

lunch seminar

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

Thu. May 31st, 2012

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



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Can Japan Really Change in Response to 3.11?

Speaker Andrew SUTTER (Rikkyō Univ.)

Discussant Isabelle GIRAUDOU (UMIFRE 19, MFJ)

Just over a year after the catastrophic tsunami of 3/11 and the subsequent nuclear melt-down, Japanese government policy seems oriented to restoring the status quo ante, and to pursuing paths proposed long before the disaster. Are better sea walls, nuclear “stress testing”, trade liberalization and casinos in Tohoku really the answer? Starting from a practical application of the theoretical ideas explored at the 2010 MFJ symposium “De la convivialité”, I’ll suggest that Ivan Illich’s concept of “tool” can give us more realistic insight into our post-Fukushima situation. Conviviality will turn out to be one of several “design principles” that might be able to guide not only the reconstruction of Tohoku but regional development in Japan generally. However, there are major institutional obstacles to implementing them – not just resistance from economic interests but also such laws as the NPO Law, the Public Offices Election Law and even Japan’s Constitution. Can they be overcome?



Andrew J. SUTTER is a professor in the College of Law and Politics at Rikkyō University in Tokyo. He also practices as a registered foreign lawyer (California, USA) from an office in Iwate-ken. As columnist for *Nikkei Business Associé* and *Nikkei Business Management* (2005-2009), he published over 80 articles on law, business and economy. Previously he was Vice President of Sony’s corporate venture capital group, and spent more than 20 years practicing

corporate, business and intellectual property law at companies and law firms in Silicon Valley and Los Angeles. He concentrated in physics at Harvard College (Cambridge, MA), and received his law degree from University of California, Hastings College of the Law (San Francisco, CA). This talk develops themes from his book *Keizai seichō shinwa no owari* 経済成長神話の終わり [The End of the Myth of Economic Growth], Kōdansha Gendai Shinsho 講談社現代新書 (March 2012).



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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