

Ministry's Peer Review

A peer review of the PIE project took place on the 30th September 2002 at the sponsoring Ministry of Education, Tokyo. Director of PIE, Prof. N. Takayama explained the up-to-date progresses and the interim outcome of the project. A Q&A session followed between the project team and members of Science Technology Council. The score we have received through this review was the highest grade "A".



Members of Study on Sustainable Economic Development

Economic Development Relations

On the 5th September 2002, a workshop on "intergenerational equity and sustainable economic development" was held at Sano-shoin Hall, Hitotsubashi University. Reporting themes were: "Poverty and Consumption in Developing Countries," "Declining Fertility and Female Workforce," and "A Multi-sector Business Cycle Model." Vigorous discussions followed each report.

Nikkei News Features PIE Outcomes

The results of PIE pension researchers have been featured in the 28th September 2002 DAILY NIKKEI news (see the back page).

Corporate Pensions

On the 26th - 27th September 2002, the Japan Research Council workshop took place at Hitotsubashi Memorial Hall, Kanda, Tokyo. Reporters were: Professors Y. Hirano (Nihon Univ.), Y. Sasajima (Meiji Gakuin Univ.), A. Imafuku (Nihon Univ.), Mr. T. Totsuka (Japan Pension Navigator), Ms. R. Fukuda (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.) and Prof. J. Piggott (Univ. of New South Wales). Detailed reports were given on tax systems, employee compensation/benefit packages, accounting, the contracting-out, the case of Panasonic, and the Australian Pension System. A long and thorough discussion followed. Presentation sheets and papers are available on the JPRC website (<http://www.ier.hit-u.ac.jp/jprc/>) mainly in Japanese.



Professors Piggott & Takayama



Ms. Fukuda



Mr. Totsuka



Prof. Hirano



Prof. Imafuku

Political Aspects

A symposium on politics of intergenerational equity was held on the 18th November 2002 at Gakushi Kaikan, Jinbocho, Tokyo. Reports by Professors A. Tanaka (Waseda Univ.) and K. Tanabe (Univ. of Tokyo) were followed by lively discussions with the audiences. Then, with Prof. S. Kitaoka as the chairman, Prof. J. Iio (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies) put forward questions which were discussed by Mr. N. Akagi (MP, LDP, and Deputy Director of the Defense Agency), Mr. T. Itoh (MP, LDP, and Vice Minister of Cabinet Office), Mr. Y. Noda (MP, DPJ). Opinions were exchanged on the subject of intergenerational equity within the political arena, and further, ways of overcoming the intrinsic intergenerational inequity among the voters were seriously debated.



International Workshop on Declining Fertility

Declining Fertility

On the 20th - 21st November 2002, an international workshop on "declining fertility and social policy" took place at the ADB Institute, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo. The workshop aimed to compare similarities and differences of developed countries which face declining fertility like Japan. These countries were classified by language and area (German, English, French, Japan, Scandinavia and South Europe) and the respective birthrates and family policies were compared/contrasted. In the discussion which included 6 invited guests from abroad, it was agreed that supporting working parents and financial aid to child rearing are of vital importance. Also it was concluded that companies must change their workplace policy to "family-friendly" and further the formation of a gender-equal society must be promoted. All reports given at the seminar will be revised and included in PIE DP series.