



LUNCH SEMINAR

on the Japanese Economy

at the Maison franco-japonaise

" Prices, wages and mark-up.

" An analysis of the deflation in Japan "

Sébastien LECHEVALIER

日仏会館・東京大学・フランス国立社会科学高等研究院
Maison franco-japonaise, Tokyo University & EHESS

March 24th, 2006 (Friday), from 12:30 pm to 13:30 pm
Maison franco-japonaise, room 601 (6th floor)

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French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan 在日フランス商工議所*

Summary

From the mid-1990s to 2005, Japan experienced a deflation, which has attracted the attention of a great number of economists. Whereas most of their studies concern the inefficiency of monetary policy, we focus on the real dimension of the phenomenon. In adopting an imperfect competition theoretical framework and by using an industry database, we analyze the formation of prices in separating what is related to the goods market (the mark-up ratio) and what concerns the labor market (the unit labor cost). Then, a structural analysis allows us to distinguish the effects of the increasing competition (through deregulation and increasing openness), of the market dynamics and of the decreasing bargaining power of the workforce. Our main conclusion is the following: although the intensity and causality of deflation vary across industries, the main common factor is the negative growth rate of the unit labor cost, caused by the decline of employees' bargaining power.

Biography

S. LECHEVALIER is associate professor at École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS, Paris), researcher at Maison Franco Japonaise and visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo. His research aims to provide a structural analysis of the "Lost Decade" in Japan, focusing on firms' heterogeneity, productivity and inequalities on the labor market.

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@mfi.gr.jp ; or by fax (03-5421-7652) specifying your :

- name
- company or institution
- position
- address
- phone
- e-mail

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

How to get there ?



Nichifutsu Kaikan (MFJ), Shibuya-ku, Ebisu, 3-9-25
From the Ebisu JR / Hibiya-line station take the Skywalk Exit, turn left and walk 5 mn alongside Yebisu Garden Place.

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