



The Project on Intergenerational Equity (PIE) was launched in October 2000

Professor Noriyuki Takayama of Hitotsubashi University is the project representative. The PIE research program incorporates the following seven themes:

1. intergenerational equity and principles of cost-sharing in the context of global warming
2. intergenerational equity in health and welfare of developed countries
3. pensions and intergenerational equity
4. low fertility and migration
5. intergenerational equity and sustainable economic development
6. intergenerational equity under the transition to a market economy
7. politics of intergenerational equity

The project outline is printed at the back of this newsletter. For further details please see our website (<http://www.ier.hit-u.ac.jp/pie/English/index.html>).

Interview by Asahi Shimbun

An article about the project based on an interview with Prof. Takayama appeared in Asahi Shimbun (Asahi Daily News) on September 27, 2000. This article can also be found at the back of this newsletter.

International Seminar on Pensions

The International Seminar on Pensions was held for three days from March 5-7, 2001 at Hitotsubashi University's Sano-shoin Hall in Kunitachi, Tokyo. The respective speakers presented detailed analyses of the current state of public pensions around the world and recent developments towards reform, which reports were followed by lively discussions among the participants. It was commonly recognized that in various countries, while public pension benefits are being downsized, private initiatives for old-age income security are being encouraged more and more through tax measures and other means.

The speakers were as follows: Prof. M. Asher (National Univ. of Singapore), Dr. H. Bateman (Univ. of New South Wales), Dr. L. Yin (Tsinghua Univ.), Prof. N. Takayama (Hitotsubashi Univ.), Dr. D. Franco (Central Bank of Italy), Mr. J. Ball (DSS, the UK) and Dr. J. Bravo (ECLAC, UN, Chile).

Various country reports are published in the project DP series and can also be found on our website. The seminar Proceedings, which include comments by appointed discussants as well, will be released shortly.



Group Photo



From left: Dr. H. Bateman, Mr. J. Ball, Prof. M. Asher

From left: Prof. D. Blake, Prof. O. Mitchell, Prof. J. Piggott

Talk on DC Pensions

An international workshop on private pensions was held on March 17, 2001 at the International House of Japan in Roppongi, Tokyo. Professor D. Blake (University of London) and Mr. H. Urata (Nippon Life Insurance Co. Ltd.) gave detailed reports on corporate pension plans in the U.K. and Japan respectively. This was followed by discussions among the participants on the major challenges facing Defined Contribution plans (handling costs, volatility of returns from investment, operational regulations, and income distribution issues). The discussion was further developed by Prof. O. Mitchell (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Prof. J. Piggott and Dr. H. Bateman (both from Univ. of New South Wales), who provided comparisons with the U.S. and Australian experiences.

The above two reports are published in the project's DP series and can also be downloaded from the website.



Participants listening to Prof. Suzumura's presentation

Workshop on Intergenerational Equity

An international workshop on intergenerational equity was held on March 28 and 29, 2001 at Hitotsubashi University's Kanda campus in Tokyo. Researchers from various countries with backgrounds in diverse fields of study, such as welfare economics, social choice theory, economic growth theory, law and philosophical studies, met to discuss issues of intergenerational equity and burden sharing in the context of global warming. The participants brought to the workshop a wide range of approaches based in their respective fields, stimulating lively debate.

The reporters (all professors) were as follows: C. d'Aspremont (CORE), V. Boehm (Univ. of Bielefeld), W. Bossert (Univ. de Montreal), D. Campbell (College of William and Mary), B. Dutta (Indian Statistical Institute), L. Gevers (Univ. of Namur), J. Weymark (Vanderbilt Univ.), T. Shinotsuka (Otaru Univ. of Commerce), K. Suzumura (Hitotsubashi Univ.), K. Tadenuma (Hitotsubashi Univ.), and K. Hasegawa (Hokkaido Univ.).

The detailed minutes of this workshop are currently being prepared for release.