

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

Humanities and Social Sciences (Social sciences)



Title of Project : Empirical Research on Intangible Investment in Japan

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Research Area : Social science, Economics, Economic policy

Keyword : Economic policy, Japanese economy, Economic development

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Since 2000, many researchers have recognized that intangible investment - such as R&D investment and accumulation in human and organizational capital - are crucial factors to economic growth. In line with these research topics, our research focuses on the role of intangible assets on growth at the aggregate, industry and firm levels. At the aggregate level, we aim to measure Japanese intangible investment in a way comparable with those in other advanced countries. Using the results at the aggregate level, we measure intangible investment at the industry level and examine its contribution to industry growth. At the firm level, we examine the effects of organizational structure and human resource management on firm performance.

【Research Methods】

Our research on intangible investment is divided into three categories; at the aggregate, industry, and firm levels. At the aggregate level, we measure Japanese intangible investment in the market economy following similar research in other advanced countries.

Using the results for the aggregate economy and the Japan Industry Productivity Database published by the Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry, we measure intangible investment at the industry level. Including measured intangible investment in a growth accounting framework, we examine the contribution of intangible assets on economic growth at the aggregate and industry levels.

At the firm level, we compare the firm performance between Japanese and Korean firms using interview surveys on organizational and human resource management. We also examine the effects of finance on intangible investment at the firm level.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

Intangible investment is measured only in Japan among the Asian countries, although a number of researchers in the US and Europe have already measured it for those countries. Taking advantage of the rich data environment in Japan, we are able to measure intangible investment at the industry level, which has not been conducted in any other country. Therefore, our work is expected to motivate researchers interested in productivity growth to follow our measurement.

Comparing management practices amongst Asian firms will allow us to find the managerial advantages of Japanese firms in the global market. The research on intangible investment and finance will be a pioneer work in the study of intangible investment and productivity.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Bloom, N. and J. Van Reenen (2007), "Measuring and Explaining Management Practices across Firms and Countries," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(4), pp. 1351-1408.

Fukao, K. et.al.. (2009)," Intangible Investment in Japan: Measurement and Contribution to Economic Growth". *Review of Income and Wealth* 55, pp.717-736.

【Term of Project】 FY2010-2014

【Budget Allocation】 62,200 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

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