

Economic and Business :
Economic and Business Studies for Social Sustainability

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On the 19th September (Wed) there were 12 presentations spread over the two sessions. In order to give maximum possible time for each presentation, it was decided to do away with the middle break and if necessary the session could be extended into the next day morning. Also the theme of the symposium was Sustainable Society but the presentations were quite varied and it was difficult to come up with a unifying conclusion about the contents. Because of the organizers' intervention at the last minute, the session had to be cut short by 30 minutes and 3 presentations were moved to the next day morning. We probably should have allowed more time for the two sessions right from the beginning.

We started with the topic of Community Business Development. The presenter looked at the Northern Region of Thailand. The main guidelines for sustainability were put forward. They were ? moderation of the size of business, reasonability of potential, able accounting principle, transfer of knowledge and equal benefit sharing. This was followed by 3 closely related presentations on Social Enterprise in Northern District of Thailand. The first was based on interviews of 15 social enterprises. The main conclusion was a lack of understanding and mindset for the social enterprise concept and an educational and training program was recommended. The second looked at 152 enterprises in 8 provinces. It concluded that the majority of the enterprises have focused on the social entrepreneurship by combining commercial enterprises with social impact. The third used Cluster Analysis and concluded that 68, 70, 13 and 1 social enterprises have respectively achieved different levels of successes in the descending order. These were followed by a paper on the social impact of the international outflow of nurses in the Philippines. It is a big industry and despite the export of this skilled labor force there no shortage of nurses in the home country. After this there was a technical paper which proposed an index of envy for an unequal income distribution of income. The next presentation was concerned with challenges for Green Tourism in Japan. In an ac-

tual situation business management methods were introduced and their impact on the visitor satisfaction was evaluated. The next one focused on the debate of the use of nuclear power after the Tsunami in Japan and the lessons of the disaster were applied to a futuristic planning for Thailand. This was followed by the tourism related Shikoku pilgrimage and its role for the non-religious participants. These presentations were followed by 3 technical papers which used complex statistical and econometric tools. The first discussed the fiscal policy of Thailand and concluded that the economy attained fiscal sustainability during 1994-2011. The next looked at the impact of world business cycles on tourism industry of Thailand. It used the cointegration analysis. The final presentation looked at the impact of Thailand Japan trade on the socio-economic sustainable development of Thailand. After these 12 able presentations the two counterparts had a round table discussion on how to continue with the international exchange possibilities for Business and Economics.

Firstly, regarding the next CMU-KU symposium, CMU is keen that KU Econ and Business send 3 participants each for the next symposium tentatively scheduled in November 2014 and hopefully joint work is presented. KU responded by promising to do its best and recruit 6 visitors from Econ (3) and Business (3). The topics of interest seemed to be Small Businesses, Retailing Business, Life of Semi-retired people, Happiness etc.

Secondly, regarding exchange of faculty, since nobody from KU Econ or Business has visited CMU yet a visit was planned. The possibility of a few lectures as visiting professors was discussed. Visits to KU are welcome but since KU does not have easy funds for visiting professors teaching to the Japanese students. The situation needs to be assessed better.

Thirdly, about the exchange of students, CMU is very keen that KU sends students for a short visit to CMU. KU will make an effort to send a group of students in August 2013 and then will try to host a visit later in the year. The CMU promises to look after the stay in Thailand but KU has to arrange the funds to pay for the stay in Takamatsu. We need to work on this problem. We will also like to include the Law Faculty students as they do not have too many possibilities of International Exchange.

Fourthly, regarding exchange of other Materials etc, there was a possibility discussed about exchange of credits. Currently this is not possible for Master's program. And only to a limited extent possible for undergraduate studies. There was also some talk about KU faculty joining the editorial board and referee panel of CMU Econ journal. It was decided to probe this further. The discussion was fruitful and was optimistic about future collaboration.