

Prof. Kitaoka moves to the UN

In April 2004, the leader of A7 group, Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka (Univ. of Tokyo) was appointed the UN deputy permanent representative of Japan. Prof. K. Tanabe (Univ. of Tokyo) took on the role of the group leader following his appointment.

Pension Reform with Trust & Sustainability

Pension Reform with Trust and Sustainability (in Japanese) written by Prof. Noriyuki Takayama was published in May 2004. The book examines the pension reform bill submitted to the national parliament of Japan in February 2004 from an inter-generational viewpoint, and gives concrete policy recommendations (the content can be found on the back). Prof. Takayama energetically worked towards altering the public to the problem of intergenerational equity through appearing live on television programs, and writing for newspapers and magazines.



Healthcare Reform in Japan

The research results of PIE has been published as an intensive study in September 2004 from the Oriental Economist Co. Ltd. The book title is *Health Care Reform in Japan* (in Japanese). It includes the papers Prof. Tokita researched and wrote while fighting his illness. The focus is on the empirical analyses of Japan's medicare policy and medical economics. The brief outline and contents can be found on the back.



Mr. T. Kubo



Mr. A. Hayakawa



Mr. K. Kojima



Prof. Y. Kitamura



Dr. M. Oyama



Prof. R. Aoki

Joint Workshop on Declining Fertility

On the 3rd September 2004, a joint workshop of A3/A4 groups was held at the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University. Reporters were: Professors Y. Kitamura, M. Oyama, R. Aoki, T. Iwaisako (from Hitotsubashi Univ.) and Y. Iguchi (Kansei-gakuin Univ.). In-depth report and active discussions on a marriage choice problem, macro- and micro-economics of low fertility, portfolio selection of Japanese households, and foreign labor policy took place.



Prof. A. Boersch-Supan



Prof. T. Iwaisako



Prof. H. Iguchi

German Pension Reform

On the 9th and 10th September 2004, an international workshop on German and Japanese pensions took place at CAWW, Tokyo. Prof. Axel Boersch-Supan (Mannheim Univ.) gave an elaborate report on recent German pension reforms, including the sustainability factor implemented at the end of March 2004.

Following the report, Mr. T. Kubo (pension actuary), Mr. A. Hayakawa (MHLW), Mr. K. Kojima (Dai-ichi Life Research Institute), Ms. S. Chida (Fujitsu), Mr. M. Tanaka (JT) and Mr. K. Sekine (Towers Perrin) gave presentations on the Japanese retirement allowance and corporate pensions. All the reports were detailed and led to a deeper understanding of the pension issues.



Ms. S. Chida



Mr. M. Tanaka



Mr. K. Sekine