



LUNCH SEMINAR

on the Japanese Economy

at the Maison franco-japonaise

"How is Suicide Different in Japan ?"

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The University of Tokyo – Faculty of Economics

February 26th, 2008 (Tuesday), from 12:30 pm to 2 pm
Maison franco japonaise, room 601 (6th floor)

With the generous support of the Economic Section of the French Embassy and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan

Summary

In this study, we analyze suicide rates among OECD countries with a particular effort made to gain insight into how suicide in Japan is different from suicides in other OECD countries. Several findings emerged from our empirical analyses. First, the impacts of socioeconomic variables vary across different age-gender groups. Second, in general, better economic conditions such as high level of income and higher economic growth reduce suicide rate while income inequality increases suicide rate. Third, suicide rate is more sensitive to the economic factors captured by real GDP per capita, growth rate of real GDP per capita, and Gini inequality index than to the social factors represented by divorce rate, birth rate, female labor participation rate, and alcohol consumption. Fourth, female and elderly generation suicides are more difficult to be accounted for. Fifth, in accordance to the general belief, the suicide problem in Japan is very different from those of the other OECD countries. The impact of socioeconomic variables is greater in Japan than in other OECD countries.

Biography

Yasuyuki SAWADA (Ph.D., Stanford University) is an associate professor in Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo and a faculty fellow of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI). He is a specialist in development economics and applied micro-econometrics. His research interests include empirical investigations of household and firm behavior and microfinance and other financial programs under a wide variety of risks and uncertainties using micro-data from different countries such as Pakistan, Mongolia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, El Salvador, or Japan. Recently, he has been analyzing households' risk-coping behavior after a disaster such as the Kobe & Chuetsu earthquakes, the Asian Tsunami disaster, and Avian Influenza in Vietnam.

How to attend the Lunch Seminar ?

The participation to the Lunch Seminar is free but **registration is strictly required**. Please apply by e-mail to : lechevalier@mfj.gr.jp ; or by fax (03-5421-7652) specifying your :

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|--------------------------|----------|
| - name | - adress |
| - company or institution | - phone |
| - position | - e-mail |

NB : The presentation will be followed by a discussion with the participants (in English, no translation).

For a map of Ebisu area, please look at <http://www.mfj.gr.jp/map-j.html>



Forthcoming

■ March 24th, 2008 (Monday), 12:30 - 14:00

How Open is the Japanese Economy Today ?

By Franz WALTERBERGER (Professor of Japanese Economy, Japan Centre and Munich School of Management, Munich University)



Please note that this is a "brown bag lunch seminar" (please bring your sandwiches or "bento").