



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

## No.59 2023

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## **Message upon Retirement**

### **Our Progress toward Coeducation, Co-Development, Co-Creation, and Coexistence**

Ken'ichi ENATSU  
10<sup>th</sup> President  
(Professor Emeritus, Waseda University)

It was in 2008 that I was appointed to succeed Masao Uno (Professor Emeritus, Waseda University) to assume the role of President of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan (hereinafter, the Union). Ever since, I have been managing the Union over a long period of 15 years.

Founded in 1950, when Japan had started on its way to growth as it recovered from World War II, the Union has more than 70 years of history and tradition.

The Union is a voluntary alliance of academic organizations consisting of more than 60 academic societies (with an approximate total of 30,000 members) of scholars, researchers and specialists conducting research and education in economics and related sciences. Our motto is upholding freedom, equality, fairness, justice, democracy, and peace.

The management of the Union has been funded by the annual membership fees contributed by the member academic societies and the donations received from various sectors (For example, as part of the 50th anniversary project, the board members collaborated in fundraising by calling on top managers of major corporations from their respective laboratories and leaders of industry-based organizations), the fruits of which were applied for effective purposes. We have planned and managed the project by electing two trustees for each society, with ten directors and two auditors elected by vote of the trustees.

In this sense, the Union is a private, independent academic alliance that is unique in Japan and truly rare in the world.

Since its incubation to the present, I believe that the Union was able to

declare its significant presence in society through activities such as providing various financial support to the member academic societies, publishing the Information Bulletin and the Newsletter, holding academic forums and producing web reports of their achievements, etc. These were our endeavors to disseminate the “activities characteristic and unique to the Union” to academic, social, and global sectors.

However, the environment for economic study and research in Japan underwent a profound change in 2019 and thereafter, with the start of the COVID pandemic, elevated geographic risks such as the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and threats involving Taiwan, and the sensory paradigm shift encompassing the political, economic, social, and environmental factors, as represented by the trend for sustainable development goals or SDGs, accelerated by digital transformation (including generative artificial intelligence).

Concurrent to this period of transition, the Union is also faced with unprecedented issues and challenges. We presume that the Union has reached a

turning point which requires us to drastically innovate our social mission.

I retire from the position of President at this most exciting timing, and the new Union will start with new members in its Board of Directors and Administrative Committee.

There is no doubt to the remarkable advancement in promoting the renaissance of the study of economics in Japan through the *Shin* Union, repeatedly innovating itself, as it continues to uphold the good tradition of “coeducation,” “co-development,” “co-creation,” and “coexistence” under the leadership of the new President, Mitsuhide Shiraki.

Finally, I have been involved with the Union for over 30 years, including the time I served as the Secretary-General. Please let me express my deepest appreciation to the Members of the Council, Directors of the Board, and Advisors of the Administrative Committee who served their respective appointments, the three successive Secretary-Generals with whom I worked, causing them much difficulty, and every member of the Secretariat, all who helped and supported me in various ways. (Period of appointment: 2008 through 2023)

## **On the Publication of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Issue of the Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan**

Nobuo WATANABE (Josai International University)  
Chairman, Editorial Committee

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Issue of the Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan was published in December 2022, with articles by 9 academic societies: the 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, Japan Society of Household Economics, Japan Academy of Multinational Enterprises, Japan Association for Regional Economic Studies.

Upon publishing this issue, one Editorial Committee member was selected from the respective academic societies indicated above: Satoru Hashimoto, Sachio Imakubo, Hiroki Nishijima, Nobuo Watanabe, Katsuyuki Kamei, Akiyoshi Arakawa, Hideto Azegami, Takuya Fukazawa, Hironobu Oda. Likewise, one Authoring Committee member was chosen from each academic society: Satoru Hashimoto, Etsuo Abe, Tomihiro Katayama, Masakazu Yanagishita, Katsuyuki Kamei, Akinori Isogai, Kyoko Uemura, Takuya

Fukazawa, and Hironobu Oda. (The order for mentioning the names of the respective Editorial / Authoring Committee members follows the order of the academic societies, as indicated above.)

We held two Editorial Committee meetings, both of which were substituted by post mail, cancelling the face-to-face style that was planned to take place in a meeting room at Waseda University.

At the 1<sup>st</sup> Editorial Committee meeting held on February 3, 2022, we elected the Chairman, confirmed the schedule for the editing process, and reported / discussed the real and internet distribution methods. There were reports about the web version of the Information Bulletin has been the standard since the 35<sup>th</sup> Issue (published in December 2015), when we abolished the paper version, with the digital distribution becoming mainstream and internet searches having outnumbered actual reference searches; the Information Bulletin's currently being limited to web reference, and the electronic version of the Information Bulletin being currently available through J-STAGE, the open system for digital journals distributed by

the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and Union of National Economic Associations in Japan homepage, and the fact that every issue of the Information Bulletin published since 1980 to the present being recorded in pdf format and disclosed for reference on the Union homepage. We also reported about sending the Information Bulletin to overseas destinations (university libraries, research institutes, etc.), as well as to university libraries and research institutes in Japan, as well as to various quarters of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan (62 member societies, directors, councilors, etc.) in writing or by e-mail when the issue was published. Next, we discussed the editorial outline for Issue No. 42, and it was decided that we would follow the same editorial policy as for the previous issue. We also reported on one of our projects, the 6<sup>th</sup> Academic Forum of the Union, planned to take place online on March 5, 2022, under the theme of "International Division of Labor among Firms in East Asia: The Case of EVs in the Automobile Industry." We also mentioned about launching the web publication, "Toward the Creation of a Sustainable Economic Society in the 21st Century," in November 2021, in addition to the "Union of National Economic Associations in Japan" YouTube academic channel.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on October 14, 2022, we discussed our policies for

editing the manuscript for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Issue of the Information Bulletin in the final editing and proofreading process, the schedule for the editing to be done up to the bulletin's publication, and the methods of distribution.

We also decided on the academic societies for authoring the articles to be included in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Issue (Next issue) of the Information Bulletin. They are the following 12 academic societies: The Japanese Society for the History of Economic Thought, The Socio-Economic History Society, Japan Institute of Public Finance, Japan Association for Social Policy Studies, Japan Academy for International Trade and Business, The Japan Association for Comparative Economic Studies, The Academic Association for Organizational Science, Japan Logistics Society, Japan Association for the Comparative Studies of Management, The Society for the History of Management Theories, Japan Scholarly Association for Asian Management, and Transcultural Management Society. It was further reported that the 6<sup>th</sup> Academic Forum had been held as reported at the previous meeting. (EBSCOhost: "EBSCO Host"), and that the discussion on the publication of the Annual Report in English in EBSCO was approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors and Councilors of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan held on October 2022.

It was reported that at the meeting of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan Board of Directors and Board of Councilors held on October 24, 2022, we discussed and approved the request from EBSCO to include the Information Bulletin in its database (EBSCOhost: "EBSCO Host"). The Board of Directors and Councilors of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, at their meeting held on October 2022, discussed and approved a request from EBSCO to include the Information Bulletin in the database (EBSCOhost: "EBSCO Host") and to publish the Information Bulletin on EBSCO.

The Information Bulletin of the Union of National Economic Associations

in Japan provides an important opportunity for the results of academic research in Japan to be made visible to many researchers around the world. As mentioned above, its activities are becoming increasingly important, as evidenced by the request from EBSCO for inclusion in the publication last year.

Finally, I should like to express my deep appreciation for the enormous support and cooperation provided by the members of the Editorial and Authoring Committees, Paul Snowden (Professor Emeritus, Waseda University), Kenichi Enatsu our President, Keiichi Hasegawa our Secretary-General, and Yoshiko Ishii, in publishing the 42<sup>nd</sup> Issue of the International Bulletin.

## International Conference Participation Report I

### Joining the 117th American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

Yurie MOMOSE (The University of Tokyo)  
Japan Association for Social Policy Studies

From Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I participated in the 117th American Sociological Association Annual Meeting that was held in Los Angeles, California, USA. I spent six days there, also joining the preconference

events that took place on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. The sponsor, the American Sociological Association (ASA), founded in 1905, is one of the largest academic societies of sociology studies in the world and has made dedicated contribution to the work of

sociologists, to the development of sociology as a science and a profession, and its mission to promote sociology to contribute and apply sociological research to society. Therefore, the annual meetings serve as the venues to share the knowledge and new pathways in research and implementation for sociologists and specialists in the research of social sciences. Yet the 2020 annual meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2021 annual meeting was held online. The 2022 annual meeting, the first face-to-face convention in two years, had two locations, the Los Angeles Convention Center and JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE hotel. Nearly 600 sessions were held at both venues, with over 3,000 research papers



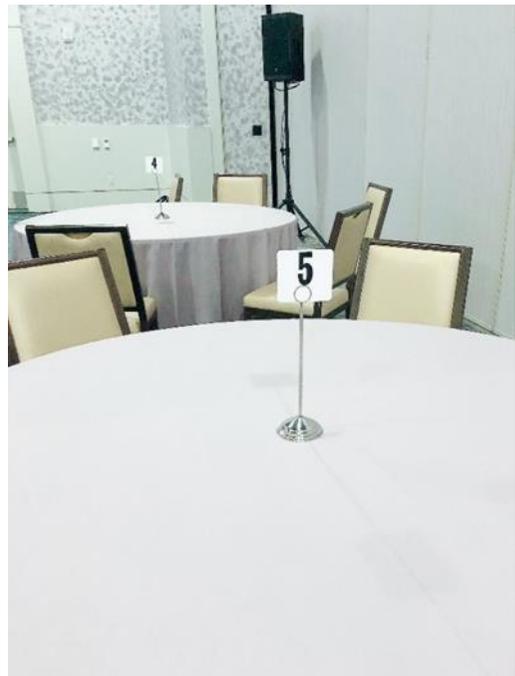
reported by more than 4,500 presenters, providing scholarly opportunities for more than 5,000 participants. Sociologists from the United States and around the world gathered in one place.

This was the first time in my life that I have attended an international conference. I would like to report on the research presentations as well as some of the interesting points. I reported on my research on Saturday, August 6, at Table 5, Family and Youth, in the Asia and Asian America Roundtable session. A roundtable is a format in which presenters and participants sit around a table and give reports, and the ASA Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for direct presentations in roundtable style in addition to general verbal presentations in which



presenters take the stage and give presentations to participating audiences. There is a significant difference in the format of these two presentations. For example, in a typical presentation on the stage, a facilitator leads an audience of 20 to 30 people, and three to four presenters give slide presentations in turn, followed by a general question-and-answer period during which each presenter answers questions from the floor. Generally, we have one or two questions per report. On the other hand, in the round table sessions, seating was limited due to the small number of facilitators, presenters, and participants, between 5 to 10 people in total. Since there is no screen to project slides in the room, the presenters report on their research at the table by sharing handouts or their own computers as necessary. The flow of the presentation differs from that of a typical presentation and depends on the discretion of the facilitator. For example, in a format similar to a general presentation, the facilitator may ask other presenters or participants if they have any questions after the presenter's report, and the person designated by the facilitator may ask some questions. In other cases, there is no clear Q&A period after the presenter's report. In such cases, the facilitator does not decide who will speak after the research presentation. The presenters and participants, including the facilitator, make

comments and ask questions to each other in a style similar to discourse. The presenter is more concerned with communicating verbatim due to the setting that makes it difficult to rely on equipment, and cannot be an observer because everyone at the table has something to say, including self-introductions. Active participation is required in roundtable-style sessions.



Especially in such discourse, when comments and questions are flying around and it is difficult to break into the discussion, it is more difficult for the participant to join the session. However, round tables are more attractive than general-style presentations, because the presenters can get more comments and questions, and the participants can ask in-depth questions, making the free exchange of ideas more

attractive than in a general presentation.



The author presented a paper on "Bullying Experience in Childhood and Health Outcomes in Adulthood" at the roundtable. This research was conducted in collaboration with Professor Hiroshi Ishida (University of Tokyo). The research examined whether the experience of being bullied at school has long-term effects on the three health outcomes (subjective health, mental health, and activity limitations) in Japanese adulthood. Specifically, we employed a random-effects model and the Karlson-Holm-Breen (KHB) method of econometrics to decompose the effects of

the experience of being bullied in school on health disparities into direct effects and indirect effects via mediating factors such as education, marriage, socioeconomic status, and social networks. The data were obtained from a nationally representative panel data set. Data were obtained from the "Japanese Life Course Panel Surveys (JLPS), 2007-2020 (wave1-14)" of the Institute of Social Science at the University of Tokyo, which is a nationally representative panel data set, covering 2,260 men and 2,260 women. The analysis covered 2,260 men and 2,608 women. The main findings were that for both men and women, the indirect effects of mediating factors were modest, and the direct effects with the experience of being bullied at school were strong, with negative long-term effects on health outcomes in adulthood. When we reported these results, we were surprised to find that the direct effect of the experience of being bullied in school was strong and that it did not differ between genders. Through this report, we were able to reaffirm the merits and limitations of this study and to receive very useful feedback for further research in the future.

There were two things that surprised me this time, in addition to learning about the best parts of round-table sessions. First, the ASA being the largest of its kind in the world, various research

presentations were made from morning to evening during the event. This allowed me to deepen my knowledge by being exposed to cutting-edge knowledge from researchers around the world, and I was glad to discover that there were researchers on topics close to my own interests, even in fields where there are still few researchers in Japan. Moreover, I was inspired by listening to those presentations on study areas not directly related to my current research, when I attended a session on a topic that I am interested in, and it was a very valuable opportunity for me to plan my next research project. Second, 50% of the participants in the ASA Annual Meeting were women, as if the conference were a microcosm of the world, and in some sessions, all 20 to 30 participants were women, even in sessions that were not related to women. In Japan, there are more female researchers in the social sciences than in the natural sciences, but women make up only about 20% at most, and male researchers dominate the field. Furthermore, the ASA annual meeting was attended by

many young researchers who were doctoral students or post-doctoral fellows. Seeing so many active women in academics and being able to exchange information with others in a similar position provided me with food for thought to nurture my future research.

Though this was my very first time to attend an international conference, I spent a fulfilling time during the conference period. Without doubt, I owe this experience to Japan Association for Social Policy Studies that recommended me to apply for financial assistance, and to the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan that granted me the capital. To conclude my report, I express my sincere appreciation for everyone involved in providing me with this opportunity.

(Photo details)

Left and right, page 6: Los Angeles Convention Center

Right, page 7, and left, page 8: My research presentation at Table 5, Family and Youth, Asia and Asian America Roundtable

## International Conference Participation Report II

### Attending the GSSI 2022 International Conference

Shinji HONGE (Okayama University of Science)  
Japan Society of Marketing and Distribution

### 【Overview of the international conference】

Name: the 15th Annual Conference of the Global Sales Science Institute

Location: Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Venue: Mövenpick Hotel Frankfurt City

Hosting organization: Global Sales Science Institute

Conference Chairs:

Stefan Wengler, Hof University of Applied Sciences, GER

Gabriele Hildmann, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, GER

Catherine M. Johnson, University of Toledo, USA

Ulrich Vossebein, THM University of Applied Sciences, GER

Period: June 8 through 11, 2022

Participation by nationality: 30 countries

Number of participants: 73

Topic: Creating Value for Customers and Companies in a Changing World

### 【Participating report】

From June 8th to June 11th, 2022, I participated and presented at the 15th Annual Conference of the Global Sales Science Institute international conference in Frankfurt, Germany.

The academic society uniquely specialized in the sales research. It is a global network of researchers and business practitioners established in 2007 for the purpose of integrating the scientific research, education, and best practices of B2B sales and sales management worldwide. The society consists of researchers and professionals in B2B sales research, practice, and education from

around the world. This was their 15th annual conference.

I first participated in the conference held in Hiroshima, Japan in 2015 to make a joint research presentation. In 2016, I also presented about joint research at the conference in Birmingham, England. Prof. Kenichi Hosoi of the Faculty of Business Administration, Hiroshima University of Economics, having served as the Co- Chair for the conference in Hiroshima, both Japan and Japanese researchers attracted a lot of attention at the convention.

This year, a keynote lecture was held on the general topic, "Creating Value for Customers and Companies in a

Changing World," and active sessions and research reports were made on the theme from diverse perspectives. The market environment changes due to Covid-19 greatly affected the sales and sales management fields, and highly motivated discussion was held about the need to evolve the sales



representative's role, that formerly tended to focus on immediate achievements, into a more innovative role as the changemaker for their companies and customers.



The title of my presentation at the convention was "A case study of the birth, adaptation and evolution of the global standard sales process management 'The Model'." This case study focuses on how "The Model" proposed by salesforce.com, founded in 1999, evolved into a world-standard sales process management concept. The Model is characterized by the division of the sales process into marketing, inside sales, field sales, and customer success. This idea originates in a Japanese businessperson, and his contributions have been instrumental in its evolution. I

attempted to clarify in my presentation how the global standard model was born and how the concept evolved through merging local and global ideas. It also discusses the challenges the company's Japanese subsidiary is currently facing about "The Model," which has become a global standard, in adapting it to the Japanese market to accommodate the changes, including the consequences of Covid-19, in the market environment and the countermeasures in progress.



In general, I was impressed



that the presentations were mostly about joint research and not about individual research. This convinced me about the current global-level trend that has been pointed out recently, namely the importance of multinational researchers of different fields of specialization building networks to conduct research. Another point that impressed me was that most of the 73 participants from 30 countries who joined

this conference were non-native English speakers. Yet they proficiently used “English as a communicative tool” as the discussions proceeded with the participants supporting each other. Even when the presenters had difficulty listening to or comprehending the questions and comments from the floor, the members of the audience immediately offered help, and the persons who made the comments paraphrased the points at once. I observed



the beneficial cycle of good research leading to good presentation, and good presentations initiating good questions, which generated good research. I suppose there are still many Japanese researchers, including myself, who find it difficult to write papers in English, present and discuss about them. I will conclude my

report by emphasizing that we should overcome our hesitation to take steps toward making proactive efforts for the advancement of research and networking, thereby contributing to practical performance and eventually to society.

(Photo details)

Top, page 11: Group photo of study session

Center, page 11: Groupwork scene

Bottom, page 11, and top left, page 12: Presentation and discussion scenes

Bottom left and right, page 12: Presenting my research report

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

## **Reporting on Our Invitation of a Foreign Scholar with Financial Assistance**

Sosuke MORIMOTO (Rikkyo University)  
Japan Society of Political Economy

We held our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> in 2022 at the Kokubunji Campus of Tokyo Keizai University. The general theme was “SDGs and Modern Capitalism: A Political Economic Approach.” Every year, Japan Society of Political Economy and Routledge, the British publisher, collaborate in awarding The JSPE Routledge Book Prize for authors of books in English. The author receiving the prize will give a special lecture in the annual conference of the following year. The Special Lecturer for this conference was Prof. Sunanda Sen, the prize winner for 2021, currently conducting research at

Levy Economics Institute, Bard College, USA. We invited him to Japan for eleven days’ stay starting October 6<sup>th</sup> with the financial assistance provided by the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, and Prof. Sen participated in the English session of this conference as well as gave us his special lecture on the first day of the conference, between 17:20 and 18:30, Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

A large number of members attended the special lecture for the first face-to-face convention in the past three years, as Prof. Sen spoke passionately on “Dominant Finance in the New Phase of Imperialism” in the big classroom of Tokyo Keizai University for 70 minutes, including

the Q&A period. His report consisted of highlighting the "new" aspects of today's imperialism by contrasting it with the "old" forms of imperialism of the colonial period. Specifically, during the colonial period, as was typical in British-ruled India, there were political as well as economic domination by the East India Company and other major traders; whereas in modern-day imperialism, the colonies seem to have achieved political independence but they are still agents under the control of the liberalized market, with the suzerain (developed) country expropriating resources from the colonized (developing) country, in the same way as it was done in the colonial period. According to Prof. Sen, this "new" aspect first appeared in the 1990s when the world markets were integrated through globalization, promoted by the free trade agreements such as GATT and the present WTO. However, in this phase, colonial/developing countries have not become rich, but their wealth has been absorbed by the suzerain/advanced countries, and the power of finance capital in advanced countries that have accumulated the absorbed wealth (capital) is rapidly expanding, Sen pointed out. He then discussed in detail the current domination of the real economy by the financial capital that has amassed such power, using the United States and India as

examples. Prof. Sen then discussed in detail, giving examples of USA and India, how the real economy based on the control of finance capital with accumulated power is in currently in progress. After his lecture, the conference participants, not limited to members of our academic society who have known him over the years, widely enjoyed networking and exchanges with Prof. Sen.

Due to the pandemic conditions of COVID-19 changing moment by moment, we had difficulty inviting Prof. Sen to our conference as the restrictions for immigration to Japan were not yet lifted. There were some members who advised us to cancel the invitation. We are grateful for the support offered by Seinan Gakuin University that agreed to serve as the host institution and Mariko Kato (Seinan Gakuin University), the JSPE member who was well acquainted with Prof. Sen, to make possible our international scholar invitation. Also, we appreciate the financial support provided by the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan that made the funding for this invitation a reality, as our academic society finances were scarce. Thanks to your support, our society could make deep, real exchanges with Prof. Sen that could not be achieved through online convention. Once again, I express my appreciation to all of you.

## Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, Japan Society for Business Ethics

Hironori KAWAGUCHI

Japan Society for Business Ethics

Since its founding in 1993, Japan Society for Business Ethics (JABES) has worked on establishing the ethics for business management and corporations in Japan. To celebrate our society's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we held a commemorative

symposium at the Hitotsubashi Hall on Friday, March 31, 2023. I shall report on this symposium, made possible with the financial support offered to us by the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan.

Date and time: 13:00 to 17:00 (Reception from 12:30), Friday, March 31, 2023

Venue: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hitotsubashi Hall, National Center of Sciences

Address: 2-1-2, Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

General Topic: "CSR, CSV and Sustainability"

Agenda:

- (1) Greetings by Ayako Sendo, Chair, JABES
- (2) Introducing the message from Prof. David J. Vogel, Professor Emeritus, University of California at Berkeley
- (3) Lectures

Part 1: Laura J. Spence, Professor, the Royal Holloway, University of London, one of the pioneers in business ethics research in the UK and Europe

Topic: "Business Ethics, CSR, Sustainability and Sustainable Development Goals"

Part 2: Kenji Sukeno, Chairman, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Fuji Film Holdings

Topic: "Sustainability Management and Business Portfolio Management at Fuji Film Holdings"

- (4) Reception with Prof. Laura Spence at Rm. 320, Gakushi Kaikan  
(Greetings: Prof. Hiroo Takahashi, Former JABES Chair)





### Lecturer's Profile

Laura Spence, Professor, the Royal Holloway, University of London

Field of specialization: Business Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability, Social Capital, Social Contribution Activities, Social Entrepreneurship, Strategic Human

Resource Management, Study of Small and Medium-sized Corporations

### Brief academic history:

September 2008 to the Present

Professor of Business Ethics, the Royal Holloway, University of London

2017 to the Present

Advisory Council Member, Institute of Business Ethics

March 2021 to the Present

Fellow at Peer Review College, British Academy of Management

**Report on Financial Support for Academic Society Meeting**

## **Report on the Symposium, Spring Conference 2022**

Masakazu NAGAE (Senshu University)

The Political Economy and Economic History Society

On the occasion of our spring academic conference (held online on June 25, 2022), we convened for a symposium on the theme of “The Comparative Social History of ‘Connective Relations’” to discuss the recent research achievements involving the forms of local communal

existence, from the perspective of periodic and international comparative study.

The symposium consisted of three presentations based on the issue for discussion posed by Masahiko Sakaguchi. First, regarding historical analysis, two presenters, one a member and the other a

non-member, reported on recent research trends in prewar Japan and China: Mr. Masahiko Sakaguchi (member), "The Cohesive Relationship of Local Communities in Prewar Japan: The Case of *Muras* with *Machiba* Characteristics," and Mr. Tadashi Kono (non-member), "The Complexity of Human Cohesion in Villages in North China in the Early Years of the People's Republic of China: Measures to (The case of a village in North China in the early years of the People's Republic of China)". As a case report on a current rural community, a non-member specialist in rural sociology presented a report: Yoichi Aikawa (non-member), "Existence and Survival Conditions of Village Autonomy in Contemporary Mountain Villages: A Case Study of Yasaka-cho, Hamada City, Shimane Prefecture".

In response to the above reports, we received comments from Takashi Iida (member) from the perspective of European rural history and Keiichiro Matsumura (non-member), who studies rural Africa from the perspective of cultural anthropology, which helped to bridge the discussion and extract points of contention in the reports that involved separate fields in period and subject. The field of rural communality is an interdisciplinary research theme that includes not only economic history but also sociology and

In conclusion, I express my

cultural anthropology. Various issues concerning recent research trends and the current understanding of rural communality were raised by experts from outside the conference, and useful discussions were exchanged.

This symposium was conducted online using Zoom. The reports were delivered online in real time, and questions and answers were collected from the participants using the chat function and Google Forms, and the presenters and commentators were asked to answer them directly verbatim.

The symposium was conducted with advance registration system and participants were properly confirmed, resulting in smooth discussions. In addition to safety measures under the current COVID19 epidemic, online symposiums have advantages in terms of facilitating the participation of presenters and participants from distant locations in the event of typhoons or other weather conditions. It seems to be gaining ground as an option for future conference symposia, including those held in a hybrid face-to-face/online format. On the other hand, however, there were opinions that the rigid implementation of the advance registration system made it less convenient for participants to participate, and this is an issue to be considered for future improvement.

sincere appreciation for the financial

support provided by the Union of National  
Economic Associations in Japan.

## Member Association Trustees

2023.3.31

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Publisher: The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan

Date of issue: July 31, 2023

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