



LUNCH SEMINAR

on the Japanese Economy

at the Maison franco-japonaise

"Fighting against 'Dangō'. How to reform the Japanese Procurement System ?"

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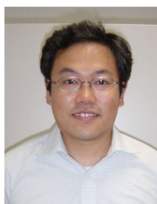
January 22nd 2007 (Monday), from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Maison franco japonaise, room 601 (6th floor)

With the generous support of the Economic Section of the French Embassy and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan

Summary

The illegal practice of bid rigging, "dangō", has been around for years in public procurement in Japan, being considered as evil but necessary for both government officials and private suppliers. This lenient attitude toward dangō has drastically changed in recent years: The Japanese public became keen on VFM (value for money) on public purchasing. A number of dangō scandals involving governors and city mayors gather additional momentum in the reform to Japanese public procurement system in local governments. A major item in the reform is the introduction of competitive bidding. There is a widely held view in Japan that competitive bidding, instead of the prevalent discretionary bidding, would solve problems associated with the current dangō practice. Although the introduction of competitiveness and transparency may help alleviate the problems of dangō, it does not eliminate them. What we should consider most is how to secure and maintain good incentives for government officials to run their procurement operations.

Biography



Hiroshi OHASHI is associate professor at Graduate School of Economics, University of Tokyo. He is an expert on industrial organization, international trade policy, and competition policy, and has published widely in the areas. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University, and a M.A. and B.A. from the University of Tokyo. He has previously taught at the University of British Columbia, Canada, and is currently a Faculty Fellow at the RIETI.

▶ A complete CV is available at <http://www.e.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~ohashi/>

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@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.