

New Frontiers in Regional Science: Asian Perspectives

Volume 13

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Editor

Sustainable Growth and Development in a Regional Economy

 Springer

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Preface

Recently our society has become more and more complex. Most developing countries are troubled by serious economic differentials or environmental issues. At the same time, it is impossible for developed countries to ignore social security and issues involving the declining birth rate and aging population. So far, most researchers have considered these as issues within a single country. However, recently the economic borders among countries have almost been dissolved by trade agreements, development of transportation, and so on. Consequently, it is now easier for labor and goods to move among countries or regions.

Because the behavior of one country easily affects other countries in the borderless economy, each country has to take account of the economic policies of others and must devise economic policies carefully. For instance, it is not easy to derive optimal policies within environmental economics under such a complex society when we consider a sustainable environmental policy that will not prevent economic growth. This is because most environmental issues are caused by our economic activities. Although social security is required to make economic growth sustainable, adequate prescriptions for this issue depend on the situation of each country. Thus, the economic policy should not be considered only by researchers of public economics.

Although one of a social scientist's missions is to provide a prescription to establish a better society, it is difficult to resolve many kinds of issues in our society and to present appropriate prescriptions for them from a particular point of view. Because economists are also social scientists, we have a duty to achieve this mission. The research presented in this book is a result of collaboration by economists specializing in different fields. For instance, it is not easy to derive optimal policies within environmental economics alone under such complex social conditions when we consider a sustainable environmental policy. In this case, it is necessary to collaborate on a project with those whose specialties are environmental economics, economic growth theory, development economics, and so on.

We understand that it is effective to research these complex issues and to pursue appropriate prescriptions for them in collaboration with researchers in different

research fields, and we gradually constructed an academic network through research meetings, workshops, and conferences. Some of the authors of this book belong to the same research project and are continuing it now. Some authors are already working jointly. Thus, our research network is embodied in this book.

We were able to carry out our research smoothly because we were helped by various kinds of support. First of all, we are grateful that the Japan section of RSAI and Springer Japan gave us an opportunity to publish this book. Each chapter of the book is based on studies that each author presented in academic research meetings, conferences, and workshops. The authors received useful comments and suggestions in those venues, and we thank the discussants and participants. Moreover, many people have supported us in the publication of this book. We thank Moriki Hosoe, Keisuke Osumi, Nobuhiro Okuno, Yoshiro Higano, Ki-Dong Lee, Makoto Tawada, Akira Yakita, Dao-Zhi Zeng, Hideo Koide, Gerhard Glomm, Ichiro Daitoh, Isao Miura, Junya Matsunami, Kazutoshi Miyazawa, Makoto Okamura, Ming Hsin Lin, Noriaki Matsushima, Se-il Mun, Tadashi Yagi, Takao Ohkawa, Takatoshi Tabuchi, Tatsuaki Kuroda, Tomoya Mori, Toshihiro Matsumura, Yasunori Fujita, Dan Sasaki, and Daisaku Goto. We are particularly grateful to Hikaru Ogawa, who is the leader of our research project and helped us to complete this book. Without his academic and financial support, this book of research results could not have been published.

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Tohru Naito

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