



LUNCH SEMINAR

on the Japanese Economy and Society

at the Maison franco-japonaise

Can the DPJ really move 'from concrete to people' and 'from bureaucratic sectionalism to political leadership'?

Gregory W. NOBLE

Institute of Social Science
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Discussant

Yveline LECLER

The Research Institute at the French-Japanese House

Wednesday May 12th, 2010, 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 its successful electoral manifesto of 2009, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) promised to reverse the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) emphasis on wasteful public works, and pledged to exert firm political leadership rather than leaving policymaking to elite bureaucrats more interested in providing cushy sinecures for themselves than in attending to the public interest. Can the DPJ really honor its pledges? Actually, yes—not least because impor-

tant but unheralded changes already occurred in the last decade of LDP rule. Cuts in public works and reforms to the policymaking process, however, are unlikely to be sufficient to reignite the Japanese economy and close the yawning budget gap. More drastic reforms are likely to require further alternation in power, or even a realignment of political parties.

Short Biography of Gregory W. NOBLE



Gregory W. Noble is professor of politics and public administration at the University of Tokyo's Institute of Social Science. Recent publications include "The Decline of Particularism in Japanese Politics", *Journal of East Asian Studies* (2010) and "Japan's Business Community in Sino-Japanese Relations", Rosenbluth and Kohno (eds.), 2009.

Short Biography of Yveline LECLER



- Researcher at Maison franco-japonaise, UMIFRE 19 CNRS - MAE
- Associate Researcher, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo
- Associate Professor, Lyon Institute of Political Studies, University of Lyon
- Permanent Member of the Institute of East Asian Studies (Lyon) since its establishment in 1992.

What is the Lunch Seminar?

This typical event has been organized at the Maison-Franco Japonaise (Nichi-Futsu Kaikan) – Room 601 (6F) from 12.30 to 14.00, since 2004 with the generous support from the Economic Section of the French Embassy and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan. For more information, please visit the website of the seminar : http://www.mfj.gr.jp/lunch_seminar/lunch_seminar.html

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

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 :

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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).

How to get there ?



Nichifutsu Kaikan (MFJ) : Shibuya-ku, Ebisu, 3-9-25

▷ From the Ebisu JR station take the Skywalk Exit, turn left and walk 5 mn alongside Yebisu Garden Place.

