



**Information Bulletin of
The Union of National
Economic Associations
in Japan**

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THE UNION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS IN JAPAN

日本経済学会連合

The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, established in 1950, celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2010, as the sole nationwide federation of associations of scholars and experts on economics, commerce, and business administration. In order to obtain membership an association is subject to an examination of its academic work. As of 2017, the Union had a membership of 63 associations, as listed on pp. 71-91.

The aims and objectives of the Union are to support the scholarly activities of its member associations and to promote academic exchanges both among members themselves, and between Japanese and academic societies overseas. The main activities of the Union are: (1) the publication and distribution of academic material concerning Japanese economics and papers presented by member scholars, (2) the sending of members to overseas conferences, (3) the holding and supporting of international conferences in Japan, (4) providing financial assistance to member associations who invite foreign scholars to Japan, and (5) collecting information on activities of member associations and the issuing of a news bulletin.

The Union published in 1974 *Keizaigaku No Doko* (The Trend in Japanese Economics), based on a survey of economic studies undertaken in postwar Japan. A supplementary volume covering Japanese economic studies after 1974 was published in 1982.

The Union and the International Economic Association (IEA) jointly held the Fifth World Congress of the IEA in Tokyo from August 29 to September 3, 1978. The Union joined the International Institute of Public Finance in holding the Institute's 37th Congress at Tokyo in September 1981. The Union dispatched 20 member scholars to the Eighth World Congress of IEA held in India in 1986. Most recently the Union successfully sponsored the IEA Tokyo Round Table Conference on "Institutions in a New Dynamic Society" held between 15 and 17 September 1987, and hosted the 1996 IEA Tokyo Round Table Conference between 16 and 19 December, on the theme "The Institutional Foundation of Economic Development in East Asia." To celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, the Union held a special lecture meeting on May 25, 2000. Three lecturers were invited to speak on the theme, "The reforms that the 21st Century will bring to the world economy, the Japanese economy, and Japanese management."

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of this Association, a special lecture program was held at the Waseda University Okuma Auditorium on October 12, 2010. Three lecturers were invited, each of whom spoke from his own perspective on how

Japan's economy and Japanese business, in the midst of this once-in-a-century global recession, should solve their present plight and forge new routes for the future.

The Union has recently sponsored two Academic Forums. The first was held at Meiji University on September 26, 2015 on the theme of "Examining Japan's Human Globalization — Human Resources, Systems and International Competitiveness". The second was held at Waseda University on October 1, 2016 on the theme of "Directions for Post-TPP and World Trade Systems — Currents in mega-FTA". The proceedings of both events can be accessed at the Union's

website: <http://www.ibi-japan.co.jp/gakkairengo/htdocs/>

The Union celebrated in 1980 the 30th anniversary of its founding by launching a variety of activities, including the publication of The Information Bulletin. Vice-President and Professor Paul Snowden of Kyorin University acts as editorial adviser.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY

Since the 1990s, cross-border trade, the movement of people and funds, and the transmission of information have developed rapidly for a variety of reasons. These include market deregulation via financial Big Bangs, advances in telecommunications technology (the IT revolution), including the spread of the internet, and, politically, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the former socialist bloc in Eastern Europe. As the economic and social interdependence between countries, or globalization, accelerates, historical research is required to clarify the origins and processes that have deepened ties across the world, rather than simply summing national histories. Therefore, there is a need to build different methodological paradigms and frameworks to go beyond the Western-centric approach, which reconstructs history by projecting a world image based on 19th century Europe onto the past. In response to awareness of this issue, global history research, which studies history panoramically and holistically from a global perspective, has been promoted in academic circles inside and outside of Japan. Prominent British economic historian Patrick O'BRIAN (London School of Economics and Political Science) contributed "Historiographical Traditions and Modern Imperatives for the Restoration of Global History" to the *Journal of Global History* 2006 issue, in which he described two main approaches: namely the history of connections, and comparative history (*Journal of Global History* (2006) 1, pp. 3 – 39). Moreover, Japanese Indian historian Tsukasa MIZUSHIMA (The University of Tokyo) emphasizes the length of the historical time axis, the breadth of the geographical space axis, and the diversity of themes covered as the features of global history (Tsukasa Mizushima, *Introduction to Global History* (in Japanese), Yamakawa Shuppansha, 2006). For example, an approach that treats humans as one element in the global environment covers long-term historical change (previously the subject of archeology from the birth of prehistoric humans), the characteristics and evolution of humans as a species, and the emergence of agriculture through to the development of agricultural civilization. Then, in addition to Western developed countries, colonies and emerging countries are identified as dynamic actors, and continental areas such as Eurasia, North and South America, Africa, and Australia, and maritime areas such as the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and Indian Ocean are analyzed. There are also diverse research themes, including the production, distribution, and consumption of global commodities, including sugar, coffee, tea, tobacco, silver, and cotton goods; the propagation of epidemic and infectious diseases; change in the global environment; and comparisons of living standards and wages in each region.

The rising interest in the history of connections and comparative history in the development of global history can also be observed in the activities of the Socio-Economic History Society. In the preface to *Studies in Socio-Economic History, 2002–2011: Collected Essays to Mark the 80th Anniversary of the Socio-Economic History Society, Japan*, Yuhikaku, 2012, Shinya SUGIYAMA (Keio University), President of the Society at the time, observed a trend among the papers and book reviews published in the academic journal since the beginning of the 21st century. He noted that research areas had shifted from Europe and the United States to Asia, including Japan, China, and India, and that the research periods had shifted from the pre-modern and modern to the inter-World War and post-World War II periods. In light of these changes, the publication adopted organizations, humans and the environment, and space and networks as its three major frameworks for organizing research trends.

The special lectures at SEHC annual meeting in 2015 (Juro TERANISHI, Hitotsubashi University, “Economic Activities and Religions: An Approach from the Historical Comparison of Britain and Japan”, Waseda University, May 30th, 2015) and in 2016 (Nak-Nyeon KIM, Dongguk University, “Economic Development of Korea: Long-Term Trends and International Comparisons”, Hokkaido University, June 11th, 2016) also reflected those keen interests in the global comparison of economies and societies beyond the conventional west/east dichotomy.

Rising interest in historical narrative on a global scale is also closely connected to the development of international research networks. Here, the 17th World Economic History Congress held at the Kyoto International Conference Center from August 3–5, 2015, has vital significance. The World Economic History Congress is an international academic conference held every three years around the world by the International Economic History Association (IEHA), which has 45 member academic societies from over 40 countries. For over half a century of history since its launch in 1960, the World Economic History Congress was held mainly in European countries. However, its international reach has expanded, beginning with Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2002, and was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in 2012. The World Congress held in Kyoto in 2015 was the first in Asia, and was memorable. At the World Congress in Kyoto, in addition to three plenary sessions and 178 parallel sessions, there were poster and dissertation sessions, which formed a doctoral dissertation competition. Here, 1,202 researchers took part in the sessions, with the number of participants exceeding 1,300, if partners are included. Considering the number of participating researchers by country, Japan accounted for the largest number with 294 researchers. In other words, 908 researchers, or 76% of the total participants, were from outside Japan. Countries with a

large number of participants included the United States (143), the United Kingdom (101), China (91), France (56), the Netherlands (56), and Spain (53). It is noteworthy that in addition to the major Western countries that have traditionally played a central role in global economic history research, the World Congress gained many participants from China.

“Diversity of Development” was established as the common theme for the World Congress. As pointed out by Tetsuji OKAZAKI (The University of Tokyo), who served as Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, 19th century Japan achieved the first modern economic development in Asia, and its post-war economic growth also presented a new development model. Subsequently, as economic growth continued in the Asia NIEs and BRICS, and it emerged that modern industrialization is not a phenomenon specific to Western countries. Thus, it became necessary to re-examine existing theories by unraveling diverse development paths against a background of various economic and social cultures. As a result, the Executive Committee of the International Economic History Association that selects the sessions was not bound to the theme determined by the Local Organizing Committee. Nevertheless, because the theme overlapped with the issues of interest shared by many researchers in recent years, amid the progression in globalization, many of the sessions at the World Congress compared diversity between times and regions.

Three plenary sessions connected to the common theme were also held at the World Congress. In his Keynote Lecture for the first session on the opening day of the World Congress, Osamu SAITO (Hitotsubashi University) compared the long-term changes in the occupational structure of industry in Europe and Japan in the 18th–20th centuries. In addition, he considered the mechanisms of change based on the International Network for the Comparative History of Occupational Structure project, in which he plays a central role. His observations were that the conventional pattern of occupational structure change, known as the Petty-Clark Law, is not necessarily general. Instead, the share of industrial workers did not increase in many countries during the Industrial Revolution, including the United Kingdom and Japan. Furthermore, while the share of industrial workers did increase overall during the Industrial Revolution, the decline in the share of agricultural workers was not as rapid. Thus, as perspectives to understand this phenomenon, he raised the relationship between the labor-saving effect of machinery and the labor demand of the machine industry (the problem of Ricardo’s machine theory), the technology bias in industry and in industry linkages, and long-term changes in agricultural labor demand.

In the second session on the third day, Professor Pranab BARDHAN (University of

California, Berkeley) and Professor R. Bin WONG (University of California, Los Angeles) focused on two of the world's largest economies — China and India — from the perspectives of economic history and development economics. The debates examined the development experiences, including institutional forms, governance patterns, and their impact on contemporary development experience not only from national but also from regional, global and historical perspectives. Professor Pranab Bardhan, speaking from the perspective of development economics, contrasted the entrepreneurial, rentier and state capitalist patterns of development in China and India with special focus on labor-intensive production in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, infrastructural considerations, property rights and governance issues. Professor R. Bin Wong, approaching the same issues from a long-term historical perspective of China, examined patterns of change stressing the role of socially constructed institutions that shaped production and exchange and their encounters with government policies.

The third session on the final day invited Professor Abhijit BANNERJEE (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Professor Avner GREIF (Stanford University), and Professor Nicholas CRAFTS (Warwick University), three researchers who have played a leading role in the fields of economic history and development economics, to a roundtable discussion. Both Professor Banerjee and Professor Greif emphasized the need to relativize historical determinism, or the “Tyranny of History,” while assuming that history plays a major role in economic development. In other words, Professor Bannerjee empirically and theoretically criticized the view in development economics that politics and culture are determined historically and cannot be changed by policy or artificial means, and stressed the effectiveness of policy recommendations with regard to institutions, culture, and politics. Based on observations of European and Chinese history, Professor Greif emphasized that social organizations that enable people to cooperate are key to economic development. In addition, he stressed the importance of focusing on social organizations and understanding economic development as a sustained process, rather than a one-off event. On the other hand, Professor Crafts focused on the theories of New Economic Geography and Directed Technical Change as theoretical frameworks to explain the significant diversity and heterogeneity seen in economic development around the world. Here, he demonstrated the effectiveness of each framework using modern European data, and proposed integrating the two theoretical frameworks as a task for future research.

The Socio-Economic History Society was actively involved, contributing to the 17th World Economic History Congress and providing information at the Society's annual meeting and on its website, encouraging its members to participate. This is

because international interaction and dissemination of information in other countries has been positioned as one of the main activities of the Society, which has responded by establishing a committee to oversee this process. As part of this, since 2015, the Society has promoted the Springer publication, *Monograph Series of the Socio-Economic History Society, Japan*, along with papers and book reviews from the Society's journal, translated into English and edited. To date, four volumes have been published, both as e-books and in printed form: Volume 1: *Economic History of Energy and Environment*, ed. Shinya SUGIYAMA, Springer 2015; Volume 2: *Micro-Performance During Postwar Japan's High Growth Era*, ed. Haruhito TAKEDA, Springer 2016; Volume 3: *Economic Activities Under the Japanese Colonial Empire*, ed. Minoru SAWAI, Springer, 2016; and Volume 4: *Economic History of Cities and Housing*, ed. Satoshi BABA, Springer, 2017. The publication of a further two volumes is planned.

Alongside international academic interaction, fostering young researchers has become a central part of the Society's activities in recent years. At the time of the 17th World Economic History Congress, the Society provided funding assistance for young members making reports, and has established a similar assistance program for the 18th World Congress to be held in Boston in 2018. Moreover, since 2011, the Society has held the annual SEHS Next Tide Workshop, providing an opportunity for young researchers to engage in discussion and interact beyond the boundaries of the areas and eras of their research.

By effectively combining the Society's core activities, namely, the presentation and discussion of research at the annual meeting and in the academic journal, with such international interaction and the fostering of young researchers, it is hoped that the Society and its members will make an even greater international academic contribution.

(Tomoko SHIROYAMA, Graduate School of Economics,
The University of Tokyo)

THE JAPAN SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE OF ACCOUNTING

会計理論学会

- Established: 1986
 - Number of Members: individual 162
 - Representative: Hiroshi YOSHIMI (Hokkaido University)
 - Publication: *Annals of The Japan Society for Social Science of Accounting*
 - The Japan Society for Social Science of Accounting
- c/o Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Hokkaido University,
Kita 9, Nishi7, Kita-ku,
Sapporo 060-0809, Japan
<http://www.jsssa-net.org>
- The next annual meeting will be held in fall, 2018.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTOTY SOCIETY

社会経済史学会

- Established: 1930
 - Number of Members: 1,400
 - Representative: Satoshi BABA (University of Tokyo)
 - Publication: *Shakai Keizai Shigaku (Socio-Economic History)* — quarterly
 - Shakai Keizaishi Gakkai (Socio-Economic History Society)
- c/o Professor M.SHIZUME
School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University,
1-6-1, Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-8050, Japan
e-mail: sehs@kurenai.waseda.jp
<http://sehs.ssoj.info/>
- The next annual meeting will be held at Osaka University on May 27-28, 2018.

THE JAPAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

一般社団法人 日本統計学会

- Established: 1931
 - Number of Members: 1,507
 - President: Masafumi AKAHIRA (University of Tsukuba)
 - Publication: *Journal of the Japan Statistical Society* — biannually
 - The Japan Statistical Society
- c/o Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis,
Nogaku Shorin Building 5F, 3-6, Kanda-Jinbo-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051, Japan
e-mail: shom@jss.gr.jp
<http://www.jss.gr.jp/>
- The next Spring meeting will be held at Waseda University on March 4, 2018.
The next annual meeting will be held at Chuo University in September, 2018.

This Information Bulletin is designed to serve as an introduction of the academic activities of member associations of the Union to economic societies throughout the world. Copies will be distributed by the secretariat of the Union to libraries and institutions in other countries whose names have been given by member associations of the Union.

