Sekiguchi Global Research Association
ATSUMI INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

A seminar by
Sekiguchi Global Research Association of
the Atsumi International Foundation
in collaboration with
College of Public Affairs and Development of
the University of the Philippines Los Baños

SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH SEMINAR #29 REPORT

2021
OCT

IN SEARCH OF COMMUNITY CURRENCIES



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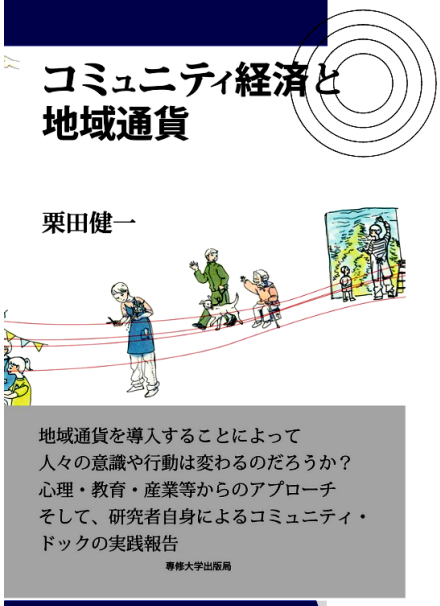
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Sekiguchi Global Research Association
ATSUMI INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar #29

IN SEARCH OF COMMUNITY CURRENCIES



A WEBINAR ON MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH

with

- Dr. Kenichi Kurita author of "Community Economy and Community Currency" (Nihongo)
- Dr. Toru Nakanishi (University of Tokyo)
- Dr. Josefina Dizon (UPLB)
- Dr. Max Maquito (UPLB/AISF)
- Atty. Damcelle Cortes (UPLB) as Chair
- Remarks by Vice Chancellor Rolando Bello (UPLB)

July 27, 2021
9:00 AM to 12:00 NN

Register at:
https://forms.gle/DKCDkuMdLYPbggaW8

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Shared Growth Seminars are also known as the KKK seminars. KKK stands for Kahusayan (Efficiency), Katarungan (Equity), and Kalikasan (Environment), which represents the economic goals of sustainable shared growth. It is also the name of the revolutionary organization that fought for the independence of the Philippines from Spain. Unlike in Western or Asian (Japanese) context, for the Philippines, therefore, KKK stands for what is noble in her traditions, and is very much against repression. We feel that the Philippines is in dire need of sustainable shared growth, and requires nothing short of a revolution, albeit peaceful, in our way of thinking and acting on these issues.

This seminar series is organized by the Sekiguchi Global Research Association of the Atsumi International Foundation, based in Sekiguchi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan. The Nihongo equivalent for KKK are kouritsu (efficiency), kouhei (equity), and kankyou (environment), for which the Japanese characters are 効率, 公平, 環境, respectively.

Seminar #29 was co-organized with the College of Public Affairs and Development of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and was held on July 27, 2021, and was held fully online due to the on-going pandemic. The theme of this seminar was "In Search of Community Currencies".

JULY 27, 2021

in search of community currencies

KKK SEMINAR #29

OPENING REMARKS: DR. NICO J. ANASTACIO

ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN, CPAF

On behalf of the Dean of the college of Public Affairs and Development, Dr. Rowena Dt. Baconguis, I would like to welcome everyone to the 29th Sustainable Shared Growth webinar or KKK Webinar. CPAf holds a number of webinars throughout the year. The difference of the sustainable shared growth webinar series is that it is a product of continued collaboration between out college with Dr. Maquito as the lead and the Sekiguchi Global Research Association of Japan.

We are hoping in the college to foster this partnership to deliver extension activities that are timely and relevant for our local stakeholders.

Again, welcome everyone.

Magandang umaga po sa ating lahat.

"We are hoping in the college to foster this partnership to deliver extension activities that are timely and relevant for our local stakeholders."



DR. NICO J. ANASTACIO

Assistant to the Dean, College of Public Affairs and Development (CPAf)
University of the Philippines Los Baños

OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE, SGRA

Thank you for joining us online in this 29th Sustainable Shared Growth seminar under the theme of “In Search of Community Currencies”. This seminar series basically aims to provide a venue of discussion for Dr. Max Maquito’s research on and advocacy for mechanisms that could contribute to the achievement of a type of growth or development that is both friendly to people and our home planet.

I am glad to see Dr. Toru Nakanishi again in this seminar. It is my understanding that Dr. Nakanishi has been instrumental in introducing Max to the idea of community currencies. I remember attending one of these seminars in the University of Tokyo, and was struck by how community currencies are related to volunteerism in Japan, an area in which my foundation, the Atsumi International Foundation, has been very active not only in Japan but also outside of Japan.

I

"For in this process, we also learn. This I believe is in keeping with our foundation’s vision of achieving harmony amidst diversity."



JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative. Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA)
Managing Director
Atsumi International Foundation
"harmony amidst diversity"

OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE, SGRA

I am also happy to see Dr. Josefina Dizon, who was one of the guest speakers in the opening plenary session of the 5th Asia Future Conference co-hosted with UPLB last year, as well as opening one of our two sustainable shared growth seminars on community currency. As one of the experts in community development, Dr. Dizon would surely bring a very relevant perspective to this seminar.

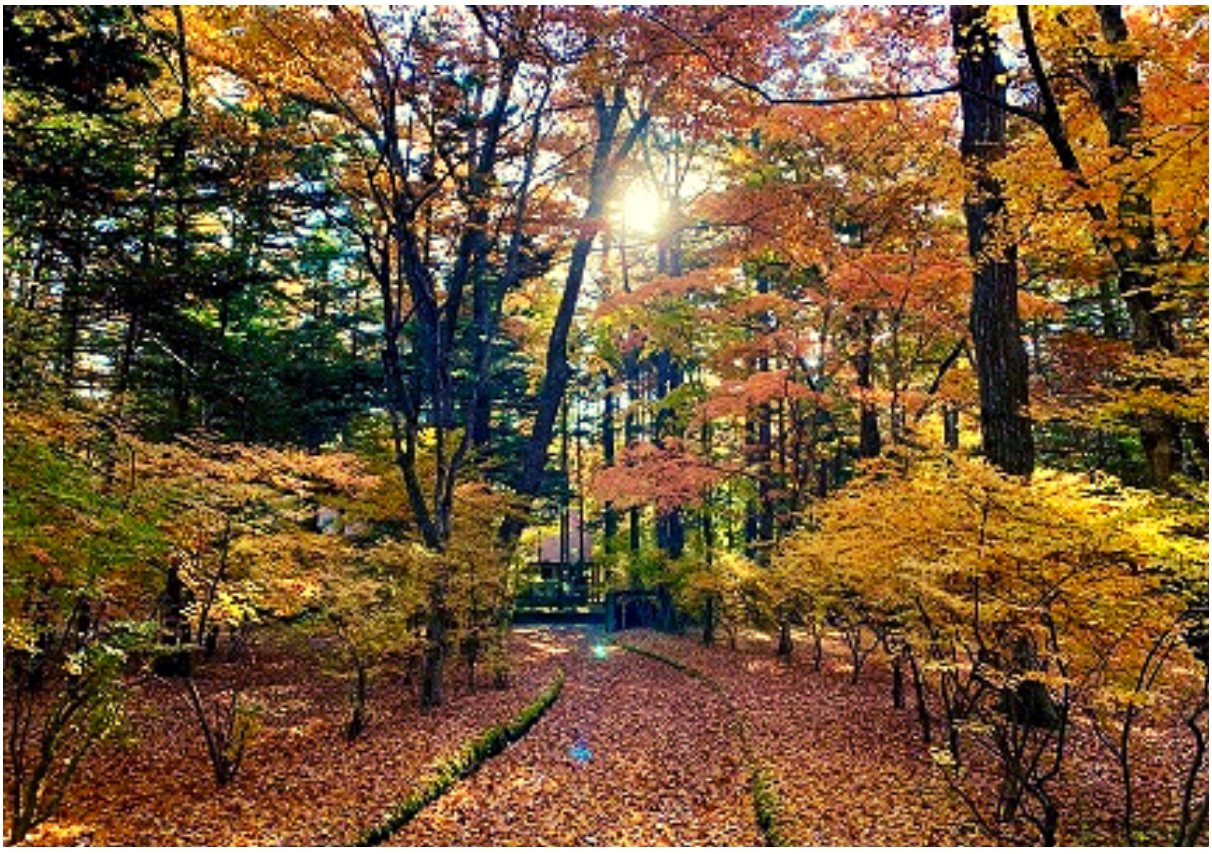
Let me also welcome, Dr. Kenichi Kurita who is joining us for the first time, and is the author of the book on Community Economy and Community Currency (in Japanese). We at Sekiguchi Global Research Association of the Atsumi Foundation are truly grateful for his sharing his time and expertise on this topic. We are hoping for our continued collaboration on this mechanism for sustainable shared growth.

The mix of presenters today reflects Dr. Maquito's genuine interest in bringing Japan and the Philippines, as well as other countries, together as part of his efforts to learn from Japan. As a Japanese, I would be the first to say that ours is not a perfect model. I know that the Philippines, through its historical experience, has what she considers to be much better models of development. But despite it all, we are truly honored that a fellow East Asian country would consider learning from us. For in this process, we also learn. This I believe is in keeping with our foundation's vision of achieving harmony amidst diversity.

OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE, SGRA

I would also like to thank the College of Public Affairs and Development of UPLB under the leadership of Dean Rowena Baconguis for collaborating with us in this vision, Atty. Damcelle Cortes for chairing this seminar, and last but not least Vice Chancellor Roland Bello for his remarks, as well as generous collaboration.



Karuizawa in Autumn (2021) - Junko Imanishi

PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

DR. NICO J. ANASTACIO

Assistant to the Dean, College of Public Affairs and Development,
University of the Philippines Los Baños

JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, Sekiguchi Global Research Association
Atsumi International Foundation

CLOSING REMARKS

PROF. ROLANDO T. BELLO

Vice Chancellor for Administration
Faculty, College of Public Affairs and Development,
University of the Philippines Los Baños

SEMINAR MANAGERS

CHAIR | ATTY. DAMCELLE T. CORTES

College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the
Philippines Los Baños

CO-CHAIR | DR. MAX MAQUITO

College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the
Philippines Los Baños
Sekiguchi Global Research Association, Atsumi
International Foundation

PROGRAM



CHAIR

Atty. Damcelle T.Cortes

College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the Philippines Los Baños

- *Damcelle Torres-Cortes is a lawyer by profession and is currently Assistant Professor at the College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the Philippines Los Baños where she teaches graduate courses on development management and governance. She twice served as Assistant to the Chancellor of UPLB.*
- *Prior to joining the academe, Atty. Cortes managed justice reform programs at The Asia Foundation; helped draft the Juvenile Justice Law as legislative officer at the Philippine Senate; and hosted a weekly radio program on human rights aired nationwide. She was also engaged in intellectual property and litigation practice as junior associate at the Poblador Bautista and Reyes Law Office. While a law student, Atty. Cortes served as Commissioner of the Philippine Commission on Women.*
- *She provides technical assistance to various local agencies and international organizations and has published works in the areas of human rights, gender and development, as well as policy reform and advocacy.*
- *Education: AB Social Science, Ateneo de Manila University, cum laude (1999); Bachelor of Laws,*

PROGRAM

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION #1 | THE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF COMMUNITY CURRENCIES IN JAPAN

Dr. Ken'ichi Kurita (Chiba Keizai College, Japan)

PRESENTATION #2 | COMMUNITY CURRENCIES AS WEAPONS OF THE WEAK: A BASIS OF COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST GLOBAL FINANCE

Dr. Toru Nakanishi (University of Tokyo)

PRESENTATION #3 | SOCIAL CAPITAL AS A FORM OF COMMUNITY CURRENCY

Dr. Josefina T. Dizon (UPLB)

PRESENTATION #4 | COMMUNITY CURRENCY EXPERIMENTS

Dr. Max Maquito (UPLB, AISF)

DISCLAIMER

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Presentation #1

PRESENTATION #1 | THE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF COMMUNITY CURRENCIES IN JAPAN

Dr. Ken'ichi Kurita (Chiba Keizai College, Japan)

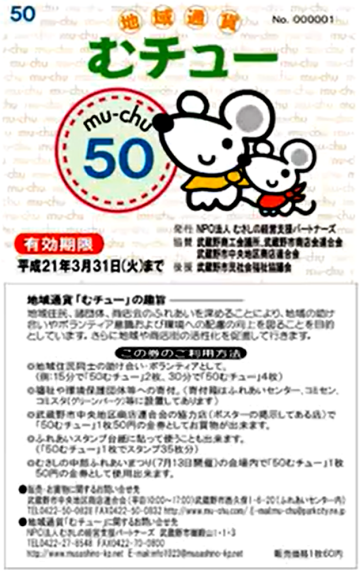
SUMMARY.

The goal of my presentation at this seminar was to show the development history of community currencies (CCs) in Japan. modern CCs appeared in the early 1970s and since then many different types have emerged all over the Japanese society. In this seminar, I proposed the view of four stages of development of community currencies. At the first stage, we saw eco-money types of community currencies that promote to help each other in communities from around 1970 to early of 2000. The second stage focused on community currencies for improving local economies from early of 2000. The third stage showed a new development of community currencies such as for supporting a newcomer's community in a rural area, educating for children, and preserving forest areas from a mid of 2000. The fourth stage paid attention to the appearance of a digital community currencies from around 2015. Through its development history, community currencies have evolved and promoted diversification. In the near future many more new types of community currencies using a new digital technology will appear in Japan. I am thinking to try to do a research on the significance, effects and problems of new types with my colleagues and friends.

Community Currency Mu-chu(2009)

face

back



- Mu-chu was introduced in Musashino city in Tokyo.
- 50Yen=50 mu-chu
- This plan aimed to improve both economy and voluntary activities in community.

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Source: From the Presentation of Dr. Ken'ichi Kurita

PRESENTATION #1 | THE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF COMMUNITY CURRENCIES IN JAPAN

Dr. Ken'ichi Kurita (Chiba Keizai College, Japan)

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS.

Transactions cost in CCs is now a big issue in Japan. My recommendation would be to start with paper bills. I look forward to more future collaborations.

01 Stage 1

CC for community mutual help (1970s-early 2000)

02 Stage 2

CC for improving local economies (from early 2000)

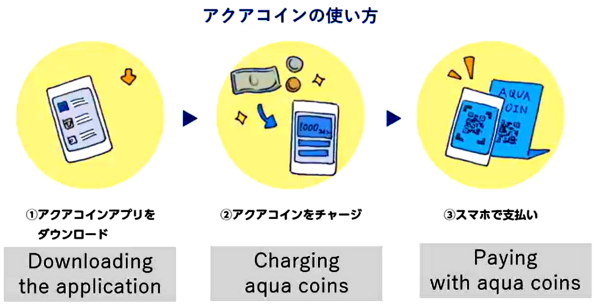
03 Stage 3

CC for local resources, such as children education and forest preservation (from mid-2000)

04 Stage 4

Emergence of digital CCs (from around 2015))

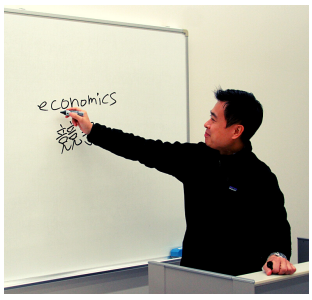
Aqua Coin in Kisarazu City



Source: From the Presentation of Dr. Ken'ichi Kurita

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AUTHOR

Dr. Ken'ichi Kurita

He works now as an associate professor at Chiba Keizai college, in Chiba city. His main subject is economics. He have studied economic anthropology, community currency and community development at graduate school of Hokkaido University after graduating from Yokohama city University. After submitting his doctoral dissertation on community currency, he worked at two local governments and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as an economic researcher. His main book is "Economy of community and Community Currencies". This book shows the history of community currencies all over the world and discussed its effects and problems.

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Presentation #2

PRESENTATION #2 | COMMUNITY CURRENCIES AS WEAPONS OF THE WEAK: A BASIS OF COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST GLOBAL FINANCE

Dr. Toru Nakanishi (University of Tokyo)

SUMMARY.

After the collapse of the Cold War, the financial system shifted to one underpinned by direct financing and corporate governance, and the financial markets became much more complex. As a result, the ultra-wealthy, who possess accurate and abundant information, have been able to diversify their portfolios and hedge their risks to form a vast amount of assets, and an unprecedented society of inequality, consisting of a very small elite group and the rest of the population, is coming into being.

In such a situation, community currencies are of great significance. Community currencies are not associated with interest or capital gains. It is oriented toward diversity and fragmented markets, but not toward unification. Furthermore, community currencies have the potential to promote intra-regional trade in goods and services, the circulation of production and consumption, and the cyclical movement of people, goods, and money. Community currencies remind us of the importance of rethinking what it means to be a circulating community. Specifically, it reminds us that the substance of economic life exists outside the anonymity of the marketplace.

To be sure, community currency is no substitute for legal tender. However, as a "weapon of the weak," as defined by James Scott, it can provide a variety of means to guarantee the independent, free, and diverse activities of the weak by curbing the negative effects of simplification and standardization in globalization and market mechanisms, and it can also regenerate the local knowledge and social relationships of the weak. Local currencies can protect the weak themselves, usually by building and blocking a firewall from tyrannical globalism and placing themselves in a fragmented intranet space. It is not a completely closed socio-economic space, but one that can be opened and closed, sometimes freely visiting or escaping the periphery of the global society to freely enjoy the benefits of trade and necessary information as needed.

PRESENTATION #2 | COMMUNITY CURRENCIES AS WEAPONS OF THE WEAK: A BASIS OF COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST GLOBAL FINANCE

Dr. Toru Nakanishi (University of Tokyo)

DISCLAIMER

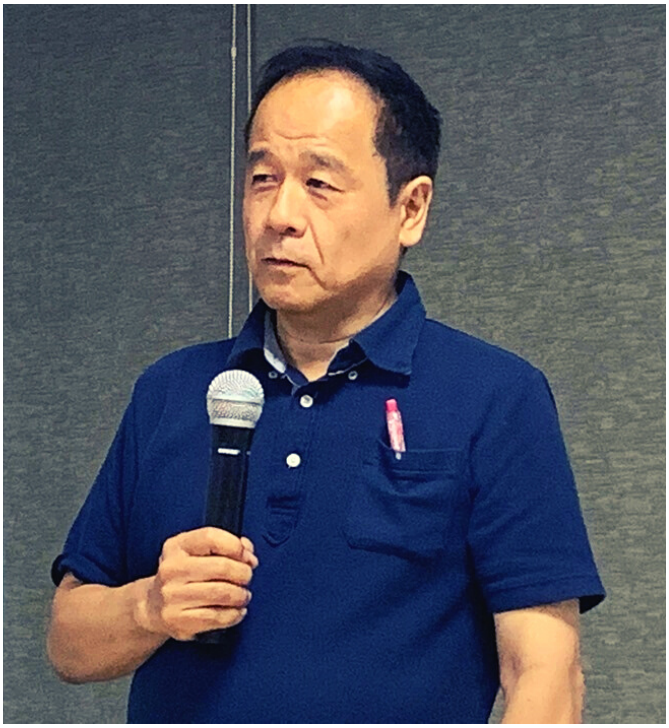
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AUTHOR

Dr. Toru Nakanishi

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Education:
1982-89 : Graduate School of Economics, University of Tokyo.
Degree: Doctor of Economics, 1989 (Doctoral Dissertation:
"The Informal Sector in the Philippines," (in Japanese), March 1989)
1978-82 : Faculty of Economics, Sophia University.
Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Economics), March 1982.

Awards:
Award for the Promotion of Studies on Developing Countries
(Institute of Developing Economies: 1991)
Kagami Memorial Prize (Kagami Memorial Foundation: 1992).

Selected Publications
"Organic Agriculture against Prosperity of Vice : Food and Health in the Philippines," Oriental Culture, vol. 100, pp.125-174.
Agricultura Ecologica desde la Perspectiva de Economia Solidaria: Compartirlas Experiencias de Mexico y Japon, U Yits Ka'an School of Ecological Agriculture, Mani, Mexico, 2015, with Hiroyuki Ukeda et. al..
Building a Community-based System for Sustainable Development and Bio-diversity, Ministry of Environment, 2014 (in Japanese, with Masamitsu Yasaka et. al.).
Metro Manila: In Search of a Sustainable Future, University of the Philippine Press, 2002, with Tatsuo Omachi et. al.,

Presentation #3

PRESENTATION #3 | SOCIAL CAPITAL AS A FORM OF COMMUNITY CURRENCY

Dr. Josefina T. Dizon (UPLB)

SUMMARY.

The concept of social capital was developed by three great authors, Bourdieu (1988), Coleman (1990), and Putnam (1993), but each of these authors focused on social capital at 3 levels, namely, individual, community and society, respectively. From the early definitions of social capital from these three authors, a number of definitions came out, pointing to the fact that there is no agreed upon definition of the concept. From the different definitions, the different elements of social capital were highlighted, such as network, relationships, trust, norms, institutions, attitudes and values, shared identity, and reciprocity, to name a few. In terms of the type, the three most common are bonding, bridging, and linking social capital. Bonding capital is practiced among homogenous groups; bridging capital among heterogenous groups in the same community; and linking capital among groups of different power beyond the community. The idea of social capital as a community currency stems from the fact that similar to community currency, social capital is used by established networks characterized by shared values. Both community currency and social capital function as supplements to ordinary money and are not meant to generate profit. There are a number of ways how social capital functions as a community currency.

Having social capital in the neighborhood and in the community can prove fruitful because of the reciprocity that neighbors practice. Social capital relates to human sociability, or the ability to work together to solve community problems and to form organizations that make up the society. As Putnam says, social capital can be considered as a "favor bank" that people in the network can draw from anytime they need to. These favors may not be in terms of money but they carry some monetary values.

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PRESENTATION #3 | SOCIAL CAPITAL AS A FORM OF COMMUNITY CURRENCY

Dr. Josefina T. Dizon (UPLB)

AUTHOR

DR. JOSEFINA T. DIZON



II was a researcher for more than 20 years at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) before becoming an Assistant Professor at the College of Public Affairs and Develop ment (CPAf) in 2003. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture major in Agronomy (1975) and my post-graduate degrees include Master of Agriculture (1980), MS in Forestry/Social Forestry (1990), and PhD in Community Development (1997). I have been teaching Community Development courses such as CED 246 (Evaluation in Rural Development), CED 250 (Community Development), CED 252 (Planning and Administration of Community Development), and CED 251 (Comparative Community Development). I also taught CED 299 (Graduate Seminar) and AERS 267 (Perspectives in Community Analysis) at the Agricultural Systems Institute, College of Agriculture and Food Science. During my first year of teaching at CPAf, I also taught undergraduate courses such as EDUC 11 (Educational Psychology) and EDUC 102 (Theories and Principles of Education).

While teaching, I also conduct research related to community-based forestry, social forestry, agrarian reform, and community development in general, as part of the University of the Philippines' trilogy of function (teaching, research, and public service). I was conferred Outstanding Researcher Award during the 15th CPAf Foundation Day on February 19, 2013; Forest and Natural Resources Research Society of the Philippines, Inc. (FORESPI) as 2016 Outstanding Scientist for Social Research in Forestry and Natural Resources; Outstanding Senior Faculty Researcher Award during the 20th CPAf Foundation Day on March 9, 2018; and Outstanding Researcher Award (Senior Faculty) for the Social Sciences during the 110th UPLB Foundation Day on March 6, 2019. My research productivity from 2003 until the present includes completion of 53 research projects, publication of 21 ISI/Scopus indexed and 44 refereed journals, and presentation of 127 papers in local and international conferences, either as author or co-author. I am a recipient of 15 International Publication Awards from the University of the Philippines. In 2019, I was a UPLB Alumni Association's College Distinguished Alumni Awardee for Teaching and Research in Community Development.

. As part of my administrative service to CPAf, I was the Coordinator of the Graduate Programs Office (GPO) on June 20, 2007 – August 31, 2008, and Director of the Institute of Community Education (ICE now Institute for Governance and Rural Development) on November 5, 2009 – December 31, 2010. I was the concurrent Director of the Institute of Agrarian and Rurban Development Studies (IARDS) on September 1, 2008 – July 31, 2011. When IARDS was renamed Community Innovations Studies Center (CISC) as part of the CPAf reorganization, I served as its first Director from August 1, 2011 until May 31, 2013. Before becoming Dean of CPAf on January 24, 2013-January 28, 2016, I was the OIC Dean from November 1, 2012 until January 23, 2013. I was again appointed as OIC Dean on January 1, 2018-July 31, 2018.

I am a lifetime member of the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture, Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society for the Social Sciences, and Phi Kappa Phi International Honor Society, UP Chapter. I am a member and was officer of 10 professional organizations. I was President of the Philippine Association of Agricultural Educators, Inc. (PASSAGE) in 2016-2018 and Forest and Natural Resources Research Society of the Philippines, Inc. (FORESPI) in 2018-2019. Currently, I am the President of the Regional SEARCA Alumni Association (RSAA).

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Presentation #4

PRESENTATION #4 | COMMUNITY CURRENCY (CC) EXPERIMENTS

Dr. Max Maquito (Convenor, Sustainable Shared Growth Seminars)

SUMMARY.
CC research at College of Public Affairs and Development (CPAf) started with Dr. Nakanishi introducing me to the concept in 2018. Since then this has led to three sustainable shared growth seminars, including this one, with the collaboration of CPAf colleagues Vice Chancellor Rolando T. Bello (then Dean of CPAf) and Dr. John E.M. Perez, and Dr. Nakanishi. This research has also been able to present two papers at the Asia Future Conference, hosted by the Asia Future Conference, which has conferred these papers with Best Paper awards.

Two CC experiments in Japan were presented. One is from Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture, which was one of the coastal cities devastated by the March 11, 2011 Great Kanto earthquake and tsunami. This place is also known for the Miracle of Kamaishi, where 3,000 children were saved due to their presence of mind during the onslaught. The objective of this CC was to contribute to post-disaster recovery. The other CC experiment is by Ino-Machi, Kochi Prefecture, which is the prefecture with the most abundant forest resource in the country. The purpose of this CC is to promote the preservation of its forest resource as well as invigorate the local economy.

By way of synthesis, this presentation referred to Dr. Kenichi Kurita's book on "Community Economy and Community Currency" published in 2020, where the concepts related to Community Economy Development, as a program of study were clearly elaborated on . This reminds me of Hamada and Godo's conception of the community as a third institution for allocating resources.

Moving forward, some lessons could be gleaned from the two experiments to shed light on why we might have not found, so far, a CC case in the Philippines. Our hypothesis is that this is due to relatively higher transaction costs in the Philippines. Although there have been numerous cases of failure, Japan's success in implementing CCs may be attributed to the ability of its communities to bring down the transaction costs.

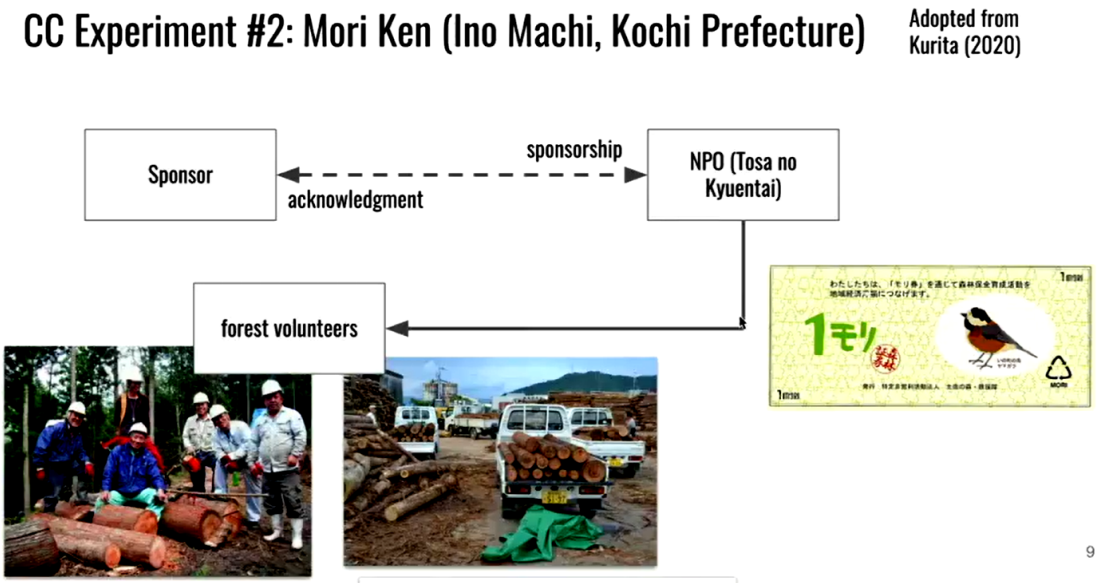
PRESENTATION #4 | COMMUNITY CURRENCY (CC) EXPERIMENTS

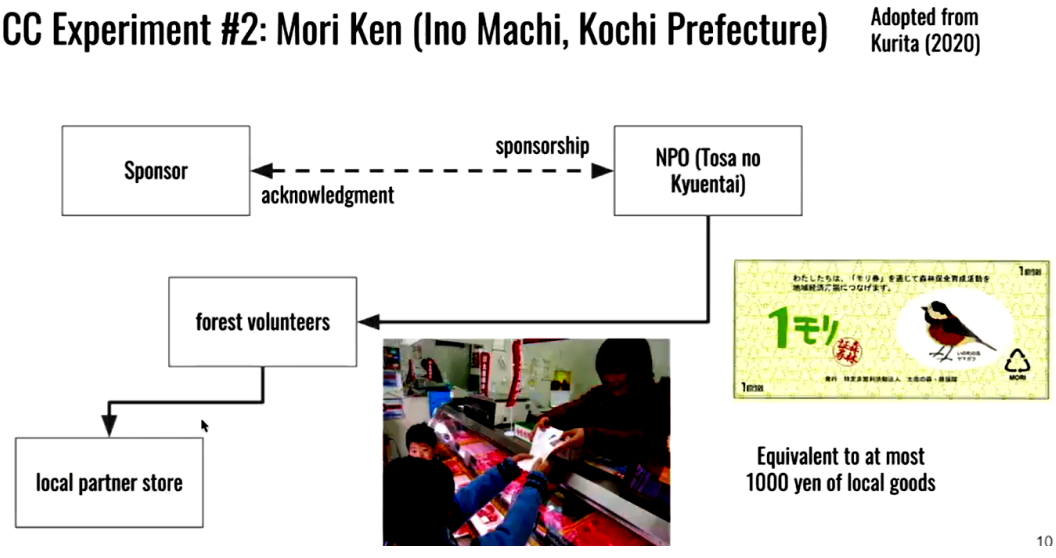
Dr. Max Maquito (Convenor, Sustainable Shared Growth Seminars)

Still, the success of a developing country like Kenya, which is poorer than the Philippines, gives us pause.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS.

As a mechanism for achieving sustainable shared growth, CCs could be the starting point of a study on Community Economic Development. This is a very interesting intersection coming out from this research on CCs, since I am of the opinion that a more granular approach to the economy, especially in these turbulent times. This naturally ties in with decentralization, an overarching principle of sustainable shared growth.





Source: Dosa no Mori Kyuentai (https://mori100s.exblog.jp/23383293/)

PRESENTATION #4 | COMMUNITY CURRENCY (CC) EXPERIMENTS

Dr. Max Maquito (Convenor, Sustainable Shared Growth Seminars)



Source: Heita Doumo no Kai (http://www.konnodenki.com/heitadomo/shikumi.php?id=18010002)

01 **Advocacy**

CC could be a mechanism for achieving sustainable shared growth

02 **Community**

group related to reciprocal gift-giving that fosters solidarity

03 **Community Economy**

A 3rd form of economic institution

04 **Community Currency**

the currency needed to run a community economy

DISCLAIMER

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AUTHOR



Dr. Max Maquito

In his "previous life", the author was a mechanical engineer at a state-owned shipyard, after finishing his BS at the Engineering Department of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. A scholarship enabled him to shift specialization and earn his MS Industrial Economics from the Center of Research of Communication (now within the University of Asia and the Pacific). Right after which, he was able to get into the Japanese Ministry of Education scholarship to get into the PhD in Economics program of the University of Tokyo. A scholarship from the Atsumi International Foundation enabled him to finish his doctorate in Economics He was an Adjunct Professor in Temple University Japan campus, before coming back to the Philippines to join CPAf, where he is now an Assistant Professor. His long stay in Japan, and working with the Atsumi International Foundation have fueled his lifelong research and advocacy on sustainable shared growth. E-Mail: maquito.uplb@gmail.com

CLOSING REMARKS: PROF. ROLANDO T. BELLO

VICE CHANCELLOR, UPLB

Madame Junko Imanishi, Dr. Kenichi Kurita, Dr. Toru Nakanishi, Dr. Josefina Dizon, Dr Max Maquito, Atty Damcelle Cortes, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. Ohayo Gozaimasu!

It is with distinct pleasure to be able to join you today in this sustainable shared growth seminar with the theme "In the search of community currencies" organized by the Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA) of the Atsumi International Foundation In collaboration with the College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the Philippines Los Baños.

This discussion on community currencies is both timely and engaging In the light of the current destructions in the economy associated with the covid 19 pandemic.

The evolution of currencies from barter to paper notes and eventually to electronic currencies including bitcoin has come to the forefront of academic discussions with the rapid development of information technology.

"This discussion on community currencies is both timely and engaging In the light of the current destructions in the economy associated with the covid 19 pandemic."



PROF. ROLANDO T. BELLO

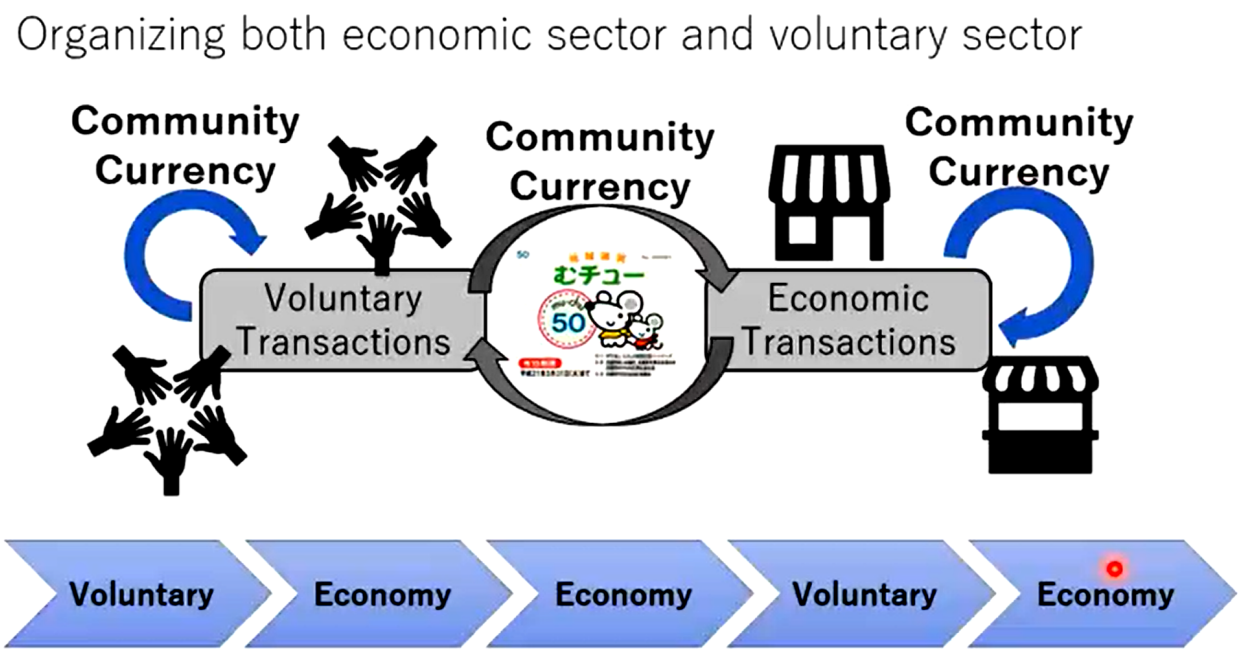
Vice Chancellor for Administration, UPLB

CLOSING REMARKS: PROF. ROLANDO T. BELLO

VICE CHANCELLOR, UPLB

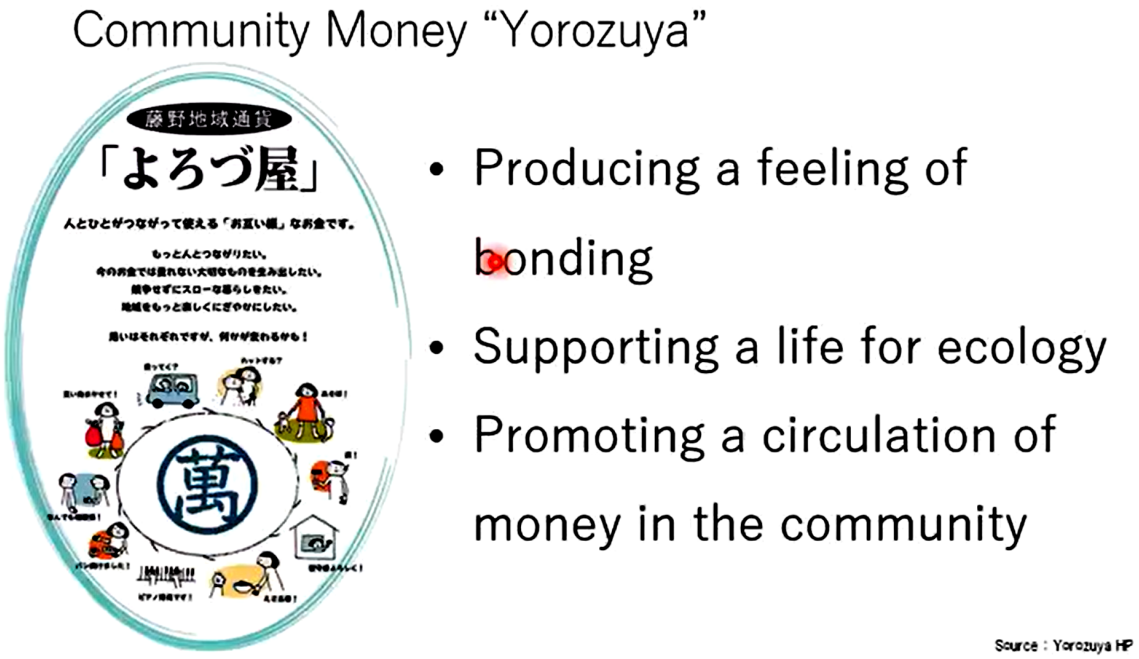
However, community currencies in the form of capital and as weapons of the weak equally deserve an in depth scrutiny and examination following the past experiences of Japan and its significance in the future macroeconomic framework. Dr Maquito's presentation highlights the community experiments which further enhance our understanding of the subject matter. Equally important in this seminar is the recognition of the continuing and enduring partnership in cooperative agreements among SGRA of the Atsumi International Foundation and the College of Public Affairs and Development that came into a head in the last asia future conference head last January 2020 in Manila.

I hope that this commitment thus further strengthen in future joint activities
On behalf of UPLB Chancellor Camacho, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to SGRA and Atsumi International Foundation for this opportunity to exchange views in this community currencies
Domo arigato gozaimasu.!



KEN'ICHI KURITA

Evolution of CCs in Japsn



Source: From the Presentation of Dr. Ken'ichi Kurita





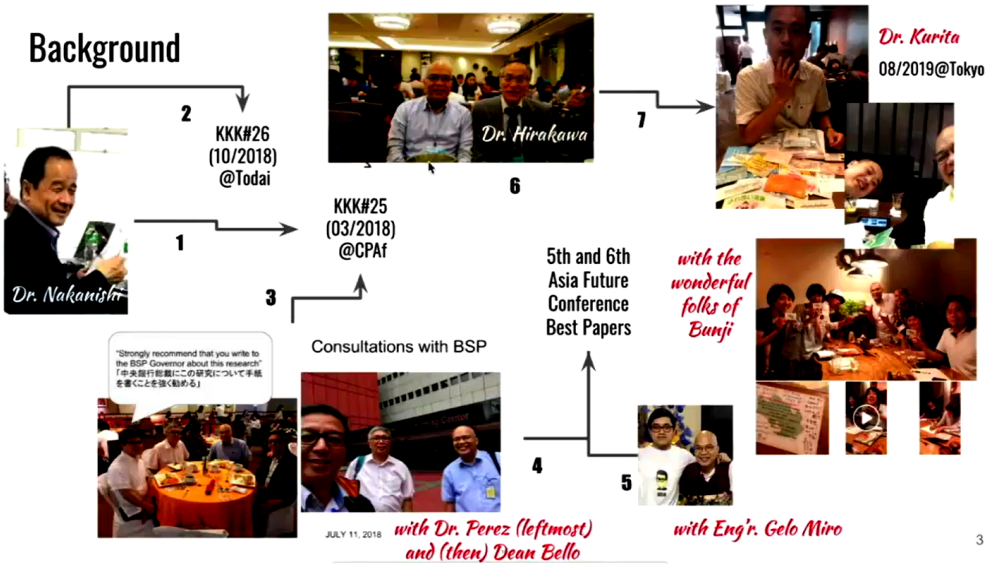
JOSEFINA T. DIZON

Community Currency as a Type of Social Capital





Source: From the Presentation of Dr. Josefina T. Dizon





MAX MAQUITO

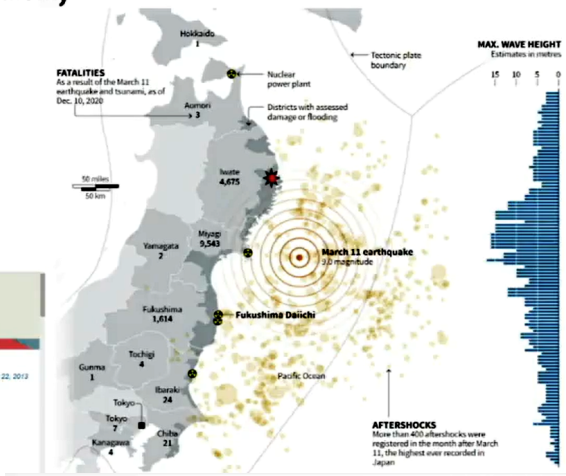
Community Currency Experiments

CC Experiment 1: Doumo (Kamaishi)

https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/japan-tsunami-survivors/

1. Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture was struck by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami
2. Duomo CC was created as a device for assisting the recovery of Kamaishi





https://www.fun-japan.jp/en/articles/10058

CC Experiment #2: Mori Ken (Ino-cho, Kochi Prefecture)

- Objectives
  - Invigorate local economy
  - Preservation of forest





Source: From the Presentation of Dr. Max Maquito

GALLERY



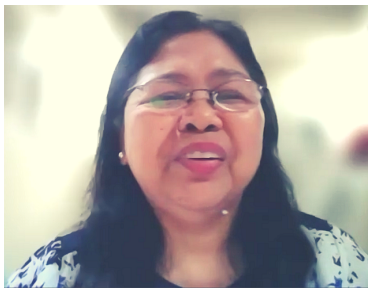
DR. KENICHI KURITA

Chiba Keizai College



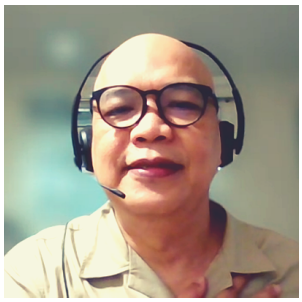
DR. TORU NAKANISHI

University of Tokyo



DR. JOSEFINA T. DIZON

UPLB



DR. MAX MAQUITO

UPLB, AISF





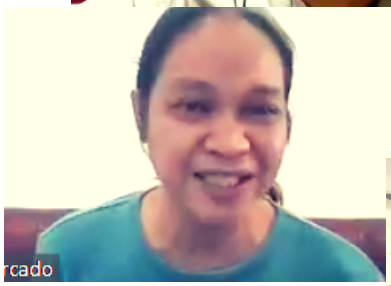


















AUGUST 2021

50+

FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES

thank you!

A QUEST FOR COMMUNITY CURRENCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED; SEPT, 2021

Community currencies. Have you ever heard about them?

Well probably not, but at the UPLB College of Public Affairs (CPAf), community currencies have been a focus of discussion in two events hosted by the College, the latest being the "CPAf 29th Sustainable Shared Growth" online seminar on July 27. The seminar was a collaborative activity of Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA, pronounced as you would "zebra") of Atsumi International Foundation and CPAf.

Community currencies (CC) became a topic of conversation at CPAf for their potential as a real-world mechanism for achieving sustainable shared growth, a type of development that centers on efficiency, equity, and environment, which the College and the UPLB community espouse.

I, nevertheless, have not given up hope and continue my search for motherland CCs



DR MAX MAQUITO

Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar Convenor

A QUEST FOR COMMUNITY CURRENCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED; SEPT. 2021

The Seminar

The CPAf seminar kicked off with a talk by Dr. Kenichi Kurita of Chiba Keizai College in Japan who, I think, has accomplished prodigious research achievement in the use of CCs. I still remember him, brimming with excitement, as he showed me a thick envelope full of Japanese CCs. Japan started using CCs in the 70s and had an estimated 600 CCs in use all over the country in 2003. He based his talk on his book titled “Kumyuniti Keaizai to Chiiki Tsuka” or “Community Economy and Community Currency” published in Japanese in 2020 by Senshu Daigaku Shuppan Kyoku.

Dr. Kurita discussed the four evolution stages of CCs in Japan. The first was from 1970 to early 2000 when CCs were used primarily to promote mutual assistance among community members. The second was in the early 2000s when Japan began using CCs to invigorate the local economy and the third, in the mid-2000s to address social issues in the community such as forest preservation. Then on its fourth stage in 2015, CCs became digital.

All functions of CCs as noted in the four stages of CC evolution are apparent in various combinations and forms at present in Japan. The evolution of CCs, to me, also reflects a complete harmony with the economic goals of sustainable shared growth – KKK, which stands for katarungan (equity), kahusayan (efficiency), and kalikasan (environment).

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A QUEST FOR COMMUNITY CURRENCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED; SEPT. 2021

Other talks on CCs and community development in the seminar were Dr. Toru Nakanishi of the University of Tokyo or Todai on "Community Currencies as Weapons of the Weak: A Basis of Countermeasures Against Global Finance" and Dr. Josefina Dizon of UPLB CPAf who talked about "Social Capital as a Form of Community Currency." My talk was on "Community Currency Experiments."

CCs as mechanism for sustainable shared growth

Dr. Nakanishi who is also a Philippine development expert at Todai and an author of a book on slum economics, argued that CCs could be weapons of the weak (i.e., those living in poverty and the ethnic minorities) in this age of global financial capitalism. He said that globalization, as it is currently implemented, would not be able to eradicate the severely inequitable distribution of wealth and income in the world. This is a point I tend to share with him and a factor that makes me think CCs are equitable.

A recurring theme in the discussions during the seminar was that of CCs being possibly anti-establishment, a common misunderstanding given the unorthodoxy of CCs. In fact, CCs are called complementary currencies, thus non-subversive. Fiat money may be very effective in addressing macroeconomic imbalances, but it is a blunt instrument when dealing with the imbalances in small communities.

A QUEST FOR COMMUNITY CURRENCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH

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The other presenters confirm my assessment that CCs could be a real-world mechanism to achieve sustainable shared growth, a type of development that centers on efficiency, equity, and environment. CCs are efficient because they lead a community to a fuller utilization of its resources. CCs are equitable since, for one, these are normally provided at zero interest rates, and essentially removes a potential source of unequal distribution of incomes or wealth. CCs are environment-friendly since these have, as in the third stage of evolution according to Dr. Kurita, served to address environmental externalities.

Social capital and CC in the Philippines

If Japan is at its fourth stage of CC evolution, what about the Philippines? Dr. Dizon raised an interesting proposition that the Philippines might be at its first stage. CPAf's expert and mentor in community development, Dr. Dizon also noted, to which I totally agree, that there could be a threshold of social capital — a minimum amount of community solidarity needed for a CC scheme to take off. This means that communities with low social capital or solidarity will find it very hard to implement a CC scheme. While social capital is needed to use CCs, successful CC implementation attests that CCs contribute to the enhancement of a community's social capital.

Social capital is one of the possible factors as to why there could be a high transaction cost (hindering factor) in setting up a CC scheme in the Philippines. Since our initial explorations in 2018, UPLB Vice Chancellor for Administration Rolando T. Bello, Dr. John Erinorio M. Perez of CPAf, and I have yet to find a case of CC in the country that we could study more deeply. In my presentation, I proposed other factors that may reduce the transaction costs in CC establishment based on two cases in Japan and one in Kenya.

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Implementation of a CC in the Philippines, therefore, requires a sufficiently high level of social capital. More concretely, based on the CC schemes that I have looked at, this would mean at least two things. One is the existence of a community with a critical number of members bound by solidarity to work toward a common vision of their community. Another is the existence of a civil society organization that shares this vision of the community, and is skillful in brokering support from those outside the community and managing such support to sustain a CC scheme even after such support has vanished. I, nevertheless, have not given up hope and continue my search for motherland CCs.

A third KKK seminar with the theme "Decentralization and Horizontal/Vertical Gaps" tentatively scheduled on Sept. 28. To be held online, it will be a more granular view of our society, which is indispensable to attaining sustainable shared growth.

Source: https://horizon.uplb.edu.ph/uplb-features/a-quest-for-community-currencies-for-sustainable-shared-growth/

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- Lenie M. Miro (3)
  - SGRA PH







We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to Sustainable Shared Growth. Be safe!

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SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH SEMINAR #29 REPORT

6TH ASIA FUTURE CONFERENCE

An Agent-Based Model for Designing a Community Currency Scheme

Contribution ID: 130

This paper reports on the development of an Agent-Based Model (ABM) that could help actual communities in the designing of Community Currency (CC) schemes, which have been deemed, in various seminars held in the Philippines and Japan by the Sekiguchi Global Research Association, as mechanisms for sustainable shared growth. As such, the ABM depicts a CC scheme for a community economy that essentially has no interest rate, but has the two other basic prices: (1) the price for a community-produced private good, expressed in both CC and fiat money (Philippine Peso) depending on the acceptance rate; and (2) the exchange rate between the CC and fiat money. The ABM has three types of producers: community-based private good producers; community-based local public (volunteer) good producers; and external private good producers. The community economy also includes laborers that could work to produce either private or volunteer goods. There is trade between the community's laborers and the private good producers, both community-based and external, where the latter accepts only fiat money as payment. By definition, CC is accepted only within the community as payment. The ABM helps in identifying various combinations of design parameters such as price acceptance rate, exchange rate, and population, which are critical for the sustainability of a CC scheme.



6TH ASIA FUTURE CONFERENCE



NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Sustainable Shared Growth seminars for this Japanese fiscal year 2021-22.

01. Seminar #30 (September 2021)

Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) and Decentralization

02. Seminar #31 (November 2021)

Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) and Land Value Taxation (LVT)

03. Seminar #32 (February 2022)

Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) and Organizational Structure

NEXT STEPS



http://www.aisf.or.jp/AFC/2021/

About the Theme

BUILDING A FUTURE ASIA — Solving Problems, Together

The future of Asia holds great potential, and the world is paying attention to the development of the region. Over the past 30 years, Asia has achieved remarkable progress, with rapidly rising consumption levels and successful integration into global trade, capital, talent and innovation flows. In the decades to come, Asian economies will not only participate in but also determine the direction of these flows. From the Internet and technology to international trade, Asia has long become a main player in many fields. The key issue today is no longer how fast Asia is rising, but what forms of leadership it will generate. Although Asian countries contain diverse languages, races and religions and have different forms of government and economic systems, they share similar development histories and backgrounds.

Asia accounted for less than 1/3 of the world's total GDP in the year 2000 but is expected to exceed 50% of it by 2040. By then, Asia is also expected to account for 40% of total world consumption. Asia has not only achieved economic progress but human development through increased human longevity and literacy rates as well as the rapid spread of technology and the Internet. As a result of this, however, over-used resources and health insurance have become urgent social issues.

NEXT STEPS

The rise of Asia has not only lifted hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty, but has also widened the gap between the rich and the poor. Urbanization is driving economic development and improving education and public health services, but poverty and other development challenges remain. With rapid population growth many cities are unable to provide adequate housing, infrastructure and other related services. Asian countries and regions need to achieve more inclusive and sustainable economic growth in order to cope with the pressures of inequality and environmental issues. In addition to environmental and economic sustainability, Asian countries should also work together for Asia's future toward peace.

About the Asia Future Conference

The twenty-first century has seen the world thrust into a maelstrom of change and unpredictability. We remain hopeful in the face of rapid technological advancements, but many of us struggle to regain our bearings as longstanding social structures become upended. Internationalization and globalization have long been heralded as the keys for the future, yet a truly global path forward remains elusive, serving only to heighten the sense of uncertainty. As global citizens in this era of change, we are called anew to reexamine our world and our collective future and to seek new multidimensional and inclusive perspectives on myriad global issues.

The achievement of rapid economic development has also led to dramatic changes in Asia. With the onset of global environmental issues and an increasingly globalized social economy, problems that transcend national barriers are on the rise. Amidst rapid globalization there is a simultaneous process of localization, leading to problems such as nationalism taking root. The citizens and groups that make up society must think not only about the pursuit of individual wealth, but of the benefits for the rest of society. In order to solve the problems brought about by globalization, it is necessary to cross and cooperate across national and disciplinary borders, and to analyze issues from a multidimensional perspective.

NEXT STEPS

The Asia Future Conference was established with this reality in mind. International and interdisciplinary at its core, the Asia Future Conference encourages diverse approaches to global issues that are mindful of the advancement of science, technology and business and also take into consideration issues of the environment, politics, education, the arts, and culture. The Asia Future Conference is organized by the Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA) in partnership with likeminded institutions, and provides a venue for the exchange of knowledge, information, ideas, and culture not only for SGRA members, but also for former foreign students of Japan from educational institutions around the world, their own students and collaborators, and anyone interested in Japan.

SGRA began operating in Tokyo in July 2000 as a division of the Atsumi International Foundation, a charitable organization. At its core is a community of non-Japanese researchers who come from all over the world to conduct advanced studies in Japan and obtain doctoral degrees from Japanese graduate institutions. SGRA identifies issues related to globalization and seeks to disseminate research results to a wide audience through forums, reports, and the internet. SGRA's aim is to reach society at large rather than a specific group of specialists through wide-ranging research activities that are inherently interdisciplinary and international. The essential objective of SGRA is to contribute to the realization of responsible global citizens.

Garnering the support and cooperation of various like-minded institutions, the 1st AFC was held in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, the 2nd in August 2014 in Bali, Indonesia, the 3rd in September 2016 in Kita Kyushu City and the 4th in August 2018 in Seoul, South Korea. The 5th AFC was most recently held in Manila, the Philippines, in January 2020. All of the conferences were made memorable by the many passionate presentations as well as fruitful exchanges that took place. The 6th AFC will be held in Taipei, Taiwan in August 2022. We look forward to welcoming a diverse and dynamic group of conference participants.