive information processing and disclosure, we made The Union activity information accessible to both our members and non-members in Japan and abroad.

Starting 2015, The Union conducted its original social project by holding an "academic forum", as planned and implemented by several of our society members, which attracted a lot of external attention and interest.

I am convinced that The Union will continue to evolve in its progress toward 2020, the forthcoming 70th anniversary of its founding.

We seek the continued cooperation of our friends and supporters.

Report on Business Activities in FY 2016

I. Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses

We received four applications this year. After the screening by the Board of Directors, financial support was provided to the following four academic societies. Please refer to the "Report on Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses" in this bulletin.

- 1. The Japanese Society of Insurance Science: 150,000 yen for dispatching Noriyoshi YANASE, professor, Tokyo Keizai University, to Asia-Pacific Risk and Insurance Association 20th Annual Conference held at Chengdu, China, on July 31-August 3, 2016.
- 2. Japan Logistics Society: 68,244 yen for dispatching Osamu UEHARA, representative director, NPO Institute for Supply Management Japan, Inc., to the 24th Supply Link International Supply Management Conference, Pasay City, Republic of the Philippines, held on June 16-17, 2016.
- 3. Japan Society of Marketing and Distribution: 100,000 yen for dispatching

Saeran DOH, associate professor, Miyagi University, to the 2016 Global Marketing Conference at Hong Kong, held on June 21-24, 2016.

4. International Society of Collective Economy, CIRIEC Japan: 200,000 yen for dispatching Shinichi SAITO, practical professor, the University of Shimane to the 31st International CIRIEC congress, Reims, France, held on June 21-23, 2016.

II. Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars

We received three applications in this year. After the screening by the Board of Directors, financial support was provided to the following two academic societies. Please refer to the "Report on Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars" for the respective reports submitted by the society.

- 1. The Japan Academy of International Business Studies: 100,000 yen for inviting Masaaki KOTABE, Professor, Temple University, who gave a special lecture at the 23rd National Conference held on October 22-23, 2016.
- 2. The Japan Society for Social Science of Accounting: 100,000 yen for inviting Sham Sunder, Professor, Yale University, who gave a memorial lecture at the 31st National Conference held on October 21-23, 2016.

III. Assistance for Academic Societies

The purpose of this grant is to promote "academic research", and it provides partial support for the conference expenses to conduct various activities related to academic research, such as co-hosting within the society of membership, co-sponsorship of a conference, and requesting external professionals to give lectures. We received two applications this year. After screening by the Board of Directors, financial support of each 50,000 yen was given to the following two academic societies. Please refer to the "Report on the Assistance for Academic Societies".

1. Political Economy & Economic History Society: This academic society held 2016 Spring Meeting and symposium under the theme of "Study of Economic History and Framework -From the process of cooperation and omission", at

the University of Tokyo on June 25th, 2016.

2. Japan Association for Management Systems: This academic society held the 57th National Conference under the common theme of "Digital Innovation and Management System", at Sapporo University on October 15-16, 2016.

IV. Publication of the English Information Bulletin, No. 36

At the 2nd English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee for 2015 held on February 2nd, 2016, Professor Yoshihiro ITO of Waseda University (Japan Accounting Association) was selected by the members to be appointed as the Committee Chairman. For the details on the editing progress, please refer to "On the Publication of the English Information Bulletin, No. 36".

The English *Information Bulletin*, No. 36 was published on-line in December 2016.

- V. Released the back number of English Information Bulletin for free on-line We converted the back number of the English annual bulletin at the first issue (published in 1981) to No.25 (published in 2004) to the PDF files, and published it on our WEB site.
- VI. Publication of Annual bulletin of The Union of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan on J-Stage

Due to the abolition of business of National Institute of Informatics Electronic Library, we applied for transition to J-Stage and published No. 35, No. 36 on J-Stage..

VII. The 2nd Academic Forum

At the 2nd English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee for 2015 held on The 2nd Academic Forum was held at Waseda University on October 1st, 2016. The first part was for research report and the second part was for panel discussion.

			2016.4~2017.3
28	5. 23	First Board of	• Report on closing the books for FY 2015
		Directors Meeting	· Budget for FY 2016
			• New Project Planning for FY 2016
			· Parliamentary Procedure for the Board of
			Trustees
		First Board of	• FY 2016 First Review Report for Assistance for
		Trustees Meeting	Dispatching to International Conferences,
			Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars
			• Report on the Publication of English
			Information Bulletin No. 35, Report on the
			Progress of Editing No. 36
			• Report on the Publication of the Union News
			Bulletin No. 52 on the Web Report/Approval of Audit of FY 2015 Settleme
			of Accounts
			• Approval of FY 2016 Budget
			• Approval of holding the 2 nd Academic Forum
			· Approval of work proceedings for accession to
			societies who applied
	7. 11	Second Board of	• Examination of FY 2016 Second Assistance for Dispatching to International Conferences,
		Directors Meeting	Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses
			• Interview with 2 societies who applied for
			accession
			• Progress Report of Symposium (The 2 nd
			Academic Forum)
	10.14 First English	• Final Inspection of Draft for No. 36	
		Information	· Confirmation of Editing Activity Schedule unt
		Bulletin	Publication of Bulletin
		Editorial	· Organization Heading the Writing of English
		Committee	Information Bulletin No. 37
		Meeting	

	10.24	Third Board of	 Report on holding The 2nd Academic Forum FY 2016 Interim Accounting Report
		Directors Meeting Second Board of Trustees Meeting	 FY 2016 Interim Accounting Report Recruitment of FY 2017 New Project Planning Report on the Progress of Editing English Information Bulletin No. 36 Report of receiving a withdrawal application Report of 2 new accession About the management of trustees meeting Report on holding The 2nd Academic Forum FY 2016 Interim Accounting Report Report on the Examination of FY 2016 Review Report for Assistance for Dispatching to International Conferences, Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars and Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses Report on the Progress of Editing English Information Bulletin No. 36 Recruitment of FY 2017 New Project Planning
			Report of receiving a withdrawal applicationReport of 2 new accession
29	2.2	Second English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee Meeting	 Election of Editorial Committee Chairman for English Information Bulletin No. 37 Editing Activity Schedule until Publication of Bulletin
	3.13	Fourth Board of Directors Meeting	 Report on the Publication of English Information Bulletin No. 36 on our Web Budget for FY 2017 Examination of FY 2017 First Review for Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars and Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses Report on a Withdrawal Application

On the Publication of the 36th Issue, Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan

Yoshihiro ITO (Waseda University) Chairman, Editorial Committee

The 36th issue of the Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan was published in December 2016. academic societies were indicated in this issue, namely the Society of Public Utility Economics, Political Economy & Economic History Society, Japan Accounting Association, Business History Society of Japan, Japan Academy for Consumption Economy, Nippon Urban Management and Local Government Research Association, Japan Society for Applied Management, Japan Risk Management Society, Japan Academy of Management, Japan Association for Evolutionary Economics, The Japan Society of Household Economics. Information Bulletin also included their respective future perspectives, academic society news and events, as well as reports on their major activities in recent years. The editorial committee members, Yoko NISHIOKA, Kazuhiko YAGO, Yoshihiro ITO, Shin GOTOH, Kazuo KIKUCHI, Nobuo WATANABE, Toshiyasu KITO, Katsuyuki KAMEI, Saburo OHTA, Akiyoshi ARAKAWA, and Takau YONEYAMA joined us from the above-mentioned societies to advance the publication process.

First, we elected the Chairman of the Editorial Committee and confirmed the forthcoming schedule for the editing process at the 1st Editorial Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. We also considered the article contents of the 36th issue and decided on proceeding by the same policy as we followed for the previous year (35th issue). The following persons were elected from each society to be the article writers for this issue, Munenori NOMURA (Society of Public Utility Economics), Toshihiko IWAMA (Political Economy & Economic History Society), Yoshihiro ITO (Japan Accounting Association), Nobuhisa FUJITA (Business History Society of Japan), Kazuo KIKUCHI (Japan Academy for Consumption Economy), Nobuo WATANABE (Nippon Urban Management and Local Government Research Association), Koji IGATA (Japan Society for Applied Management), Katsuyuki KAMEI (Japan Risk Management Society), Masato MAKINO (Japan Academy of Management), Hiroyasu UEMURA (Japan Association for Evolutionary Economics), Takau YONEYAMA

(The Japan Society of Household Economics), to serve as our Authoring Committee members abiding by this policy.

The 2nd Editorial Committee Meeting was held on Friday, October 14, to perform the final checking and proofreading of the article manuscripts. This time, the Japan Academy for International Trade and Business reported that it will withdraw from the authoring due to society affairs and postpone its article to be included in the next issue (37th issue), and we accepted their proposition. This decision fixed the societies to author the articles to be included in the 37th issue, namely the following 11 societies: Socio-Economic History Society, Japan Association for Social Policy Studies, Japan Association for Asian Studies, Japan Academy for International Trade and Business, The Academic Association for Organizational Science, Japan Finance Association, Japan Association for Planning and Public Management, The Society for the History of Management Theories, Japan Academy of Labor and Management. However, the Japan Association for Planning and Public Management subsequently applied for membership withdrawal, so the total number of societies became 10.

By the way, we have stopped publishing the International Bulletin in hard copy since the previous issue (35th issue), and it is currently available online through the CiNii Service (Dissertation information navigator) of the National Institute of Informatics (NII) and on The Union homepage. Since the digital library service of NII (NII-ELS) will close in March 2017, we have decided to continue publishing the International Bulletin in digital form via J-STAGE, the new service proposed by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Our application has already been accepted, and we have communicated this information to our distributing destinations in Japan and abroad (Research institutes and university affiliated libraries). The release date is March 27, 2017.

To add, we have completed in this academic year our web-based disclosure and record keeping by putting into PDF our back number issues since the first publication in 1980 to the present, upholding the objective of the International Bulletin to be communicated far and worldwide.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the respective Editorial Committee and Authoring Committee members, Professor Paul SNOWDEN (Vice-President, Kyorin University) who was responsible for proofreading the English manuscript, Secretary-General Masataka OHTA and Yoshiko ISHII who helped us with the editorial work, for their dedicated support in publishing this issue of the International Bulletin.

International Conference Participation Report Asia-Pacific Risk and Insurance Association 20th Annual Conference Participation Report

Noriyoshi YANASE (Tokyo Keizai University) The Japanese Society of Insurance Science

With the recommendation of The Japanese Society of Insurance Science and financial assistance from The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, I attended and made a research presentation at the 20th Annual Conference of the Asia-Pacific Risk and Insurance Association (APRIA) held between July 31 and August 4, 2016, at the host institution, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, in Chengdu City, Szechuan Province, the People's Republic of China. In this report, I will not review the details of the individual research presentations, keynote lecture, and other lectures but will mainly write about the APRIA annual conference itself and its atmosphere, due to the limited space provided.

Established in 1997, APRIA is an international academic society targeting the "risk and insurance" area of study, consisting of members from a wide range of research and practical work in the industrial, administrative, and academic sectors such as universities / research institutions, governments (regulatory offices), insurance companies, and other organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. APRIA members specialize and conduct academic research in diverse fields, namely economics, commerce / business administration, mathematics, statistics, actuarial science, and financial engineering.

The Annual Conference held every year between the latter half of July and early August is hosted by the respective universities in the Asia-Pacific region, as a rule, and the host institution manages the entire preparation and operation of the conference. Since the 1st (1997) Conference was hosted by Nanyang Technological University and Singapore College of Insurance (both located in Singapore), the APRIA annual conferences have been held throughout Asia, in Hong Kong, Australia, India, Thailand, Korea, Japan, China, and Taiwan. The 2016 Annual Conference was the third to be held in China, after the Shanghai and Beijing conferences. Also, the APRIA participants come from not only Asia and the Pacific but also Germany, Poland, Switzerland, and the

U.K., and more than a few participants hail from European countries. The multinational turnout reflects the individual interest of the researchers based in the U.S. and Europe for the rapidly increasing importance of the Asia-Pacific economy and the manifestation of various risks that accompany their prosperity, as well as the risks and administrative situations in Asia and the Pacific, such as the influences that a major natural disaster occurring in the same region would have on the world economy.

200 participants from the universities / research institutes, corporations, and government institutions in 16 countries, mainly in Asia, convened at the annual conference this year, and 75 individual research presentations were delivered. In addition, 4 symposia were held, respectively, to address the following topics:

- 1. Recent Development in Longevity Risk
- 2. Regulatory Issues in Emerging Markets: A case of China
- 3. Economic Lessons from Insurance History: Markets, Development and Internationalization
- 4. Methodologies in Risk Management and Insurance Research

Among these, the longevity risk and emerging market subjects are especially important, challenging issues that should be approached globally through partnerships between industries, governments, and the academia. Both of these symposia attracted large audiences and involved active discussions. One of the principles of APRIA is the partnership between the industry, government, and academia. In my opinion, these symposia symbolized this key concept. The individual research presentations consisted of individual reports on the research activities by the respective researchers. The interdisciplinary program was very academic, including features of not only the target areas (pension, natural disaster, insurance business control) but also the research disciplines (economics, statistics, finance, etc.).

Among them, I delivered a research presentation in Session 1-C (Finance), starting from 1:30 p.m. on August 1, titled "Bank Equity Ownership and Corporate Hedging: Evidence from Japan" and joined in the panel discussion for the group research presentation delivered by Professor Larry Y. TZENG and his fellow researchers from National Taiwan University on "Capital Asset Pricing Model Based on a Generalized Economic Index of Riskiness". I also served as the chairperson for Session 4-D, in the afternoon of August 2, on the topic of

Merger & Acquisition. With this year's APRIA annual conference, I completed my board member appointment since 2013, and the position was succeeded by Professor Shigenori ISHIDA of Kansai University.

Let me also make some comments on APRIA from the global perspective. The 21st APRIA Conference has been fixed to take place in East Europe in the summer of 2017, at the host institution, Poznań University of Economics, in Poland. Thereafter, the 22nd annual conference is scheduled to be held in the summer of 2018 at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. As you can see, APRIA promotes intimate exchanges with the research groups in America and Europe while maintaining its base in the Asia-Pacific region, and in this sense, it is a truly international academic society.

Finally, I should like to express my appreciation to The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan for granting me this very valuable experience by providing the financial assistance.

International Conference Participation Report Participation Report for the 24th World Conference of Supply Management in the Philippines

Osamu UEHARA (NPO Supply Management Institute Nippon)

Japan Logistics Society

1) Conference name

24th World Conference of Supply Management in the Philippines

2) Conference location

Pasay City, Metro Manila, the Republic of the Philippines

3) Venue

The Ball Room, Marriot Hotel Manila

4) Conference host institution (Organization headquarters)

PISM – Philippine Institute for Supply Management

5) Convention period

From June 15 to June 18, 2016

6) Participating countries

10 countries

7) Approximate total number of participants

700

8) Number of presenting organizations

60 (including Isuzu Motors Limited, Mitsubishi Motors Japan, Suzuki Motor Corporation, companies in America and Europe, and many companies in the Philippines)

Cf. Conference URL

http://pism.org/events-and-conferences/supplylink/

The Eastern Japan Great Earthquake Disaster would send a rippling wave through the world of commerce and international trade. Conversely speaking, the Japan's power of the manufacturing proved all across the world, and it displayed the global business came to a deadlock without any Japanese industry.

Most companies that work with Japanese suppliers have taken stock and are aware of specific risks and challenges facing their supply chains. It may conclude that they will evade the Japanese components and material.

CAPS Research Japan has been studying the companies' actual circumstances based on the 6 aspects.

How to face to the unprecedented crisis on the supply chain:

- 1. Japanese companies' supply management function should invest their energy and resources in what area?
- 2. Management team can support its effort in what way?
- 3. Supporting system is shared among all employees?
- 4. It is peculiar to Japan?
- 5. Or, it is tracing back to the company mission and vision?

Management team keenly realized how much supply chain disruption would injure company total management.

Protecting the upstream of the supply chain and ensuring the smooth running of the supply management depend not only on the purchasing function, but also on all company functions.

Supply disruption due to the natural disaster cannot be permitted by using the term "Act of God" or Force majeure" because of their customers' expectation and satisfaction

From the year 1960s-70s, management team tends to shift to the risk-taking direction in considering the risk management rather than crisis control.

Even if it is caused by the natural disaster, or Act of God, management is transitioning to risk mitigation and elimination to recover the normal operation.

This tendency will lead to the company policy to protect its supply chain and not to disturb the customers until today.

The BCP is one of the greatest topics such as customers' diverse and complex tastes, globalization, global warming, product life cycle, speed-to market.

The import and export of goods and services to and from Japan has been interrupted, creating backlogs of products and impacting companies around the world.

This questionnaire of the focus study has been made from the viewpoint of the stable supply of the material or components in the supply chain.

The objective of the study is based on the SCP: Supply Continuity Planning in order to inspire the concrete suggestion.

My Impressions, Having Participated in the Conference

The Philippines seems to be the first country I have visited in Asia that is remarkably advanced in supply management. Though there are many supply

purchasing and logistics societies throughout Asia, not including Japan, the number of participants in the world conference held this time in Manila exceeded 700, and the event in itself was unique with a large attendance of women buyers. When I gave the lecture, the hall was packed with the audience, some of who were standing, which revealed to me how much they were interested in the Japanese-style system of purchasing. At the same time, I renewed my awareness as to how little interest there is on supply-chain purchasing and logistics management in Japan.

International Conference Participation Report GMC Conference Participation Report

Saeran DOH (Miyagi University) Japan Society of Marketing and Distribution

2016 Global Marketing Conference at Hong Kong

Conference theme: "Bridging Asia and the World: Global Platform for Interface

between Marketing and Management' Conference period: 21st-24th July, 2016 Venue: Conrad Hong Kong, Hong Kong

I attended and presented at the 2016 Global Marketing Conference held in Hong Kong. The conference location was on the 7th floor of the Conrad Hong Kong, a splendid hotel, and the conference sponsors were the Global Alliance of Marketing & Management Associations. 300 participants, from more than 50 countries, convened to discuss the main theme, "Bridging Asia and the World: Global Platform for Interface between Marketing and Management".

The conference was held from Thursday, July 21 through Sunday, July 24, 2016, based on the following agenda.

Thursday, July 21: Registration, conference reception

Friday, July 22: Academic presentation session

Saturday, July 23: Academic presentation session

Sunday, July 24: Business meetings

With my co-researcher SUN Yul-wan, I reported on "Anxiety about Food Contamination: Psychological and fMRI Evaluation" in the July 22 session on "Country Predispositions: COO Images, Ethnocentrism, Disidentification, Affinity and Animosity". Our presentation consisted of analyzing the differences in brain response by fMRI experiment and the survey method with regard to the information on the food contaminated by nuclear radiation and information about health-conscious foods since the great earthquake in Fukushima that happened in March 2011.

Researchers of marketing and related sciences gathered at this biannual

conference from around the world to make active exchanges on their views on the marketing theory from diverse perspectives.

50 or more presentations were made in the 2-day sessions on July 22 and 23. My impression of the academic society was that it is very well organized and that it offers global networking opportunities.

In the following table, I will share the main topics of the academic presentation sessions held on Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23.

Session (July 22- July 23, 2016)

- 1 Global Perspectives in Public Policy & Marketing
- 2 Country Predispositions: COO Images, Ethnocentrism, Disidentification, Affinity and Animosity
- 3 Success Factors in Global B2B Markets I B2B Customer Value Creation
- 4 Strategic Retail Management
- 5 Cross-Cultural Consumer Behavior
- 6 Marketing and New Product Development Capabilities
- 7 Product Innovation and Diffusion in Emerging Markets
- 8 Consumer Behavior in Health and Leisure Industries
- 9 Fashion Digital Strategy and Practice
- 10 How to Publish Useful Research
- 11 Electronic Word of Mouth (eWOM)
- 12 Success Factors in Global B2B Markets B2B Customer Interaction and Firm Performance
- 13 Luxury Brand Management in Advertising
- 14 Corporate Branding, Luxury Marketing & Identity-based Value Management
- 15 2016 ITAA-GAMMA Joint Symposium
- 16 Advancing Tourism and Hospitality Marketing
- 17 2016 JSMD-GAMMA Joint Symposium
- 18 Luxury Brand-Building
- 19 Success Factors in Global B2B Markets III B2B Supply Chain Issues
- 20 Consumers, Brands and Brand Management
- 21 Corporate Branding, Luxury Marketing & Identity-based Value Management
- 22 Consumer Decision Making and Quality Signal
- 23 Consumption and Marketing in Multicultural Marketplaces

- 24 New Normal in China: The Opportunities and Challenges Confronting Marketing
- 25 Advertising and Branding
- 26 Marketing Anthropology Research (MAR): Artifacts/Closet Digs, Field Experiments, and Direct Observation of Marketing and/or Customer Interactions and Other Behaviors
- 27 International Marketing and Export Management
- 28 Stakeholders-brand Relationships/ The Future of Customer Equity: Expanding Its Validity and Implication
- 29 Art, Design, Culture and Brand Management
- 30 Food, Hospitality and Tourism Marketing
- 31 Marketing 2.0: Digital Consumers and Interactive Marketing

I appreciate the recommendation offered by the Japan Society of Marketing and Distribution, as well as the financial support provided by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, to make possible my participation in this outstanding conference. Thank you very much.

International Conference Participation Report Report on Member Participation in the 31st International CIRIEC Congress

Shinichi SAITO (The University of Shimane) International Society of Collective Economy, CIRIEC Japan

· About CIRIEC International

CIRIEC (Centre International de Recherches et d'Information sur l'Economie Publique, Sociale et Coopérative) was established for the purpose of exchanging ideas and research between scholars and businesspersons who share the interest in the public and cooperative aspects of market economy.

The center was originally set up in Geneva, Switzerland by the French economist Edgard MILHAUD in 1947, but it moved to Liege, Belgium in 1957 and has remained there to this day. CIRIEC currently has research institutes in 12 different countries, among which CIRIEC Japan is accumulating research results in the same field as its naming, International Society of Collective Economy.

5 people from CIRIEC Japan attended this year's Congress, including myself and the Chairman, Professor Munenori NOMURA of the Faculty of Economics, Kwansei Gakuin University. We convened in Reims, France, this time, where approximately 300 participants from more than 20 countries worldwide attended various sessions over a period of 3 days, from September 21 to 23. I had the opportunity to make a presentation in the International Scientific Council (ISC), held on the first day.

About the projects sponsored by CIRIEC

ISC is one of the main activities of CIRIEC International, consisting of two fields, namely Social and Cooperative Economy and Public Economy, which are organized by the respective research projects.

First, the social and cooperative economy project includes approximately 60 members who are not only economists but also sociologists, local government officials, and others. On the other hand, the public economy project members are fewer in number compared to the social and cooperative economy group, about 30 on the team. This group also consists of not only economists but also scholars in law as well as businesspersons, who exchange academic discussions.

Since a diverse group of researchers are involved in one project, the investigation proceeds with the each project conducting its investigation and research until the respective theories are attained. The project on public economy, titled "New Transversal Working Group (TWG) on Commons and Global Public Goods", mainly discusses the commons problem and the status of providing public services amidst the globalizing society.

The indication "New" in the project title signifies that this is a follow-up of the former ongoing research project, namely "The Future of Public Enterprise" project which began in 2014.



Photo: The convention site for this conference (Centre des Congrès de Reims)

· Critical issues for the ISC Project

The ISC project in the public economy section focuses on the major role played by the public sector over the years, concurrent to the advancement of privatization and regulatory reform. The purpose of this project is to organize the information on the conditions and issues addressed by each country from an international perspective. Roughly, the following topics are included:

- The history and current capacity of public enterprises in each country
- The main body playing an especially important role in the provision of public services
- The government 's methods for administrative and regulatory implementation
- · The involvement and current policy-making by the government for the main

body providing public services

- The actual condition of multinational-oriented public enterprises
- Our research presentation

The Japanese research investigation team, first of all, organized the issues concerning the deteriorating infrastructure and the extreme difficulty to maintain public services in remote areas. Based on this, we addressed the respective issues by sorting out the facts such as the high demand for utilizing the private sector and the increasing expectation for the non-profit sector.

Since the 1980s, privatization and practical competition has been promoted in Japan. On the other hand, maintaining the original system of the public sector offering the services are becoming difficult due to the demographic decline and financial restrictions. The great expectation for active participation of the private sector is a realistic alternative to this situation.

However, the infrastructure is a non-divisible asset that requires gigantic amounts of lump-sum investment funding. Simple privatization would be difficult in view of the uncertainty for future demands. We determine that building a system where the government could make a stable commitment in investment and collecting the funds, such as concession, would seem practical. Yet in this case, we need to discuss the degree of policy involvement.

Further, with the diversification of the people's needs in receiving and profiting from public services, it is not realistic to continue providing a common level of services in all areas. There is a growing expectation for the non-profit sector, such as NPOs, to respond more sustainably to the citizen's needs. However, these organizations are not fully independent enough, and the actual condition is that they lack both organizational profitability and human resources.

Based on these reports, active exchanges were made on our presentation day at the conference. Fortunately, we received comments that our research report was generally well organized in terms of discussion. Of course, we also received advice as well as requests for deeper investigation of the status quo of the non-profit sector in our publishing of volumes and research papers on this topic. We intend to continue our research and investigation according to this feedback.

My impressions on the discussions at the conference

The two main research areas of CIRIEC are Social & Cooperative Economy and Public Economy. Therefore, regular discussions are made on the roles that should be played by the public sector and the modes of governance in such cases. In this year's conference, the issues and conditions specific to each country were aligned and introduced.

At the same time, the "public enterprise" is frequently used as a keyword, reflecting the status of CIRIEC as the academic society that has a large number of participants from countries other than the U.K., where privatization and liberalization has been implemented drastically. However, the public enterprise for them is totally different from what the term represented in the 1970s. These public enterprises are organizations that do not completely depend on the profit-conscious government, having become multinational through the liberalization of capital.

In my impression, there were a lot of participants who passionately discussed the relationship between public enterprises and the government, which may also be expressed as the state of governance, because their countries had complex organizational structures where many public enterprises remained as entities that could not be understood in the competitive market vs. government framework, even if they acknowledged the obvious utilization of market principles.

Though the public enterprise reform in Japan seems outdated as a policy, the issues discussed in this conference have great implications with regard to the forthcoming reforms in the infrastructure system and public services that have profound meaning in our relationship with the government. Also, the more realistic aspect is that the possibilities of funding affected the progress and sustainability of these issues. In the conference, there were reports on the issue of how to acquire the funds for providing these services.

We would like to express our appreciation to The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan for the assistance they provided to support this opportunity that greatly enriched our investigation and research.



Photo: The panel discussion at the conference

Reports on the Use of Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars The Special Lecture by Professor Masaaki KOTABE (Temple University)

Masakazu IMAI (Senshu University) Japan Academy of International Business Studies

The Japan Academy of International Business Studies (Mitsuhide SHIRAKI, Chairman) held its 23rd National Conference over a 2-day period on Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23, 2016, at the Osaka University of Commerce. A research presentation by Professor Masaaki KOTABE, The Washburn Chair of International Business and Marketing, Fox School of Business, Temple University, USA, and lectures by the top management of DAIKIN Industries and Haier Asia Group, in addition to the speeches by the current and former chairpersons of JAIBS, were made on this year's common discussion topic, "China and the New Corporate Management", followed by a panel discussion with the 5 speakers. We were able to organize the key issues, at the same time making a proposal to Japanese corporations, and conduct a thorough discussion on the subject.

Prof. Kotabe is an internationally famous researcher of global marketing and currently serves as the chairperson of the largest international business society, the Academy of International Business. Also, he is active as the chief editor of the Journal of International Management, the most well-known journal in the field. His social involvement is as diverse as his academic activities; for example, he is the executive forum advisor for the United Nations and trade organizations worldwide. Prof. Kotabe is one of the few globally active Japanese researchers today.

The title of his lecture was "The process of constructing competitive advantage for multinational corporations in the new developing nations: From a timeline perspective", in which he clarified the progress and competitive growth of the Chinese and Indian multinational corporations in the markets of advanced nations. These multinational corporations in new developing countries have two strategies, namely market study based on the niche marketing strategy for one, and the both vertical and horizontal value chain dissemination through partnership and acquisition taking advantage of the plentiful funding for another.

The lecture clarified how these strategies were implemented in the process of developing a different style of marketing from that of advanced countries by first becoming the long-term supplier of the progressive multinational corporations and then learning the manufacturing and product development technologies.

Prof. Kotabe was talking about the background to the competitive advantage of multinational corporations in new developing countries, but at the same time, his interest was focused on Japanese corporations. In other words, Japanese corporations are maintaining a high level of technology, as indicated by the number of their patents. However, the Japanese companies and economy seem inferior to not only those of the new developing but also advanced nations in the 20 years that passed since the "bursting of the bubble economy". The discussion implied that the situation was caused by the inability to promptly utilize the high level of technology Japan possessed, and such technologies eventually became cheap and useless as they were copied or stolen by other companies. The conclusion according to the professor's analysis was that the Japanese excessive study of the product life cycle theory, which declared that the development expenses could be reclaimed in the maturing stage after spending much on the technology and market development. The lecture presented these implications to the Japanese corporations as the hints provided by constructing the competitive advantage of multinational corporations in new developing countries.

Though the presentation continued for many hours, Prof. Kotabe delivered his lecture with a lot of humor and insight, and in the panel discussion that followed, he managed to keep a cool and objective position as he made hot and passionate exchanges with the audience. Taking the opportunity to coincide with the professor's invitation lecture, the Japan Academy of International Business Studies decided to confer Professor Kotabe the title of Fellow, to honor his great contribution to our society over the years.

We express our thanks to Professor Kotabe for visiting Japan for this purpose, in spite of his busy schedule. We also appreciate the financial assistance from The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan that we could use to partially cover the expenses for inviting Professor Kotabe. Thank you very much.

Reports on the Use of Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars

Report on the Use of Financial Assistance for a Foreign Scholar's Stay on the Occasion of the 31st Convention in Japan

Hiroshi YOSHIMI (Hokkaido University Graduate School)
The Japan Society for Social Science of Accounting

The 31st Accounting Theory Convention was held at the host institution, Nagasaki University, from October 21 to 23, 2016. Professor Shyam SUNDER, Yale School of Management, USA, gave a special lecture on the second day of the conference, October 22, 2016. We were fortunate to apply the Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars, provided by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, to partially cover the expenses for this special lecture.

Professor Sunder, who teaches at Yale University, has a wide knowledge about not only accounting but also finance, economics, and other fields. His publications include 6 books and more than 200 papers, some of which have been translated into Japanese. He has also served as the chairperson of the American Accounting Association and is recognized both in America and the world as one of the famous modern scholars of accounting.

The lecture delivered by Prof. Sunder was titled "What is Better Accounting?", in which he discussed the significance of clarifying what "better accounting" is, indicated that to actualize the concept would necessitate 3 perspectives and 6 approaches, and to make efforts to improve modern accounting on these requirements. Especially for the study of accounting, the field not only involves the theory but also is deeply connected to institutional policies, and this necessitates both efficiency and political factors in relation to the policy structuring. Diverse perspectives are required for generating good institutional policies and to attract interest in accounting.

The subject of the lecture by Prof. Sunder, as indicated above, presented an extensive exploration of the possibilities for improvement in accounting and questioned the future progress of the discipline. These were also the issues that needed to be solved for the development of accounting theories. We understood that directly addressing such issues was indeed an achievement that could be made by Prof. Sunder and nobody else, and this opportunity of holding the

lecture at the Japan Society for Social Science of Accounting was extremely meaningful for our academic society. Since the contents of this lecture attracted a lot of attention from non-members as well, and we were able to acquire external participants, we are planning to hereafter publish the lecture contents not only in our academic journal but also in the generally available magazines.

Professor Sunder also answered the questions from the audience after the lecture and joined in the party afterward hosted by the society as our guest, all the while exchanging ideas with a friendly and open attitude. We believe that we were able to gain valuable advice on the accounting research in Japan through these activities.

Reports on the Use of Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses Report on the Spring Academic Conference in 2016

Kazuhiko YAGO (Waseda University) Political Economy & Economic History Society

The Political Economy & Economic History Society held its Spring Academic Conference on June 25, 2016, at the Faculty of Agriculture, The University of Tokyo. For the occasion, we received financial assistance from The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan. I will give a summary of this academic conference, as indicated below, to serve as a report on the use of the funding provided.

The conference was divided into 2 parts, namely the morning session and the afternoon session. In the morning session, the "doctoral dissertation presentation study meeting" took place, where 3 young researchers who submitted their doctoral dissertations in recent years presented and discussed their research. The first presentation consisted of findings in the local historic documents on the management and labor conditions of hand-woven textile factories during the industrial revolution in England. The second presentation examined closely, by looking at the Kuraray case study, the specific features of technology transfer between Japan and China in the post-war Japanese chemical fabric industry. The third presentation attempted to explore New Liberalism from a contemporary perspective through text analysis of speeches on the British financial crisis between 2007 and 2008. All of these involved active and substantial discussions. 21 persons participated in the morning session.

In the afternoon session, we held a symposium titled "Economic History and Frameworks: The Process of Collaboration and Rivalry". Kentaro TSUNEKI (Senshu University) presented the discussion topic and presented on "Economic History in Post-war Japan: Examining Process of Collaboration and Conflict with the History of Economics according to Otsuka", where he discussed the relationship between the history of economics according to Hisao OTSUKA and the actual issues in post-war Japan, the main theme of the symposium. Then, Naofumi SAKAMOTO (Fukushima University) made a presentation titled "The Target Perspective of Economic History in Japan: A Case Study of Constitution Studies", where he clarified the correlation between the frameworks and economic history by examining the constitution studies that played an

important role in post-war Japanese social sciences. Shutaro MUTO (Niigata University) reported on "China according to the Yamada Theory" focusing on the recognition of China and theoretical generation by Moritaro YAMADA, the most distinguished figure in academic Marxist economic researchers of Japanese capitalism and one of the founders of our society. Koji KANAYAMA (Tokai University) reported on his research under the title, "The Thoughts on Technology by a Former Academic Marxist Economist: Did Haruki AIKAWA (1909-1953) Undergo Conversion?" as he closely examined the framework of post-war Japanese social sciences from the original progress of H. Aikawa, who was an active member of those who discussed the idea of technology in pre-war and post-war Japan. The presentation by Takahiko HASEGAWA (Hokkaido University), "The Study of History after Conversion of Ideas: Neo-positivism and the Resurgence of Positive Science", attempted to explain the miscellaneous problems surrounding positivism that appeared after the so-called linguistic conversion as he carefully based his discussion on the research history of English and American studies of history. Commenting on this, Toshie AWAYA (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) aligned the conclusions and issues of each presentation from the perspectives of gender, subaltern, and minority studies, according to the research development in Indian subaltern studies. Yukimura SAKON (Niigata University) and Kaori TAKADA (Otsuma Women's University) served as the symposium coordinators.

In the panel discussion, the panelists discussed actively on the fluidity of framework that the present-day research in history and social sciences must address, and the issues concerning the receivers of the academic doctrines and information released by researchers, according to the detailed confirmation of the theoretical points made in the individual presentations. 79 persons participated in the afternoon session.

Ever since it was established under the former naming, The Political Economy and Economic History Society, the Political Economy & Economic History Society has made unique contributions to the research of social sciences in post-war to present Japan, combining the 4 subject areas of theory / condition, agriculture, and history of the Japanese and Western economy, according to the academic, modern, and critical characteristics. This year's Spring Academic Conference offered us the opportunity to look back on the footsteps of post-World War II social sciences, at the same time consider the raison d'etre of our society, through both the presentations by young researchers and the symposium.

Finally, we express our sincere appreciation to The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan for providing the funds as we report on their worthy use. Reports on the Use of Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses
Report on the 57th National Research Presentation Conference
of Japan Association for Management Systems

Ikuya HORIE (Sapporo University)
Chairman, Executive Committee
Japan Association for Management Systems

We held the 57th National Research Presentation Conference of the Japan Association for Management Systems on Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16, 2016 at Sapporo University (Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan). The common topic for the conference was "Digital Innovation and Management Systems". To hold the conference in Hokkaido has been our pending issue since the members convened at Hakodate University just after JAMS was established, so we were finally able to realize it. Holding the national conference in Hokkaido seemed geographically disadvantageous in terms of access, and we were worried that not many presenters and participants will attend due to the inconvenient location. However, the actual number of participants was large, and there were active discussions at the conference equivalent to the previous national conference held in Kanagawa.

Mr. Kazuhiro MIYAZAWA, the CEO of Wellnet Corporation, gave us the keynote lecture titled "The Realities of ICT Scheme Entrepreneurship: the Present and Future".

The research presentations made at the conference consisted of 2 on the common topic, 9 in the study groups (including one by a student), and 77 on free topics (including 38 by students). The total number of participants, not including the keynote speaker and 19 student volunteers, was 148 for the conference and 68 for the reception.

In the preparatory stage of this conference, we had to revise our budget corresponding to the revision of the facility usage fees at Sapporo University, but thanks to the financial assistance for academic conferencing provided by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan and the large number of participants that exceeded our expectations, the 57th National Research Presentation Conference closed in great success and the financial statement was approved by the executive committee. This was a special year for Hokkaido, commemorating the launching of the Hokkaido Shinkansen bullet trains. As

the chairperson of the conference implementing committee, I sincerely hope that this conference held in Hokkaido will contribute to the further development of the respective research activities of our presenters and participants as well as the Japan Association for Management Systems society itself. We sincerely appreciate the financial assistance provided by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan. Thank you very much.			

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