

lunch seminar

Research Institute
at Maison franco-japonaise
UMIFRE 19 CNRS-MAEE

Fri. November 25th, 2011

12:30 - 14:00 | room 601 | in English (no translation)



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Commerce and Industry in Japan.

FTA Policy of Japan: An Empirical Analysis of Large Scale Company Data

Speaker TAKAHASHI Katsuhide 高橋克秀 (Kokugakuin Univ., Economy)

Discussant Isabelle GIRAUDOU (UMIFRE 19, MFJ)

This presentation examines the use of free trade agreements (FTAs) by Japanese firms based on company level data with more than 1 million cases. This is the first attempt to use large scale data on the analysis of the use of the FTAs. The data set includes all trade transactions (export from Japan) using FTAs from April 2005 to April 2010. This analysis finds that the use of FTAs in Japan is heavily concentrated on a few big companies. Toyota Motor Corp. takes a lion's share of 30% and Nissan Motor Company follows, with the share of 12%. The cumulative share of top 10 companies reaches more than 70%. Small and medium companies (SMEs) do not use FTAs, in general, compared with big companies. For SMEs, there are some obstacles to using FTAs that include difficulty in obtaining the certificate of origin that is required to use the FTA. The lack of knowledge of FTAs, and the lack of human resources in the SMEs also make it difficult to take advantage of FTAs.



TAKAHASHI Katsuhide is graduated from the Department of Political Economy, Waseda University and started working as a reporter at the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Nikkei)* in 1982. He joined the Japan Center for Economic Research as an economist in 1987, and returned to *Nikkei* in 1993. He became Associate Professor of Economics at Kobe University in 2004 and assumed his post at Kokugakuin University in 2008. His areas of specialization include effects of free trade agreements on business cycles in the global economy.

He is currently focusing on large scale data on certification of rules of origin; and the economic development of greater Mekong region and Japanese firms.

Takahashi K. and Urata S. (2010) "On the Use of FTAs by Japanese Firms: Further Evidence", *Business and Politics: Berkeley Electronic Press*, 12: Iss. 1; (2009) "On the Use of FTAs by Japanese Firms", in C. Findlay and S. Urata (eds.), *Free Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific*, Singapore: World Scientific, pp. 241-257.



Isabelle GIRAUDOU (Doctorate Paris II) is Researcher at Maison franco-japonaise, Associate Researcher at Hokkaido University, and lecturer at Paul Cézanne University, Aix-Marseille III. She has taught French Public Law in several Japanese universities and her publications have addressed environmental rights, equality between men

and women in the judiciary, and the question of the sources of law from a comparative perspective. Dealing with the expertise of Japan in the field of international cooperation, and focusing on translation as a new epistemological tool in comparative law, her research raises the question of a possible alternative approach to legal transplants.

What is the Lunch Seminar at MFJ?

This typical event has been organized at the Maison franco-japonaise (Nichi-Futsu Kaikan) since 2004. It offers a presentation followed by a discussion dedicated to a specific issue of the time and it aims at bringing a better understanding of Japanese economy and society.

This is a brown bag lunch seminar (please bring your bento or sandwiches). Coffee available.

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 mikasa@mfj.gr.jp or by fax (03-5421-7652) specifying your: name, company or institution, position, address, phone and e-mail.

For more information, see: http://www.mfj.gr.jp/web/lunch_seminar/lunch_seminar.html.

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Information

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