



News Bulletin of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan

No.58 2022

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Introductory Comments

Tradition and Innovation

— In retrospect of our 70th anniversary activities and events —

Yoshiharu KUWANA

Acting Member of the Board

(Professor Emeritus, J. F. Oberlin University)

As we have informed you, in 2020 The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan marked the 70th anniversary of its founding. We are an academic society with ‘tradition and history’ accumulated by our numerous senior members by their deep wisdom and tireless efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to look back upon the project launched to celebrate our society’s 70th anniversary, which we have been working on up to the present.

In the past, The Union has planned and implemented commemorative projects on its milestone occasions such as its 30th and 50th anniversaries. This time, too, while continuing the Union's "tradition" of adhering to academism, a project team was established by the Board of Directors in the springtime of 2019 to seek solutions and proposals for various issues arising from changes in the economic and social environment in this new era, and preparations were

underway to hold the annual commemorative lecture. However, in the winter of 2019, a new type of coronavirus broke out in China and spread instantly around the world, becoming a pandemic.

A state of emergency was declared in our country as well, forcing the cancellation of large events and meetings, the shift of university classes online, and remote work at the workplace, all of which became the new normal. At first, we did not naturally expect the situation to be prolonged, and we were searching for the best time to hold the commemorative lecture; however, the COVID-19 situation showed no signs of ending, and we were forced to abandon the traditional commemorative lecture and consider a new commemorative project. We decided to plan a new commemorative project that would be appropriate for the current digital age, and that would use

digital technology to disseminate the activities of our association to a wider public. This led to web publication and the creation of our YouTube channel, two projects that could be called revolutionary for our association.

Both Web Publishing and YouTube started in April 2021 as an invitation to member societies to make voluntary contributions and provide contents for these venues. The web publication is based on the unified theme of "Toward the Creation of a Sustainable Economic Society in the 21st Century", and the YouTube channel will be used to freely create and distribute video contents on topics such as introductions for the respective academic societies, annual conferences and other activities, as well as other topics related to the societies.

The unexpected turn of events that followed the unforeseen disaster of the global spread of the coronavirus has allowed The Union to further promote digitalization, which will become increasingly important in the coming years, and at the same time enabling us to develop new businesses.

To date, we have 9 societies contributing to our web publication and 15 content videos on our YouTube channel. We would like to once again thank the societies that have contributed and provided the contents. These two projects will continue even after the commemorative period ends. We look forward to receiving contributions and video contents from even more academic societies in the future.

Since the outbreak of the new coronavirus, Japan has been criticized from various sectors for falling behind advanced Western countries in digitalization, but now DX (Digital Transformation) is rapidly progressing. We hope that these two projects will be an opportunity for The Union to further promote digitalization and develop into an "innovative platform" in the academic ecosystem that provides solutions and proposals for events and phenomena arising from the ever-accelerating current world affairs and changes in the economic and social environment.

On the Publication of the 41th Issue, Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan

Shoichi KANEKO (Yamanashi Gakuin University)
Chairman, Editorial Committee

We published the 41st Issue of the Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan in December 2021. The academic societies featured in this issue were The Political Economy and Economic History Society, Japan Accounting Association, Population Association of Japan, Japan Society of Human Resource Management, The Society of Economic Sociology, Japanese Association for International Accounting Studies, The Japan Port Economics Association, Nippon Academy of Management, Japan Academy of Management, The Accounting and Economic Association of Japan.

Upon publishing this issue of the Information Bulletin, we elected the following members from the above-indicated academic societies to act as our Editorial Committee members: Yohei Kojima, Hidetsugu Umehara, Kohei Wada, Tomoyuki Shimanuki, Hidenori Horiko, Hiroyuki Gouda, Kazumi Ohno, Shoichi Kaneko, and

Hiroshi Fukuda.

We also elected the following Authoring Committee members (in order of the academic societies indicated above): Yukimura Sakon, Makoto Nakano, Kohei Wada, Ikutaro Enatsu, Koji Suzuki, Hidenori Horiko, Kimihiro Kohno, Kazumi Ohno, Masashi Yamada, and Hiroshi Fukuda.

We held two Editorial Committee meetings, both of which were substituted by post due to the change in our original plan to hold it in a conference hall of Waseda University according to the prolonged influence of COVID-19 for preventive purposes.

The first Editorial Committee meeting took place on February 1, 2021, where we elected the committee chairman and reported / discussed the rough outline of the schedule for editing and the method of distribution (delivery) up to the publication date. As a result, I (representing the Japan Academy of Management and Yamanashi Gakuin University) was elected to serve as the chairman of the

Editorial Committee, and we agreed that we will follow the regular procedures for the editing schedule and distribution (delivery). In addition, we discussed the authoring guidelines for the Information Bulletin and determined that we will follow our regular editing practices. We also reported on the web publication, "Toward the Creation of a Sustainable Economic Society in the 21st Century," and the creation of the new You Tube channel, "The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan Academic Channel," as our commemorative activities for The Union's 70th anniversary.

The second Editorial Committee meeting took place on October 15, 2021, and we reported / discussed once again and agreed upon the final checking of the manuscript, editing schedule up to the publication date, and distribution (delivery) method of the Information Bulletin. We also discussed the payments already being paid to the Editorial Committee members for the respective academic societies, and a proposal for "cutting the cost" depending on the financial conditions of The Union. We decided to further discuss this matter in our future meetings.

We determined that the next issue (42nd Issue) will be authored by the following 9 academic societies: Society of Public Utility Economics, Business History Society of Japan, Japan Academy for Consumption Economy, Nippon Urban Management and Local Government Research Association, Japan Risk Management Society, Japan Association for Evolutionary Economics, The Japan Society of Household Economics, Japan Academy of Multinational Enterprises, and The Japan Association for Regional Economic Studies. The Information Bulletin is digitally available to both the domestic and international public on the Union homepage and J-STAGE. We positively anticipate that this will support the research activities of the academic societies in Japan, including the Union and its related academic societies.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to each member of the Editorial Committee and Authoring Committee, Paul Snowden (Professor Emeritus, Waseda University) for proofreading the English manuscript, Ken'ichi Enatsu our President, Professor Keiichi Hasegawa our Secretary-General, and Yoshiko Ishii for their respective

support in publishing the 41st Issue of the Information Bulletin of The Union

of National Economic Associations in Japan.

Report on Financial Support for Academic Society Meeting I

**Implementing the 81st National Convention,
Japan Business Communication Association**

Yoichi SATO (Toyo University)

The 81st National Conference of the Japan Business Communication Association was held on Saturday, October 2, and Sunday, October 3, 2021. From the perspective of countermeasures against the new coronavirus infection, this year's conference was conducted online rather than face-to-face participation (The site of the conference was Toyo University). Despite the circumstances, 12 research presentations were made by members during the two days, with high-level discussions on international business communication based on the knowledge and research findings of each presenter. In particular, due to the current situation, there were many research presentations on digital communication, making this a very meaningful national conference in terms of considering the future of business communication.

At the end of the first day, we

invited a speaker from Switzerland to present a keynote lecture on "Shared Language and Transdisciplinarity: Keys for Prosperity in Business Communication" as an event open to the public. We also invited a panelist from our sister society, the Korean Association for Business Communication (KABC), for the panel discussion with the keynote speaker, KABC members, and members of our society on the topic, "Business Communication: The Future is Transdisciplinary". More than a total of 40 people participated, and the event was very fruitful from both academic and practical business perspectives.

The triennial election of the Board of Directors was held this year. Although there were some concerns about conducting the election online, we proceeded with the election without any problems, and we elected 12 new

board members. The Japan Business Communication Association will continue to move forward under the new Board of Directors.

One of the notable new initiatives of the new organization was creating a digest video of the National Convention conducted online and playing it at the closing ceremony. As online conferences are becoming more common these days, many academic societies are beginning to recognize the importance of utilizing visual media to publicize their activities. We will continue to consider how to utilize digital communication media, including visual media, from the perspective of

business communication.

This year, though I had first applied for the Foreign Scholars Invitation Residency Subsidy Program, we changed our plan to hold the National Convention online due to the aforementioned pandemic countermeasures. As a result, we switched to utilize the subsidy to implement the convention within a short period. Thanks to your very flexible response to the sudden change of schedule, we were able to conduct the convention smoothly. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance.

Report on Financial Support for Academic Society Meeting II

Implementation Report of the 37th Research Convention, The Japan Society of Household Economics

Naoto NITTAMACHI (Kyushu Sangyo University)
Chairman, Executive Committee for the 37th Research Convention
The Japan Society of Household Economics

The 37th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Household Economics was held online for two days on Saturday, June 19, and Sunday, June 20, 2021, as was the case last year in consideration of the new coronavirus.

Due to the online nature of the conference, with no restrictions as to time and place, more than 200 researchers participated in both the shared topic discussion and free topic presentation, as we engaged in lively

discussions.

On the first day, we held the shared topic discussions, general meeting for the members, general meeting and award ceremony for the members, and online reception. The shared discussion theme was “The Challenges of Financial and Economic Education Initiatives at Universities through Industry-Academia Collaboration”. With the prolonged ultra-low interest rates on Japanese domestic bank deposits, households are paying greater attention to retirement planning and asset management. However, it has been pointed out that financial literacy

among Japanese households is low by international standards. To address this issue, financial organizations and researchers gave lectures and held discussions on the current status of financial and economic education for university students, the generation of young people who will be responsible for the future of our society. Nobuyoshi Iemori (Professor, Kobe University), Chairman of the Academic Exchange Committee of the JSHE, took on the heavy responsibility of planning the common theme and facilitating the day's proceedings. The contents of the lectures and speakers are as follows:

“Efforts to Improve Financial Literacy for University Students”

(Kiyoshi Haniu, Director, Life Information Office, Life Insurance Cultural Center of Japan)

“Financial and Economic Education for Universities by Japan FP Association”

(Hiroyuki Iwahashi, Director, General Education Department, Japan FP Association)

“Lecturer Dispatch Program for Universities by Japan Securities Dealers Association” (Toshiyuki Kaneko, General Manager, Business Promotion Department, Japan Securities Dealers Association)

“Financial and Economic Education at Universities to Link Lifestyles and Finance and Enhance Financial Literacy”

(Kyoko Kamimura, Professor, Tokyo Kasei Gakuin University)

“Cooperation in Financial and Economic Education in the University-wide Common Education”

(Chiho Ohyabu, Professor, Gifu University)

“Issues in Financial and Economic Education in Industry-Academia Collaboration as Seen from Student Evaluations and Impressions”

(Keiko Murakami, Professor, Prefectural Hiroshima University)

In addition to reports on practical examples of financial and economic education in the lectures, the panel discussion was multifaceted and in-

depth, with participants from the Bank of Japan and the Financial Services Agency sharing their opinions with the panelists and audience. A total of 247

participants attended, indicating the high level of interest in financial and economic education. The participating researchers will use what they learned at their own universities to implement highly effective financial and economic education. In the online reception after the general members' meeting, they were divided into four break-out rooms for frank exchange of opinions and friendship as they separately discussed "Information exchange about university lectures in the time of coronavirus pandemic," "Common Thesis, Part 2," "The Japan Society for Household Economics: Telling the history and talking about behind the scenes," and "Household studies (Household economics) Research communication from the Japan Society for Household Economics. The members enjoyed this free opportunity to exchange opinions and develop friendly connections.

On the second day, June 20, free research presentations were made and the conference chair award was announced. We received a much high number of free research presentation applications compared to last year, with a total of 36 submissions. Perhaps this increase resulted from the online presentation style via Zoom that allowed flexibility in the place and time

restrictions. 34 presentations were made in the four sessions, excluding the two due to withdrawal and communication problems, and the participants exchanged useful advice in the discussions. The number of participants was 222 for Session A, 249 for Session B, 197 for Session C, and 64 for Session D. The number of participants is thought to have increased due to the fact that the online session made it possible for people from distant locations to participate and also made it easier to move from session to session. Katsura Maruyama (Professor, Sophia University) for his report "Empirical Analysis of the Gender Gap in Children's Financial Literacy" and Ayumi Tashiro (Kwansei Gakuin University graduate student) for his report "Economic Analysis of Reduced Consumption Tax Rates by Generation" received the conference chair award that recognizes outstanding free research presentations.

As described above, the 37th Annual Conference was successfully held with more than 200 participants on both days. To accommodate the large number of free research presentations this time, we outsourced the pre- and post-convention support to a company that provides online conference

assistance, and the cost was covered by the subsidy from The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan.

I believe that the financial support

made it possible for us to hold such a rewarding research conference. As chair of the executive committee, I would like to express my deepest gratitude.

Report on Financial Support for Academic Society Meeting III

Reporting on the Symposium at the 31st National Convention of the Japan Academy of Labor and Management

Ken YAMAZAKI (Meiji University)

Japan Academy of Labor and Management

We held a symposium on labor issues posed by the global spread of COVID-19 as a "corona" breakout session at our society's 31st National Conference (held online on June 26, 2021).

In the second millennium, we have seen progress in platform businesses that connect service providers and users by taking advantage of technological innovations such as artificial intelligence (AI) and information and communications technology (ICT). As a result, the problem arose when service providers provided services as individual contractors rather than in an employment relationship, thus being excluded from health insurance and pensions for which the employer bears

a certain percentage, in addition to contracted minimum wages, maximum working hours, and work accident insurance, even though in reality the services were similar to employment labor. The lockdown of cities in various countries due to the pandemic COVID 19 that occurred under these circumstances led to significant growth in platform businesses such as home delivery.

Our symposium aimed to deepen understanding of the current situation of these individual contract workers and how they should be protected. In the first report, Hirohisa Yamagata presented on his research in "Work styles exposing the laborer's identity in the coronavirus pandemic -- the current

situation and problems". In the second report made by Makoto Urata, he discussed "The situation and policies of platform workers and the trade union movement in each country in the wake of the new coronavirus pandemic". In the first report focusing on Japan, the speaker presented the current situation in which the protection of individual contract workers of platform businesses is based on the existence or non-existence of worker status that determines whether or not they are employed workers, and how it has been limited to ex post facto relief such as conducting lawsuits. In the second report, the speaker presented the current situation in which due protection is provided without necessarily depending on worker status, mainly in Europe. We invited Mr. Urata to join this symposium, because he is familiar with the situation in Europe, having served for a long time as the policy director of the International Transport Workers' Federation based in London.

After the report, in response to questions from the participants, further discussion was made on the protection of individual contract workers, not only under platform businesses, but also outside of various protection measures,

despite the similarity of their condition to hired labor. We focused particularly on whether the recognition of worker status should be prioritized over providing necessary and urgent protection. The exchange of ideas at the symposium was useful in discussing the future development of the study and the nature of the protection provisions.

Though this symposium was originally planned to be held face-to-face, the spread of COVID-19 forced us to hold it online via Zoom. However, by making effective use of the chat function, we were not only able to take as many questions as possible from participants, but we could also create a live atmosphere for the symposium that is not possible in a face-to-face meeting as the speakers answered questions in a flexible manner by viewing the chat during the report and continued to answer questions from the participants during the discussion that followed. Through this, we discovered new possibilities for future symposiums.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan for the grant.

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2022.3.31

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Publisher: The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan

Date of issue: March 31, 2022

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