

New Corporatism mechanism to integrate the labor-capital relationship will have a strong actual needs and the inevitable development trend, which is an inevitable choice in China's development of the market economy and the establishment of a modern enterprise system.

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Local and Regional Endogenous Development and Sustainable Society

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eco-friendly economy, biomass, human well-being and capability approach.

I. Introductory Remarks

1. Provincial regions at a disadvantage

The Japanese economy is undergoing structural changes for the last several decades. Our expectations that the economy would return to a sustainable growth path have gone unfulfilled.

On a multitude of scales, a disparity between the standards of living applying within The nation has been widening owing to the condition of an economy which has not benefited equally from development either in a spatial sense and/or within classes in society. The disparity between rich and poor even in Japan has been also growing in recent years. Despite of so-called high rate of economic growth, business development is still very uneven within the country, because of economic policies, variation in institutional thickness, agglomeration, external and urbanization economies, and regional disparities affected by strong market principles.

It is difficult to qualify the prosperity or poverty of a region, but there are some basic factors. The first is a sense of despair at regional economic failure in business, which has been often observed in a number of provinces in the country. It is true that some kind of measures had been taken to combat the disparity and for depression-proof sectors. In many cases, however, depressed areas result from the decline of locally immigrated and /or domestic conventional industries or other economic activities including local and regional development. Most Japanese regional policy has concerned the creation of local jobs by way of spending the taxpayers' money on impressive new buildings under the cloak of public works, for example, public roads construction.

2. Underdevelopment and the underemployed

Regional disparities are deemed as a feature of most market economies. Global uneven development may be seen to be a result of capitalism, based as it is exposed openly to fierce competition and accumulation. But it is also observable even in the advanced countries where socioeconomic growth is quite limping domestically and regionally as well.

Not only overpopulation but also depopulation, coupled in many cases with high-speed aging, cause increased poverty in Japan as a whole. Particularly, metropolitan areas are buckling under the pressures of overpopulation and aggravating circumstances. The most serious problems affecting people have been and are, on the one hand, congestion, disequilibrium and pollution, and, on the other hand, depletion of natural resources. These phenomena are the causal relationship brought about from serious depopulation in the countryside. Some practical measures should be attempted to reverse the cause and effect.

The original meaning of the term 'underdevelopment' indicates that existing resources

had not been exploited fully enough. Indicators of underdevelopment in Japan may include: a declining agricultural and small industrial sector, low per capita GDP, high levels of the aged in need of social care, and so to speak juveniles drain or exhaustion out of the provincial regions. Nowadays, one third of younger workers in Japan is reportedly constituted by precarious employees, engaging in part-time work, day labor, temporary work as staff dispatched and casual labor.

Needless to say, the unemployment rate is the number unemployed as a percentage of the total population of working age. Underemployment means a situation where there are too few people to develop fully the economic potential of an area or nation; a larger population could be supported on the same resource base under certain circumstances.

3. For economic and social rebalanced development

Now, people are under the urgent necessity of taking some action to tackle the difficult economic situation in Japan. Her economy is undergoing structural transformations as shown in de-industrialization and huge national debts. To cope with this period of low economic growth, we have to re-examine the local regional development, above all from the view point of the economic policies. In order to deal with the coming economic crisis, people have no choice but to make regional policies furthermore sound and carefully deliberated. What is most important is good planning and strategy that will prepare communities for future changes and enable them to overcome difficulties including employment problems.

We are confronting a difficult period, and that it will not be easy task for us to foresee the future with any degree of accuracy. But people should make their best to attempt restoring regional prosperity by creating incentives afresh into these and by improvements in local infrastructure, though these policies may have less immediate effect for the time being. The economic performance of a region is directly related to the depth of human well-being, so that the institutions around local governments should engage in the design and implementation of economic and social policy: business elites, community leaders, development corporations, training and enterprise councils, and voluntary groups. Private and/or voluntary actors will play indispensable roles here, for example, in the form of trade associations, voluntary agencies, sectoral coalitions, concrete institutions, and local elites. Their effects on local policy, and their consensus institutions: common agreements, shared views and interpretations, and unwritten laws can be grave in the circumstances.

In reference to these aspects, it is noteworthy to recollect that institutional capacities do not exist in isolation from broader social, political and economic structures, and may not be transferable. The totality of social, cultural, and institutional forms and supports available to communities are important. There are many other strategies we can employ to cope with strategic changes in the Japanese economy. People must do their utmost to explore the possibilities and overcome the difficulties they are now confronting.

II. Sustainable Society

1. 'Our common future'

Sustainable development is an idea to meet the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability to meet those of the future. The idea evolves a notion concerning development which balances the satisfaction of people's interests and the protection of future generations'.

In an economic sense, the maximization of the net benefits of economic development should subject to maintaining the services and quality of natural resources over time. Economic development should proceed at a pace and in a manner that will conserve the environment and depletable natural resources. Thus, it is a long-term development including the establishment of the basic social and economic institutions necessary for continuing economic growth along together with the conservation of plant and animal species, which is recommended for the sake of the future generations. With reference to economic policy, growth rate, therefore, should be targeted on meeting the needs of both the present and future generations by choosing a particular range of economic activities. Sustainable economic growth rate should be taken as the annual rate of growth of real gross domestic product, which is in line with the growth of productivity and the present level of capacity utilization within limits compatible.

Referring to the critical global environment, problems were reported primarily as the result of the enormous poverty of the South and the non-sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the North. It is often recited as follows: «Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.» (Brundtland Report, 1987)

(http://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/nachhaltig/international_uno/unterseite02330/)

In addition, key contributions of Our Common Future to the concept of sustainable development include the recognition that the many crises facing the planet are interlocking crises that are elements of a single crisis of the whole and of the vital need for the active participation of all sectors of society in consultation and decisions relating to sustainable development.

Broadly speaking, you cannot leave the following as crucial points out of account in connection with the subject:

- Today's needs should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs,
- A direct link exists between the economy and environment,
- The needs of the poor in all nations must be met,
- In order for our environment to be protected, the economic conditions of the

world's poor must be improved,

- In all our actions, we must consider the impact upon future generations.

(‘Our common future: The World Commission on Environment and Development’ In: Brundtland, G. (ed.), (1987), *Our common future: The World Commission on Environment and Development*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.)

The report by Brundtland describes in particular way a collective call to action, involving all nation states as participants in finding solutions to the 'tragedy of the commons'. Putting it shortly, one of its goals is:

"...to help define shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues and the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment, a long-term agenda for action during the coming decades, and aspirational goals of the world community." (Brundtland 1987:ix). (do.)

The development and expansion of international institutions for co-operation, and legal mechanisms to confront common concerns, international action on issues of the concerns are much expected. And perhaps most importantly, the increased co-operation with industry as well as local and regional development in line with sustainable development should be hold fast in a number of nations in the world. It is necessary to examine, all over the country as well as in every corner of lands and regions, population and human resources, food security, species and ecosystems, energy, industry, and 'the urban challenge' of humans in their built environment.

On mentioning the matter related to local and regional development agreeable with current trend from now on, the balance should be stressed between the interests of economic growth and environmental protection; emphasizing the importance of inter-generational transfers, the preservation of non-renewable resources, and a variety of loosely defined principles regarding the responsibilities and accountability of policy makers.

2. Aiming at Eco-friendly Economy

Greenhouse effect and Kyoto Protocol

Nowadays, there are a number of signs of freakish weather and uncannily climate warming is spreading all over the world. The Earth is gradually becoming warmer because of an increase in the effect, of which carbon dioxide is viewed as the primary cause. It became a strong consensus of the town that the greenhouse effect is a real phenomenon. Human activities are increasing the levels of these gases in the atmosphere, causing an 'enhanced greenhouse effect', in which more of the sun's energy is trapped instead of escaping into space. The effect and disruption of ozone layer are weighty issues for the future of humankind and an imminent threat to the global environment.

The Kyoto Protocol is a countermeasure as an important way to do something about

the knotty problems. It is an agreement among the industrialized nations of the world to limit global greenhouse gas emissions of six greenhouse gases over a certain period of time. More than 170 nations signed the treaty, including the U.S., the European Union, Canada, and Japan. But unfortunately, the result to be desired seems to fall far short of expected.

Biomass as an “antidote”

Biomass, in the energy production industry, refers to living and recently living biological material, which can be used as fuel or for industrial production. Most commonly biomass refers to plant matter grown for use as biofuel, but also includes plant or animal matter used for production of fibres, chemicals or heat. Biomass may also include biodegradable wastes that can be burnt as fuel. It excludes organic material which has been transformed by geological processes into substances such as coal or petroleum. It is usually measured by dry weight. Biofuels include bioethanol, biobutanol, biodiesel & biogas. Biodiesel and biobutanol are direct biofuels and can be used directly in petroleum engines. Although fossil fuels have their origin in ancient biomass, they are not considered biomass by the generally accepted definition because they contain carbon that has been 'out' of the carbon cycle for a very long time. Their combustion therefore disturbs the carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere.

The principle fuel used as a petrol substitute for road transport vehicles is bioethanol. Bioethanol fuel is mainly produced by the sugar fermentation process, although it can also be manufactured by the chemical process of reacting ethylene with steam. The main sources of sugar required to produce ethanol come from fuel or energy crops. These crops are grown specifically for energy use and include corn, maize and wheat crops, waste straw, willow and poplar trees, sawdust, reed canary grass, cord grasses, jerusalem artichoke, miscanthus and sorghum plants. There is also ongoing research and development into the use of municipal solid wastes to produce ethanol fuel. Biomass is part of the carbon cycle. Carbon from the atmosphere is converted into biological matter by photosynthesis. On decay or combustion the carbon goes back into the atmosphere. This happens over a relatively short timescale and plant matter used as a fuel can be constantly replaced by planting for new growth. Therefore a reasonably stable level of atmospheric carbon results from its use as a fuel.

Benefits of Bioethanol

Bioethanol has a number of advantages over conventional fuels. It comes from a renewable resource i.e. crops and not from a finite resource and the crops it derives from can grow well in many countries (like cereals, sugar beet and maize). Another benefit over fossil fuels is the greenhouse gas emissions. The road transport network accounts for an important part of all greenhouse gas emissions and through the use of bioethanol, some of these emissions will be reduced as the fuel crops absorb the CO₂ they emit through growing. Also, blending bioethanol with petrol will help extend the life of the diminishing oil supplies of the world and enhance fuel security, avoiding heavy reliance on oil

producing nations. Ethanol burns to produce carbon dioxide and water. Ethanol is a high octane fuel and has replaced lead as an octane enhancer in petrol. By blending ethanol with gasoline we can also oxygenate the fuel mixture so it burns more completely and reduces polluting emissions.

By encouraging bioethanol's use, the rural economy would also receive a boost from growing the necessary crops. Bioethanol is also biodegradable and far less toxic than fossil fuels. In addition, by using bioethanol in older engines can help reduce the amount of carbon monoxide produced by the vehicle thus improving air quality. Another advantage of bioethanol is the ease with which it can be easily integrated into the existing road transport fuel system. In quantities up to certain per cent, say 5% for example, bioethanol can be blended with conventional fuel without the need of engine modifications. Bioethanol is produced using familiar methods, such as fermentation, and it can be distributed using the same petrol stations and transportation systems as before.

Fostering Nature-friendly Industries

Photosynthesis, acting both as hydrogen donor and as a source of released oxygen, can synthesize organic compounds through reduction of carbon dioxide by using energy absorbed by chlorophyll from sunlight. It is the series of metabolic reactions that occur in certain autotrophic organisms and nothing but a very environmental friendly itself. Solar energy is used by green plants for photosynthesis, whereby they turn carbon dioxide and water into food using energy from sunlight, releasing oxygen simultaneously. Making full use of renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power including biomass, the world's hopes for sustained economic growth must be realized in the near future.

In order to cope with growing global environmental concern, some urgent domestic and international steps should be taken immediately in this context. There is much room for fuel reconsideration through the recovery of forestry and agriculture, which should be assessed as essential parts in local and regional development projects in the world now. Aside from the problems of the imbalanced economy as above mentioned, the future of whole nations in the world is now confronted with other global challenges.

III. Endogenous Development

1. Local resources to be utilized

Aggravating disparities between home and foreign are a feature of most economies of today. In an attempt to cope with regional disparities at home, it is broadly required to promote so-called endogenous development, which would contribute to reduce inequality between urban and rural areas and between economic sectors. In reference to endogenous and sustainable development for local areas, it is essential to mobilize and utilize local potentials, and local resources on their own initiative with utmost discretion.

The gap of development between rural and urban areas is widening, while many social and environmental problems have been threatening peoples' lives in various areas. Owing to the shortages and ineffective use of resources, such as finance, social capital, natural resources and human resources, local actors must encounter a lot of difficulties to get over in improving their peoples' living standards and quality of life. Limited local resources and lack of knowledge in utilizing those are the major constraints of local development. There are a number of provincial areas where staple has been and will be products in the traditional patterns coming from agriculture and forestry. With all problems that local areas are facing nowadays, it is essential to do research on how local actors can mobilize, utilize their local resources including human factors for development.

2. Human development

Human factor refers to a spectrum of personality characteristics and other dimension of human performance that enables social, economic and political institutions can function and remain functional, overtime. This means not only the investments in human beings that come from the direction of expenditures and human activity to the critical areas of education and health but also from the real development of human potential which occurs as the result of human activity. This is the essence of the revolutionary practice that Marx described the simultaneous changing of circumstances and human activity or self-change.

Here, human needs and capacities, rather than the needs of capital, become the engine that drives the economy. (Michael A. Lebowitz, *'Ideology and Economic Development' Monthly Review* Volume 56, Number 1, May 2004). Endogenous development is possible—but only if a government is prepared to break ideologically and politically with capital, only if it is prepared to make social movements actors in the realization of an economic theory based upon the concept of human capacities.(do.)

Within such a framework, the growth of non-capitalist sectors oriented to meeting people's needs is not merely a defense against a capital shortage. Here, human needs and capacities, rather than the needs of capital, that is profit-oriented entrepreneur, become the engine that drives the regional economy. To get practical endogenous development implemented, it is *de fact* necessary and sufficient condition that investment in human factors, mobilizing and utilizing local resources, build a strong social capital, etc.

3. Capability approach

Here, it is noteworthy that there must be a close connection between development and human capabilities suggested by Amartya Sen. He had, in this respect, proposed an idea 'the capability approach', which people should not overlook.

'Development can be seen ... as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy. Focusing on human freedoms [or capabilities] contrasts with the narrower views of development, such as identifying development with the growth of gross national product, or with the rise in personal incomes, or with industrialization, or with technological advance, or with social modernization.' (Amartya Sen, President of the

HDCA 2004-2006)

His capabilities approach focuses on positive freedom, a person's actual ability to be or do something, rather than on negative freedom approaches, which are common in economics and simply focuses on non-interference. These "functionings" can range from the very broad, such as the availability of education, to the very specific, such as transportation to the polls. Only when such barriers are removed can the citizen truly be said to act out of personal choice. It is up to the individual society to make the list of minimum capabilities guaranteed by that society. ('Important Works', *Amartya Sen*: retrieved from Wikipedia)

On the other hand, the 'narrow views of development' itself is still a matter of unavoidable and vital importance in a great deal of time and cases. Unemployment is more general and often reflects more or less deep-rooted backwardness where only few jobs are to be found. In many urban cases of fractional unemployment, jobs are only available in a form of precarious employment such as staff dispatched for temporary work. Structural unemployment occurs when the labor market no longer requires a particular skill, as in the case of various manufacturing industries; new technology and new materials replace conventional working habits besides to simple manual work.

A series of policy under the strong central guidance in general, adopted by governments, aimed at redressing uneven development within the country. Although the incentives seemed to tackle regional imbalance, there is no gainsaying about disparities in their implementation between desired and accomplished, most probably because of the lack of endogenous development concern.

4. Endogenous Development Approach

Local and regional economic development should be about the execution performed by local people for upgrading communities to improve their living standards and retain jobs. It is expected to offer local authority and relevant community an opportunity to improve their economy through cooperation of the private sector and other sectors, in order to enhance competitiveness and thus increasing growth. It calls a number of local government functions including planning, infrastructure development, and social institutions.

Endogenous development refers to economic and social transformation generated as a result of the response of cities and regions on their own initiative to the challenges of competition. Leading local actors are expected to take up strategies and deep-rooted enthusiasm aimed at improving the well-being of local community. The dynamic and transformation of local economies are necessarily anchored in the forces for change within the area. Their fundamental leadership position must be first to sow seed of fundamental idea in endogenous development policy.

Of course, the State's central administration has an important role to play in the application of the endogenous development policy, both on the technical as well as on the financial level, but endogenous development policy cannot be understood as a State policy

nevertheless. Setting the idea forth as a premise, central administrations should take it on as its own, since it is in line with its objectives of growth, increased productivity and productive adjustment. However, the policy should be taken as a spontaneous answer on behalf of the municipalities and/or regions to the productive adjustment problems and to social exclusion. And then, things could be put forward as an action, to specify the requirements for local initiatives in the line eligible for State financing.

This approach will lead in the course of time to a trend of the community that development does not necessarily have to be focused in large cities, rather diffusing in rural regions and urban centres as well of different size. In the due course, society organizes itself for the purpose of producing goods and services more efficiently that give way to industrial and agricultural districts, small and medium size firms within the territory.

The endogenous development approach is, in this manner, characterized by specific distinctions. Firstly, endogenous development refers to the capital accumulation process of specific localities and territories. It deals with development processes based on local savings and investment, although private and public resources can be driven from other places and localities. It pays attention to the territory's capacity for the diffusion of innovation throughout the local productive system and the role played by the local innovation

system. It argues that the efficient use of the territory's development potential is conditioned by the functioning of institutions. Endogenous development, therefore, is a territorial approach to economic growth and structural change, based on the hypothesis that the territory can be understood as the territorial community's network of interests and, thus, can be perceived as an actor for local development. (DO My Hien, *The Needs for Endogenous Development in the Era of Globalization: The Case of Thanh Hoa Province*)

www.grips.ac.jp/vietnam/VDFTokyo/Doc/32DMHien14Apr07Paper.pdf

All countries have prosperous and depressed regions, though in some the disparities are greater than in others. The framework for measures should be taken in the attempt to reduce disparities between economic development in general and unemployment in particular among different parts of the country.

More recently, attention has been, and should be, towards the scope for stimulating self-regeneration capacity by the promotion of small business. Enterprises if endogenously promoted by the public sector, or by public-private partnerships, to attract new enterprises and investment and/or generate new demand for locally produced products or services, increase local employment and income, expand furthermore the local tax base, and, in many cases, improve economic opportunities for low-income households.

Most regional policy has concerned the creation of various jobs.

IV. Human Well-being

As above mentioned, Amartya Sen had developed a conceptual framework for capability approach by evaluating social states in terms of human well-being (welfare). It emphasizes functional capabilities ("substantial freedoms", such as the ability to live to old age, engage in economic transactions, or participate in political activities); these are construed in terms of the substantive freedoms people have reason to value, instead of utility (happiness, desire-fulfilment or choice) or access to resources (income, commodities, assets). Poverty is understood as capability-deprivation. (*Capability approach*: retrieved from Wikipedia)

It is noteworthy that the emphasis is not only on how human beings actually function but on their having the capability, which is a practical choice, to function in important ways if they so wish. Someone could be deprived of such capabilities in many ways, e.g. by ignorance, government oppression, lack of financial resources, or false consciousness. This approach to human well-being emphasises the importance of freedom of choice, individual heterogeneity and the multi-dimensional nature of welfare. This approach contrasts with a common view that sees development purely in terms of GNP growth, and poverty purely as income-deprivation.

In order to get these ideas materialized, so-called endogenous development must not be overlooked within regions where people strive in every way to meet the well-being by themselves on their own initiative. Endogenous development is a process of economic growth and structural change, which is led by the local community and employs its potential for development to improve the local population's standard of living. It is a process in which social aspects in a sense of human well-being are integrated into economic aspects. Public and private actors make investment decisions aimed not only at increasing local productivity and competitiveness, but also at solving problems and improving the well-being of local community.

Although a number of so-called babyboomers in Japan have been retiring from active life, there's no way they can simply take it easy for the rest of their days. It goes without saying that welfare spending is bound to rise with the aging of Japanese society, where the percentage of elderly citizens has been growing more and more in the coming decades. The elderly population is expected to peak in fiscal 2025. The pension system faces serious problems exacerbated by the rapid aging population and due to the sloppy working order brought about by central government administration. As its population ages, Japan has no choice but to find new revenue sources for welfare programs and additionally some strong reinforcement measures to full-fill the well-being of people.

V. Closing Remarks

When it comes to the employer-employee relation ship, there must be an active employer on the scene to take a person into a service. As provider and producer, local people may be almost no match for their competitors from large city owning to the now governing market principles. There is serious shortage of job placement as such in rural areas, to produce the state of being involuntary out of work there. Thus, underdevelopment and unemployment cause increased poverty and slack now immediately to be tackled to lessen the disparity in our lives between desire and accomplishment

In order to achievement of economic growth, it is widely argued that social reforms, such as improvements in education and public health, must precede economic reform. Human beings' priority in life is to try to fulfil their potential. Self-fulfillment cannot be realized simply through one's career, without lives being quite creative in the manner in which people fulfilled their duties.

It is arguable that disadvantaged regions would be regions of cheap labor which could ultimately attract investment without government intervention or expenditure, and there might be a shift in underdeveloped area from assistance at a regional level to help smaller, well-defined units. There are, therefore, much room and possibility in provincial regions in Japan to develop afresh in the endogenous and sustainable manner.

It also reminds us to make good approach to the environmental and development issues which were (and still are) facing the world as one common challenge, to be solved by collective multilateral action rather than through the pursuit of national self-interest and by each nation's institutional and legal change in order to confront them. With the close interactions between the problems facing the world in mind, people should also contribute to common approaches to peace, security, development and the environment far and wide.

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