

CIRJE Newsletter

Center for International Research on the Japanese Economy

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Center for
International Research
on the Japanese Economy
Faculty of Economics
University of Tokyo
(CIRJE)

Message from the Director

Takatoshi Tabuchi Appointed CIRJE Director

Takatoshi Tabuchi
CIRJE Director,
Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo



The Center for International Research on the Japanese Economy (CIRJE) was established in 1998 in order to pursue international joint research mainly on the Japanese economy and its related fields. CIRJE is attached to the Graduate School of Economics at the University of Tokyo, and many faculty members do joint research with members of CIRJE.

CIRJE fosters various workshops such as micro and macroeconomics workshops, where many latest research developments are presented on a regular basis. The research outputs are often circulated as CIRJE discussion papers which are open on the web.

CIRJE's research projects receive funding from a variety of sources such as the Japan Federation of Housing Organizations. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support. CIRJE has a number of projects that encompass a wide variety of issues that confront our society. One of our important projects is Workshop on Housing, where housing problems and policies are extensively discussed regularly. International conferences are also our important projects. As in previous years, CIRJE hosted several international conferences in 2011 as follows.



The eighth joint conference of Seoul National University and University of Tokyo, Current Topics of Economic Policy

The Joint Conference with Seoul National University (SNU) was held at Kojima Conference Room at the University of Tokyo on November 11,

2011. This was the eighth annual conference series between CIRJE and Institute of Economic Research in SNU. The theme of the conference was "Current Topics of Economic Policy". We had four distinguished guest speakers from SNU: Chulhee Lee, Byung-Yeon Kim, Biung-Ghi Ju, and Sokbae Simon Lee. From University of Tokyo, Toshiaki Iizuka and Masayoshi Hayashi participated as speakers and Hiroshi Ohashi and Seung-Gyu Sim joined as discussants. Shin-ichi Fukuda chaired a session. At the end of the conference, we confirmed further collaborations between CIRJE and Institute of Economic Research in SNU.



International Conference 2011, "Frontiers in Corporate Finance and Corporate Governance"

The Joint International Conference with Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) took place on November 18, 2011 at Development Bank of Japan. This is a joint conference sponsored by Research Institute of Capital Formation, DBJ and the Institute of Economic Statistical Research. The theme of the conference was "Frontiers in Corporate Finance and Corporate Governance". We invited overseas researchers covering the fields of corporate finance and corporate governance. This conference provided an opportunity for the candid exchange of opinions concerning the issues of firms such as the role of financial institutions and capital markets, and the allocations of control rights, through reports of the latest academic research results.

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Power and Peasants in Russia in the 20th Century (November 26, 2011)

Russo-Japanese Conference "History of the Russian Peasantry in the 20th Century" took place on November 26, 2011 at Economics Research Annex (Kojikma Hall), University of Tokyo. This conference is the third one, preceded by the two: one in November 2002, the other in November 2003. The result of the previous conferences was published by CIRJE in the CIRJE Research Report Series (CIRJE-R-2) in 2005. In the latest conference, from the Russian side Doctor Irina Koznova (Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences) gave a report on the changes of consciousness of the Russian peasantry during the 20th century, Professor Viktor Kondrashin (Belinsky Penza State Pedagogical University) on the mechanism of the outbreak of famine in 1932-1933, Doctor Galina Dobronozhenko (Syktyvkar State University) on the concept of "kulaks" from the period of War Communism till the 1930s. From the Japanese side Doctor Naoko Hirooka (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) gave a report on the medical services in the 19th century in comparison with those in Japan, Doctor Choi Zhaedong (Keio University) on the problems of fire prevention in prerevolutionary Russian countryside, and Doctor Zenji Asaoka (Fukushima University)

on the movement of rural correspondents during the NEP period. About 20 scholars participated in the conference, and exchanged opinions about problems, presented by the reports. Materials of all the reports will soon be published in Russian in the CIRJE Research Report Series No. 9 (CIRJE-R-9), edited by Professor Hiroshi Okuda (University of Tokyo). This collection of papers also includes 3 articles, contributed by Doctor Yuka Takeda (Hitotsubashi University) on the problems of individual household plots in the recent Russian countryside, Professor Masanori Kimura (Matsumoto Dental University) on the role of party fractions in the State industry during the NEP period, and Professor Nina Rogalina (Moscow State University) on the recent historiography of collectivization of agriculture.



■ CIRJE Visitors ■

In 2011, we welcomed many distinguished visitors from other research institutions and universities abroad. Some of them wrote about their research activities they conducted while here at CIRJE.

Chronicles of a Second Research Season in CIRJE

On this second visit to the University of Tokyo and CIRJE, I quickly settled down to enjoy the outstanding research environment it has to offer. After strolling under golden-leaved ginkgos, wide-spreading heavy-boughed camphor trees and blooming Himalaya Sakuras, after listening to bird symphonies around Sanshiro Ike, I would ease into the brand new and highly functional Kojima Hall and my comfortable office to start the day's work in euphoric mood. Stimulating discussions with active and world renowned researchers, outstanding assistance from Atsuya-san and Tanaka-san and an exciting seminar series (including the new empirical microeconomics workshop, where I had the pleasure of meeting former students from my time at Columbia University) made it a very rewarding as well as remarkably productive experience.

Of the many research projects that occupied me during my stay at CIRJE, three stand out and deserve a mention. Methodological work on inference methods in models of strategic interaction, such as game theoretic models of imperfect competition or social interactions in networks now appears in CIRJE discussion paper F-838 and gave rise to extensive discussions with Ohashi-sensei on the estimation of

models of innovation activity in Japan based on the data from J6NIS 2009. I also enjoyed stimulating discussions with Ichimura-sensei on the application of methodological work on discrete choice models, now appearing as CIRJE discussion paper F-835, to education and migration decisions in developing countries. Finally, research on measuring multiple risks that are correlated, but non substitutable, such as monetary and environmental risks, now features as CIRJE discussion paper F-836 and was the occasion for a visit to Ishinomaki and other tsunami-hit areas in relation with the DEVAST project.

However, life in Tokyo was far from restricted to research. My son's happy return to wonderful Shinno Shogakko in Shirokanemura and the many school activities (not least of all the pounding of rice to make mochi) gave me invaluable insights into Japanese culture that even University of Tokyo could not provide. On my last day, as I watched wistfully the examination billboards being raised on campus walk, I felt deeply indebted to all CIRJE faculty research fellows and staff for their renewed hospitality and wished my departure was only for a very short while...

Marc Henry
Department of Economics,
University of Montreal, Canada



The Road to CIRJE

I am extremely grateful to Professor Shin-ichi Fukuda, whom has helped me to obtain the Normura Foundation Visiting Professor post originally for a four months period from April to July 2011, but due to the devastating earthquake and the subsequent nuclear leak in March 2012, I was advised not to come. In addition to share the teaching of a Master degree course, I was intended in the four months period to finish writing the final chapters of my book on "Economic Freedom: Lessons of Hong Kong".

As the situation in Tokyo has improved drastically, Professor Fukuda has arranged me to visit CIRJE in two separate periods from November 23 to December 1, 2011 and from January 22 to January 28, 2012. I used the materials from my book to give two lectures to a group of master degree students on Hong Kong's

finance and monetary issues during the first visit. I also took the opportunity to meet a number of scholars in the Faculty of Economics, and attended seminars at the Asian Development Bank Institute. In addition, I used the time to revise one of my papers, which will be included as a Discussion Paper in the CIRJE.

I teach the Asia Pacific Economies in my home university, and conduct research on globalization, financial crisis, political economy and China and Asian economies. I used a number of Japanese examples in my teaching, and if opportunity arises, I would like to work more on the Japan economy, which could be a good experience for other emerging economies. I enjoyed my visit to CIRJE, and would like to express my gratitude to Professor Fukuda and the ladies in his office for the arrangement.

Kui-Wai Li

Department of Economics and Finance,
City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong



Crisis in 1929, 1979 and 2008

My visit to CIRJE during the second half of November 2011 was my first visit to Japan, a visit that not only was enjoyable but also fruitful for my research. I am exploring similarities and differences between the 1920s, the 1970s and the years running up to 2007-8 (mostly for the US economy). The similarities between the years prior to 1929 and the years prior to 2007 are striking, whereas the years following the end of the 'golden age' in 1973 are quite different. For the years prior to 1929 and the years prior to 2007 saw international

imbalances interact with speculative excess to produce either negative growth or a long period of stagnation with large levels of indebtedness. But this is also familiar to students of the Japanese economy of the 1990s, and it is quite clear that a study of Japanese economic policy has considerable relevance to Western European and US policy today. I hope to explore this further, perhaps with a return visit to Japan in the not too distant future.

Simon Mohun

School of Business and Management,
Queen Mary, University of London, UK



From Berne (Switzerland) to Tokyo

In 2008 I had the chance for the first time to enjoy the outstanding research facilities and the diverse spread of research interests represented at CIRJE. I was therefore delighted when I learnt from Tomoji Onozuka, my host and sponsor at Todai, that I was offered the opportunity to join CIRJE again as a short term visitor. We agreed about the following topics to be addressed in seminar discussions: a.) the impact of politics on historical narratives; and b.) the interpretation of totalitarian regimes as "political religions". I was deeply impressed by the sophisticated level of discussion about complex issues of modern history at these seminars. The intellectual exchange with my Japanese colleagues enabled me to broaden

my horizons and to integrate early twentieth-century Japanese history into my research framework. The seminars were attended, among others, by Professor Tomoji Onozuka from University of Tokyo, Professor Hiroshi Ichihara from the Surugadai University, and Professor Yuji Nishimuta from the Kyoto University.

I also had the opportunity to continue the exchange of ideas with younger scholars such as Naoko Inoue, Tetsutada Suzuki and Tadahiro Hamaguchi, all of them dealing with border studies in the region where Italy, Slovenia and Croatia meet. This experience was extremely rewarding for me and I much hope that the exchange with the colleagues of CIRJE will continue in the future.

Marina Cattaruzza
Institute of History,
University of Bern, Switzerland



CIRJE Discussion Paper Series

<http://www.cirje.e.u-tokyo.ac.jp/research/03research02dp.html>

As a part of our research activities, we regularly circulate two series' of Discussion Papers, in Japanese (J-series) and foreign languages (F-series), which are available for download at the CIRJE website. From April 2011 to March 2012, 21 papers in J-series and 51 papers in F-series are published. CIRJE also circulates the discussion papers to institutions and universities both inside and outside of Japan.

Visitors

One of the major tasks of CIRJE has been to facilitate interaction with visitors from home and abroad. We welcomed many distinguished visitors with a broad range of research interests. Below is a part of them.

Visiting Professor

- Marc Henry :
October 3 - February 1, 2012
Department of Economics, University of Montreal, Canada



Visiting Associate Professors

- Yoshiaki Sugimoto :
April 1 - September 30, 2011
Faculty of Economics, Kagawa University, Japan
- Hiroaki Miyamoto :
October 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012
Graduate School of International Relations,
International University of Japan, Japan



Short Term Visitors

- Kui-Wai Li : *Nomura Foundation Short-term Visitor
November 23 - December 1, 2011, January 22 - 28, 2012
Department of Economics and Finance, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

- Viktor V. Kondrashin: *Nomura Foundation Short-term Visitor
November 24 - December 1, 2011
Department of History, Belinsky Penza State Pedagogical University, Russia
- John Driffill : April 12 - 15, 2011
Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics, Birkbeck College, University of London, UK
- Martin Berka: April 20 - 29, 2011
Department of Economics and Finance, Massey University, New Zealand
- Satoru Takahashi: May 16 - 20, August 22 - 26, 2011
Department of Economics, Princeton University, USA
- Nan Li: June 1 - 4, 2011
Department of Economics, Yale University, USA
- Fuhito Kojima: June 27 - August 8, 2011
Department of Economics, Stanford University, USA
- R. Anton Braun: July 31 - August 21, 2011
Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, USA
- Robin W. Boadway: December 3 - 10, 2011
Department of Economics, Queen's University, Canada
- Olivier Tercieux: February 20 - 22, 2012
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris School of Economics, France
- Eric Weese: March 4 - 15, 2012
Department of Economics, Yale University, USA

Staff

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Takatoshi Tabuchi (Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo)

Professors

Shin-ichi Fukuda (Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo)

Hidehiko Ichimura (Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo)

Naoto Kunitomo (Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo)

Yasuyuki Sawada (Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo)



Tsutomu Watanabe (Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo)

Advisors

Koichi Hamada (Tuntex Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Yale University)

Hideki Kanda (Professor, Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, University of Tokyo)

Koichi Minaguchi (Lifetime-member of Japan Association of Corporate Executives, Adviser of Nomura Research Institute)

Kazuo Nishimura (Specially Appointed Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University)

Kunio Okina (Professor, School of Government, Kyoto University)

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