LUNCH SEMINAR
on the Japanese Economy and Society
at the Maison franco-japonaise

Neoliberals and Radical Left Are on a Same Boat: Is the Debate on "Basic Income" a Japanese Exception or Is There a Universal Rationale Behind?

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Discussant

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The Research Institute at the French-Japanese House

Friday October 15th, 2010, from 12:30 pm to 2 pm
Maison franco-japonaise, room 601 (6th floor)

Summary

Around 2009, the debate about basic income (BI) in Japan spread beyond the academics circles and reached the general public: citizens, politicians, activists and the media were involved in the discussion. In spite of skepticism and opposition from the whole political spectrum, support of the idea has come from two different political strands: the radical left and the Neoliberals. For a decade I have been researching radical grassroots activism for BI in Europe, and a concise introduction for BI that I published a year ago emphasized these roots.

This book was well received among some grassroots activists.

So attention to BI from the radical left is not surprising to me, and internationally speaking, it is no a surprise at all, even if some academic proponents for BI in Japan dislike this connection.

In France, while, as in Japan, major proponents of BI also seem to come from the radical left, the debate differs from Japan in that there are not so many proponents from Neoliberals. So the fact that some Neoliberals are influential ideologues of BI in Japan needs some explanation for a French audience.

The purpose of my presentation is to give a concise picture of the Japanese situation in order to discuss the relation between Neoliberals and basic income.

Short Biography of YAMAMORI Tōru

YAMAMORI Tōru is the author of *Beginning Basic Income* (『ベーシック・インカム入門』), published by Kōbunsha (光文社新書), Tokyo. Graduate of the School of Economics, Kyoto University, he works as an Associate Professor in Social Policy, Faculty of Economics at Dōshisha University, Kyoto, and is the Secretary General of the Basic Income Japan Network. His interests are in economic thought, social policy, multiculturalism and post-colonialism studies. In 2004, he has been appointed as a Research Associate, at the Capability and Sustainability Centre, St. Edmunds College, Cambridge, U.K. He also contributed a paper in a French academic journal, *Ethique Economique*.

Short Biography of Thierry RIBAULT

Thierry RIBAULT is economist, researcher at CNRS (National Scientific Research Center) since 1994. A former fellow of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science, he has been a visiting professor and researcher in several universities and institutions in Japan (Tokyo Univ., Nagoya Univ., Kwansei Univ., Japan Institute of Labor), New Zealand (Victoria Univ.) and Germany (Jena Univ.). He has been appointed Research fellow at UMIFRE 19 CNRS-MAEE, French Research Institute on Contemporary Japan, French-Japanese House (Tokyo), to conduct a research on japanese youth. http://clerse.univ-lille1.fr/spip.php?article125.

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 :
– 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.