

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】

Humanities and Social Sciences (Social sciences)



Title of Project : Poverty Reduction, Institutions, Markets, and Policies in Developing Countries: Toward a Theory of Comparative Economic Development

Takashi Kurosaki

(Hitotsubashi University, The Institute of Economic Research, Professor)

Research Area : Applied economics

Keyword : Development economics, international economics, comparative economic history

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Despite the efforts of long years in development, the absolute poverty remains one of the most urgent problems facing developing countries today. Some of the symptoms associated with the absolute poverty were also found in developed countries before they experienced the modern economic growth. The objective of this research is thus to provide a unified framework of long-term economic development and poverty reduction. In other words, it attempts to build a new knowledge base on economic development and developing countries.



【Research Methods】

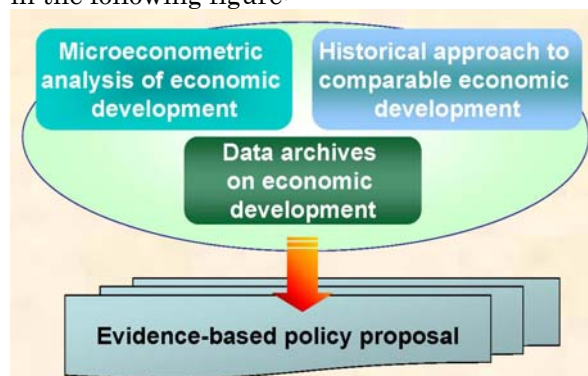
A group of co-researchers is organized for this project, led by development economists and comparative economic historians. These researchers closely collaborate on collecting primary data as well as on analyzing them.

In data collection, household surveys are conducted in low-income developing countries in Asia and Africa to collect detailed information on household economies as well as economic institutions, contracts, and government policies. At the same time, historical data on economic organizations and institutions are compiled from various records, including government statistics and filled-in survey questionnaires previously unexplored by researchers.

Combining quantitative/microeconomic and descriptive/case-study analyses, the determinants of economic institutions, organizations, and policies, as well as their impact on economic performance are investigated in the context of economic development.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

The expected research outcomes are summarized in the following figure:



First, a new stock of knowledge will be accumulated on the role of institutions, organizations, and policies in economic development, in the form of scientific evidence. Second, data archives on economic development will be constructed and transferred to the next generation researchers. Third, policy proposal will be prepared for specific poverty reduction policies based on the scientific evidence.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Kurosaki, T. *Economic Analysis of Poverty and Vulnerability*, Tokyo: Keiso Shobo Publications, 2009.

Saito, O. *Comparative Economic Development: A Historical Approach*, Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2008.

Kurosaki, T. *Development Microeconomics: Theory and Application*, Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2001.

【Term of Project】 FY2010-2014

【Budget Allocation】 140,500 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

kurosaki@ier.hit-u.ac.jp