



# **News Bulletin of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan**

## **No.54 2018**

### Contents

○ Greetings from the President Kenichi ENATSU·····	1
○ Report on Business Activities in FY 2017·····	3
○ List of Primary Proceedings of Meetings in FY 2017·····	6
○ On Publishing the 37th Issue of the English Information Bulletin Takahide KOSAKA(Japan Scholarly Association for Asian Management)·····	9
○ International Conference Participation Report Fumiya UCHIKOSHI (Population Association of Japan) ·····	11
○ Reports on the Use of Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars Japan Academy for Asian Market Economies·····	15
The Japanese Association for Chinese Economy and Management Studies·····	16
○ Reports on the Use of Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses The Japan Society of Household Economics·····	18
○ List of Member Association Trustees·····	20
○ List of Union Directors·····	22
○ List of English Information Bulletin No.37 Editorial Committee Members·····	22

## **Standing on the Edge of a Precipice? The Academic Disillusionment**

Kenichi Enatsu, President

A survey has been conducted in Japan since 1989, for almost 30 years, to find out which occupation children want to pursue when they grow up. In 2017, the first choice for boys was actually “scholar / doctor” for the first time in 15 years; by the way, the first choice for girls has remained “food store owner” consecutively for the last 21 years (Source: Dai-ichi Life Insurance).

Being a “scholar” over a long period of time, I was pleased to hear this news, though I knew that this trend reflected the number of Japanese Nobel laureates in recent years.

On the other hand, we are appalled to hear that more than half (53%) of university students surveyed answered “0” when they were asked how many hours per day they spent reading books (Source: National Federation of University Co-operative Associations). This figure was last reported in 2004, and it is shocking to know that young people are “not reading books anymore”.

From such ordinary episodes, we can sense the critical situation where Japanese higher education and research are undergoing a great transformation, and the academia is literally standing on the edge of a cliff.

Today, we cannot help but notice the forceful currents that afflict the academic community like “body blows” as a result of the “2018 crisis” brought about by the decreasing number of children. Correspondingly, many express their concern for the degeneration and disempowerment of Japanese higher education and research in general.

Universities have entered “the age of massive elimination”! Under the justification of responding to the most urgent issue, which is taking specific measures to deal with this situation, many universities are experimenting with various “restructuring” initiatives.

For example, the hiring of new faculty has become markedly strict and controlled as part of the restructuring of university

management, and now (non-tenured) “contract positions” became commonplace. This has made the availability of job opportunities extremely limited especially for young researchers, who find it difficult to acquire permanent positions. As a result, we have the so-called “over doctor” (an excess in the number of unemployed persons with doctorates) throughout the academic sector.

Many of these budding researchers are forced to earn their long term living as meagerly paid part-time university lecturers, or prep-school and cram school teachers working long hours in stressful settings. They rarely have opportunities to join worthy research projects or to become members of the academic community by accumulating their research achievements through presenting and making intellectual exchanges at academic conferences.

Due to this situation, a large number of young people with outstanding high potentials are increasingly choosing occupations that promise more stable and higher income, quickly moving out of the high-risk challenge for pursuing unstable academic research positions. So the actual trend contradicts the above-indicated

survey on what children hope to become in the future.

The progress of such a vicious trend could be surmised from the recent activities of the main body of our Union, namely the member societies. One way of investigating this would be to observe the increase or decrease in the number of our new members, especially graduate school student members, the same for their participation in and research presentations at general academic conferences, the increase or decrease in the number of withdrawing society members, as well as observing the activities and / or comparing data on the international students studying in Japan in recent years.

It would be worthwhile that the Union takes initiative to conduct investigation on the above-mentioned issues to improve the current situation.

I fervently hope that in the years to come, I do not have to be overly anxious about the degeneration and disempowerment of the capacity of education and research among the intellectual community in Japan, including universities, as a result of the “2018 crisis”.

## Report on Business Activities in FY 2017

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

We received two applications in this year. After the screening by the Board of Directors, financial support was provided to the two academic societies specified below. 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. Japan Academy for Asian Market Economies: 100,000 yen for inviting Ngov Penghuy, who visited Japan as a panelist of “Impact of ASEAN Economic Community on Newer ASEAN Members (CLMV)”, an international symposium commemorating the 20th anniversary, held in the 21st National Research Conference (on July 1, 2017) at Wako University.
2. Japanese Association for Chinese Economy and Management Studies: 100,000 yen for inviting Tony Chou, who visited Japan as a guest speaker for the Association’s FY 2017 National Conference (on November 11, 2017) under the common theme

“Competition or Cooperation:

Forecasting U.S.-China Economic Relationship under the Leadership of Trump and Xi”, held at St. Andrew’s University.

### II. Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses

We received one application this fiscal year. After the screening by the Board of Directors, financial support was provided to the academic society specified below. Please refer to the “Report on Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses” in this bulletin.

1. The Population Association of Japan: 200,000 yen for dispatching Fumiya UCHIKOSHI (Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology of the University of Tokyo) to the 28th International Population Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa from October 27 to November 4, 2017.

### III. Assistance for Academic Societies

The purpose of this grant is to promote “academic research”, and it provides partial support for 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 one application this fiscal year. After screening by the Board of Directors, financial support was given to the academic society specified below. Please refer to the “Report on the Assistance for Academic Societies”.

#### 1. The Japan Society of Household

Economics: 50,000 yen for supporting the Society’s 33rd Annual National Conference under the common theme of “Refurbishing a Conception of ‘Life’ in Household Economics: conceiving “life” from an eschatological perspective”, held on June 24-25, 2017 (at Tohoku Fukushi University).

#### IV. Publication of the English Information Bulletin, No. 37

At the 2nd English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee for FY 2016-17 held on February 2nd, 2017, while Toyo University Emeritus Professor Yasuo MATSUYUKI (Japan Association for Planning and Public Management) was selected by the members to be appointed as the Committee Chairman, due to

withdrawal from membership of Japan Association for Planning and Public Management, the Chairman was replaced by Nihon University Professor Takahide KOSAKA (Japan Scholarly Association for Asian Management). For the details on the editing progress, please refer to “On the Publication of the English Information Bulletin, No. 37”.

The English Information Bulletin, No. 37 was published online in December 2017.

#### V. Online release of the back numbers of English Information Bulletin for free

We converted the back numbers of the English annual bulletin from the first issue to No.34 (published in 2014) into PDF files, and published them on J-STAGE.

No.37 (2017) is scheduled to be published on April 2, 2018.

#### VI. The 3rd Academic Forum

The 3rd Academic Forum was held at Waseda University. The Forum consists of three lectures and a panel discussion.

#### 【Theme】

#### **Contribution of Japanese Accounting to Inside and Outside of Japan**

Date & Time: January 7, 2018 (Sun)

13:30~18:20

Venue: Building 11, 4F Large Conference Room, Waseda Campus, Waseda University

Chairperson: Hisakatsu SAKURAI  
(Japan Accounting Association)



LectureI: Shinya SAITO

(Japan Accounting Association)

\*Hisakatsu SAKURAI will be reporting on Shinya SAITO's behalf.

LectureII: Hiroshi OBATA

(Japan Cost Accounting Association)



LectureIII: Teruyuki KAWASAKI

(Japanese Accounting Association for SMEs)



Overall Host: Koji ISHIUCHI

(Japan Accounting Association)

## **Discussion**

Chairperson: Hisakatsu SAKURAI

Panelist:

Hiroshi OBATA, Teruyuki KAWASAKI,  
Michimasa SATO

(Business Analysis Association),



Yoshihiro ITO

(Japan Accounting Association),



Takashi SAKAMOTO

(Chairman of TKC National Federation)



Supporter Member Association:

Japan Accounting Association,

The Japanese Association of Management  
Accounting,

The Japan Society for Social Science of  
Accounting,

Japan Association for International  
Accounting Studies,

Business Analysis Association

Supporter Association:

Japanese Accounting Association for SMEs,

Japan Cost Accounting Association

**List of Primary Proceedings of Meetings in FY 2017**  
**April 2017 to March 2018**

2017	May 29	1st Board of Directors Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on closing the books for FY 2016</li> <li>• Budget for FY 2017</li> <li>• New project planning for FY 2017</li> <li>• Planning of the 3rd Academic Forum</li> <li>• Meeting procedure for the Board of Trustees</li> </ul>
		1st Board of Trustees Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Directors and Trustees for the 24th Term (April 2017 to March 2020)</li> <li>• FY 2017 First Review Report on Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars and Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses</li> <li>• Report on the publication of English Information Bulletin No. 36, report on the progress of editing No. 37</li> <li>• Report on the publication of the Union News Bulletin No. 53 on the website</li> <li>• Report/Approval of Audit of FY 2016 Settlement of Accounts</li> <li>• Approval of FY 2017 Budget</li> <li>• Approval of holding the 3rd Academic Forum</li> <li>• FY 2017 Report on Assistance for the Dispatching Saeran DOH (the Japan Society of Marketing and Distribution) to International</li> </ul>

			<p>Conference: 2016 Global Marketing Conference Conference at Hong Kong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election results (report on election of Directors and Trustees, and result of internal vote among Directors)</li> </ul>
	Jul. 10	2nd Board of Directors Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination of FY 2017 Second Assistance for Dispatching to International Conferences, and Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars</li> <li>• Election of one Director due to declined nomination</li> </ul>
	Oct. 20	1st English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final inspection of draft for No. 37</li> <li>• Confirmation of editing activity schedule until publication of the Bulletin</li> <li>• Assignment of academic associations in charge for English Information Bulletin No. 38</li> </ul>
	Nov. 27	3rd Board of Directors Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning of holding the 3rd Academic Forum</li> <li>• FY 2017 Interim Accounting Report</li> <li>• FY 2018 Project Plan</li> <li>• Report on the progress of editing English Information Bulletin No. 37</li> <li>• Meeting procedure for the Board of Trustees</li> </ul>
		2nd Board of Trustees Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY 2017 Interim Accounting Report</li> <li>• Report on the Examination of FY 2017 Second Review of Assistance for Dispatching Scholars to International Conferences, Assistance</li> </ul>



			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. 37 • FY 2018 Project Plan • Report on holding the 3rd Academic Forum • Report on inauguration of Saburo OHTA as an Inspector
2018	Feb. 1	2nd English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee Meeting	• Election of Editorial Committee Chairman for English Information Bulletin No. 38 (Masahiro KAWAMATA) • Editing activity schedule until publication of the Bulletin
	Mar.12	4th Board of Directors Meeting	• Report on the publication of English Information Bulletin No. 37 on our website • Budget for FY 2018 • Examination of FY 2018 First Review of Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars and Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses • 70th anniversary memorial project • Newly applied academic associations

News of a Death: Yoshiaki TAKAHASHI (Professor at Chuo University) has passed away in September 2017. We would like to express our deepest condolences and sincerely thank him for his long-term contribution to our union's activity as a trustee, a member of the board of directors and an auditor.

## **On the Publication of the 37<sup>th</sup> Issue, Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan**

Takahide KOSAKA (Nihon University)  
Chairman, Editorial Committee

The 37<sup>th</sup> issue of the Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan was published in December 2017. The 10 academic societies mentioned in this issue were the 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 Logistics Society, The Society for the History of Management Theories, Japan Scholarly Association for Asian Management, Japan Academy of Labor and Management. The Bulletin reports on the recent activities and future issues to be considered of the respective academic societies, and it provides glimpses of the latest research trends of the member societies of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan.

In the process of editing this issue, the following Editorial Committee members were selected from the above-indicated societies: Sayako KANDA, Toshihiko FUKUSHIMA, Kazushi SHIMIZU, Rika

KASHIWAGI, Hisanaga AMIKURA, Kotaro INOUE, Toshihiko MATSUO, Ken MATSUDA, Takahide KOSAKA, and Tei'ichi SEKIGUCHI. Likewise, we selected the following Authoring Committee members: Tomoko SHIROYAMA, Rinpei YOSHIMURA,

Kazushi SHIMIZU, Rika KASHIWAGI, Fumie ANDO, Hideaki KATO, Toshihiko MATSUO, Yasuharu NIZAWA, and Isao YANAGIMACHI. In addition, Masatsugu TAKEDA, Tsuyako NAKAMURA, and Taizo YAMAMOTO were chosen, respectively, from the Japan Academy of Labor and Management.

We held 2 Editorial Committee meetings. In our first meeting held on Thursday, February 2, 2017, we elected the committee Chairman, and we considered the editorial policy, authoring guidelines, and the schedule of the editorial work to be done. Based on this discussion, we decided to follow the same fundamental editorial policy and working schedule of our previous issue (36<sup>th</sup> Bulletin). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Editorial Committee meeting was held on Friday, October 20, 2017, to perform the

final reviewing and checking of the article manuscripts to be published. We also confirmed the schedule for the editorial work, including the final proofreading, before the publication in December 2017. We also discussed the publication schedule and the academic societies to author the articles for the next issue (38<sup>th</sup> Issue) of the Bulletin. The planned date of publication will be December 2018, and we determined the following 12 authoring societies: The Japan Society of International Economics, Japan Society for Commodity Science, The Japan Association of Economic Geographers, Japan Business Communication Association, The Academy of Management Philosophy, Japan Association for the Comparative Studies of Management, The Society for Industrial Studies, Japan, Japan Society of Logistics and Shipping Economics, Transcultural Management Society, The Society for the History of Management Theories, The Japan Society for Social Science of Accounting, Japan Association for Comparative Economic Studies.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Issue was published with the cooperation of the respective Editorial and Authoring Committee members of the above-mentioned 10 academic societies. As previously informed, the Bulletin has been released and made open in the form of electronic data, instead of hard copy printed

on paper.

Please note the following items summarizing the status quo of the International Bulletin and Newsletter of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan being published and disseminated via electronic data:

1. Since the 35<sup>th</sup> Issue, we have stopped printing our Bulletin on paper and made available the publication on the Union home page ([www.ibi-japan.co.jp/gakkairenngo/hotdocs/](http://www.ibi-japan.co.jp/gakkairenngo/hotdocs/));
2. We maintain a record of the International Bulletin, from its 1<sup>st</sup> Issue published in 1980 to the current 37<sup>th</sup> Issue, in the form of PDF data, and they are available for reference on our home page, to fulfill its mission “to be published worldwide”;
3. We have done the same for J-STAGE, the open electronic journal available free of charge, administered by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), that made possible the complete web distribution of the Bulletin to both overseas and domestic universities and research organizations.

As our future issues for consideration, we agreed upon the need to indicate a list of the common discussion topics, specific to each academic conference, to complement the current list of the dates and venues of

the conferences for the member societies on the Union home page, as well as the need for reporting to the English Bulletin Editorial Committee and Board of Councilors the number of internet accesses to the International Bulletin and other information about our home page and J-STAGE.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the respective Editorial

Committee and Authoring Committee members, Mr. Paul SNOWDEN (Professor and Vice-President, Kyorin University) who was responsible for proofreading the English manuscript, Secretary-General Masataka OHTA, and Yoshiko ISHII who was in charge of the English version, for their dedicated support in publishing this issue of the International Bulletin.

## **International Conference Participation Report**

### **IUSSP Participation Report**

Fumiya UCHIKOSHI

Population Association of Japan

(1<sup>st</sup> year postdoctoral program student, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology and Faculty of Letters, The University of Tokyo)

I had the opportunity to participate in the International Population Conference (IPC 2017) held every 4 years by the International Union for Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), that convened this time in Cape Town, South Africa. Though I have attended and presented at several domestic academic conferences, this was my first time to participate in a global convention on population studies. In this article, I intend to share some insights gained from my participation in

this conference.

Before I start writing about my main points, I should like to review briefly the contents of my presentation at the same conference. I presented my research in the study session about educational expansion, conjugal dynamics and fertility. In the presentation, I reported on the relationship between the microdata analysis results of academic history combinations (the pairing of academic backgrounds in married couples) and fertility. In Europe and the

United States, the implications of a phenomenon called “the male-female reversal in higher education”, where the university education rate among women are exceeding that of men, is attracting attention. Simply put, women have higher statuses than men in terms of educational background, and this could potentially alter the traditional gender relations and family structure. Based on the topic of my interest, this kind of gender reversal phenomenon that involves married couples where the women have more advanced academic backgrounds than the men (women’s educational hypogamy) is an increasing trend. This sort of marriage was originally considered exceptional to the traditional gender practices, and we regarded such marriages to often end in divorce. However, as the women-superior marriages with regard to educational background increased, such disadvantages are becoming less conspicuous. Further, when we speak of fertility, the issue remains to be discussed whether the decrease in the risk of divorcing brings about a decline in minus fertility, or whether the fertility remains low in the case of women’s educational hypogamy couples because the women in this group are expected to be highly active in earning the livelihood. My presentation, based on consideration of additional Japanese discourse on this theme, revealed

that women’s educational hypogamy marriages were related to the delayed timing of childbirth, as examined in the Belgian research I referred to. The case study presented was relatively less familiar to the audiences at the international conference, yet I believe that the participants of the session who more or less shared my concern about this issue understood the message I intended to communicate in the presentation.

Next, I shall briefly give my impressions of participating for the first time in an international conference. As I attended the conference, the strongest impression that remained long after in my mind was the self-inquiry, “Why am I choosing Japan as a case study?” I assume that the study of economics is comparatively borderless among the social sciences, but for other areas of social science, especially in sociology, the question, “Who are the audiences?” exerts a strong influence on “What do we make a presentation about?” For example, Japanese academic societies are basically a group of people conducting research on the Japanese society. In other words, the framework of Japanese academic societies in sociology consists fundamentally of those who have been trained and are currently teaching and doing research at universities in Japan, so there exists something like a protocol that is



(Photo1)

mutually accepted by the academic community in Japan.

I consider that we can be affirmative about this, in the sense that such a protocol in itself encourages the research activities to proceed smoothly. Yet the interesting part of making a sociological approach is that we can contemplate the common sense in the target society as something impermanent. I have often noticed that the issues considered obvious in the Japanese case studies discussed at Japanese academic conferences are not shared as prerequisites when presenting on the same topics overseas, with the question, “Why is it like that in Japan?” This issue does not just mean that the researchers overseas do not understand the significance of conducting research on Japanese case studies unless we can provide a few hints

that fill in the gap. The gap itself has the potential to be the starting point of new research.

We can easily conclude the discussion indicated above as a consequence of the difference in discourse. Yet it is not easy to conduct everyday research with such awareness, because we are predetermining that we are Japanese and that the audience is also Japanese. However, it is difficult to predict who our audiences will be in the international conference setting. In other words, we automatically prepare our presentations so that they could be understood, whoever the audiences are. I regard this point from a very positive perspective, because it is an opportunity to relatively consider one’s own research. My presentation this time renewed the personal conviction that it was a great

chance to give further thought to “why our research targets are Japanese” and “why we need to make a presentation to non-Japanese audiences”, regardless of the positive or negative implications.

Aside from presenting at the conference, I could attend the sessions that provoked my interest and participate in them as one of the audience; also, I could collect information on the latest research. Since the IPC of IUSSP is held once every 4 years, many other events were held parallel to the conference. Among those, I was impressed by the Debate Session. (Cf. ) This session was held in the hall space, and the panelists made comments about whether they agreed or disagreed with the topic specified. The topic for the day I participated was, “Is low fertility bad?” I thought only a few would agree that it was actually “bad” if we regard the decline in

fertility to be caused by individual choice, but to my surprise and interest, some actually answered that it was bad. I was especially interested and convinced by one comment that since low fertility and super low fertility are different issues, the latter is problematic after all, from the perspective of social sustainability. In conclusion, the problem lies in the point that it is a political matter to define what low fertility is; rather, it should be built on social foundations. “Without giving thought to what makes good or bad, we tend to come up with indicators to say which is good or bad, or, high or low.” I was impressed that I could receive some comments from the audience, as we exchanged our individual experiences along with research issues, at this conference whose objective was to promote a “Scientific Study of Population”.

As a social event, I chose to attend the



dinner, for pre-registered members only, following the debate. (Cf. Photo 2) The occasion proceeded in sitting style, as you can see in the photo provided, and we had the entire hall to ourselves. In addition to the lectures by Stats SA (the Statistics Agency of South Africa), the administrators of IPC this year, and the Chairperson of IUSSP, the musical performance by Ms. Yvonne Chaka Chaka, singer and

songwriter, added a gorgeous atmosphere to the sophisticated setting of an international conference.

I would like to express my appreciation for the support offered by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, and for the recommendation by the Population Association of Japan, that made possible my conference participation.

**Report on the Use of Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars I**

**Report on the Use of Assistance for Foreign Scholar Invitation and Stay in Japan**

Nobuyoshi NISHIZAWA

Advisor, Japan Academy for Asian Market Economies  
(University of East Asia)

The year 2017 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan Academy for Asian Market Economies. On July 1 and 2, 2017, this academic society held its annual national research conference at Wako University. As the 20<sup>th</sup> foundation anniversary memorial event, the international symposium titled “The Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community on Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV)”. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was launched in late

December 2015 as a full-scale economic community in Asia. In the symposium, we intended to examine the impacts and influences of AEC on Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, the nations that recently joined ASEAN. One way to approach this problem was through the SWOT Analysis. The AEC is both an opportunity and threat for the CLMV nations. The respective countries are expected to utilize their strengths and overcome their weaknesses to apply AEC



to their national development. Based on such a critical perspective, the keynote lecture was presented by Professor Koichi ISHIKAWA (Asia University), well known for his active research on the AEC, and the respective presentations on CLMV were made by the leading researchers of each country. Based on these presentations, Mr. Hisatsugu FURUKAWA (The Japan

Economic Research Institute) served as the MC to proceed with the profoundly interesting panel discussion that followed. We invited Mr. Penh Hoy, faculty member, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on the occasion of this symposium. We appreciate very much the financial assistance provided by The Union for the scholar invitation.

**Report on the Use of Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars II**

**Report on Activities Using Funding Assistance to Invite a Foreign Specialist on Japan Affairs**

Mariko WATANABE

Japanese Association for Chinese Economy and Management Studies  
(Gakushuin University)

The Japanese Association for Chinese Economy and Management Studies held its annual conference on November 11 through November 12, 2017, and on November 11, conducted a panel session on the common discussion topic, “Partnership or Competition: Predicting the US-China Relations in the Trump-Xi Age”. Our academic society invited a guest speaker to compare the commercial policy sector between the two nations, where the conflict is far more evident, with the industrial sector that involves accelerated competition

and partnership between American and Chinese companies. We considered that it was absolutely necessary for understanding the status quo to have the guest speaker, a specialist currently active in the field, report to us about the present conditions of the semiconductor industry where US-China competition and partnerships are rapidly undergoing an evolution. With the funding supported by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan in the form of Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars, we were able to

listen to the lecture by Mr. Tony Chau, who manages a semiconductor solution providing company in Hong Kong and who has a business background of working for American and Chinese semiconductor companies.

The actual business capacity of the semiconductor industry in China does not pose a threat to the US economy. To this day, the corporations in America and Europe remain the supporting innovators of the industry. Though China has become “the world’s leading factory” to produce machinery using semiconductors, it still does not have the power to take charge of semiconductor production as it is. So the importing cost of semiconductors in China today exceeds that of crude oil. Yet China has steadily expanded its presence over the last 20 years, and China has completely replaced Japan, that occupied second from the top in the 1990s, as the second leading nation of the industry. According to the analysis by Mr. Chau, the power relationship for the US and China in the semiconductor industry is as follows. America surpasses China in design and manufacturing, but the subsidiary company

of Huawei, HiSilicon, has achieved the top 6<sup>th</sup> position in year 2015, for sales income. The Chinese are by far the best in the testing process with semiconductor-embedded machinery. Also, SMIC has achieved 4<sup>th</sup> from the top in sales income for the year 2016, in the strong Taiwanese manufacture-contracting business. There is no doubt that the US-China partnership and competition supports the semiconductor industry that, in turn, supports the innovation accompanying the upgrading of current telecommunication technology and internet functions. Further, as Mr. Chau concluded in his lecture, the critical factor determining the corporate survival in this field is not whether it can receive support from the government but rather, the ability for the company itself to create innovation.

The content of this lecture by Mr. Chau has been summarized in a research paper titled “Semiconductor Industry in China: China and United States Relationship”, submitted, and waiting to be published in our academic journal, the Journal of Chinese Economic and Management Studies.

## **Report on the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of The Japan Society of Household Economics**

Osamu KAMOIKE

Chairperson, Acting Committee

The Japan Society of Household Economics 33rd Annual National Conference  
(Tohoku Fukushi University)

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Conference of the Japan Society of Household Economics (for the year 2017) took place on Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25, 2017, over a 2-day period, at Tohoku Fukushi University in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture. The turnout number of participants was approximately 120.

The memorial lecture and symposium based on a shared topic were held in the afternoon of the first day of the conference. For the memorial lecture, we invited Mr. Yasutaka TSUNODA (Professor, Faculty of Buddhism, Komazawa University) to speak on the topic, “Reflecting on our daily life with ‘the last moment’ in perspective”. The shared topic symposium was conducted under the theme, “Contemplating the theory of ‘daily life’ in household economics – thinking about our everyday life from the perspective of ‘the

last moment””. Ms. Kyoko UEMURA (Tokyo Kasei Gakuin University) and Mr. Koichi OGASAWARA (Tohoku Fukushi University) served as the chair panelists, and Mr. Takao YONEYAMA (Tokyo Keizai University), the president of our academic society, presented the topic to be discussed. The 3 panelists were Mr. Takao YONEYAMA (Tokyo Keizai University), Mr. Michihiko TOKORO (Osaka City University), and Ms. Katsura MARUYAMA (Seikei University). Following the statement from the chair panelists Ogasawara and Uemura, (“Toward organizing our common discussion topic: the sustainable society and intergenerational asset transfer”), Mr. Yoneyama presented the discussion topic. Then, the respective panelists reported on “Contemplating the theory of ‘daily life’ in household economics – thinking about our

everyday life from the perspective of ‘the last moment’”, after which Ms. Maruyama presented her insights on “The changing family and the need for a new social security”. Including the questions from the floor audience following the comments by each member of the symposium, a very active discussion took place over approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes. The constant theme of “contemplating our life from the last moment (in one’s life) perspective”, that was indicated in both the memorial lecture and the shared topic symposium, attracted a considerable amount of attention from the participants.

Study sessions on individual topics and the free-topic research presentations were held in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference. 2 topic-based sessions were conducted, respectively, on “University-level teaching of finance studies, Part 2” and The Japan Society of Household Economics report on the financially assisted research results for the year 2016: “Relative analysis of the near-sighted approach to home economics and attitude of negative avoidance toward raising the consumer tax – Is it possible to

revise the time selection preference rate in home economics with the Riccardo-Barro equivalence theorem of balancing appropriate costs?”, as planned by the academic exchange committee. The research presentations were made on the following 7 free topics: Home Economics, Informal Sector, Insurance / Finance, Health and Happiness, Economic Behavior, Welfare, Market and Corporation, and 21 research reports were presented. Both the topic-based study sessions and free-topic research presentations involved very interesting reports and active discussions.

Finally, I express my sincere appreciation to every person involved in holding this conference. I owe the success of the conference to their cooperation. In recent years, the financial situation has been increasingly difficult for The Japan Society of Household Economics as well, so we are immensely grateful to the assistance for academic conference expenses provided by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan in organizing this conference. I would like to extend my special thanks for their support.

## Member Association Trustees

2018.3.31

Japan Society of Monetary Economics	Yoshio WATANABE	Fumihiko HIRUMA
The Japanese Society for the History of Economic Thought		
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