

**Chiba University 21st Century COE Programme International Symposium/
The First Asian Public Policy Research Consortium Meeting**

**Human Welfare and Public Policy under Social Justice, Equity and Democratic based
Relationships: Asian Challenges for Establishing Sustainable Welfare Society**

Dates: Monday, 27th and Tuesday, 28th March 2006

Venue: Chiba University (Inage-ku, Chiba, Japan)

(Nishi-Chiba Campus, University Convention Hall 'Keyaki-Kaikan')

The Main Organiser:

The Research Centre on Public Affairs for Sustainable Welfare Society (ReCPA),
21st Century COE Programme, Chiba University

Co-organisers:

The European Foundation on Social Quality (EFSQ), The Oxford University China Programme (OUCP), The Society for the Study of Social Policy (JSPA), The Japan Association for Asian Studies (JAAS), Taiwan Social Policy Association (TSPA) & Hong Kong Association of Gerontology (HKAG)

Supporting Organisations:

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), HelpAge International (HAI), The Delegation of the European Commission to Japan (EU), The EU Institute in Japan (KANSAI), Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) & The Institute of Developing Economies-Japan External Trade Organisation (IDE-JETRO)

Special Contributing Organisation:

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva, Switzerland

Language: English (A Japanese brochure is available)

1. Aims of the COE Conference

Tetsuo Ogawa

Following Chiba University's APEC Official Symposium: *Catalytic Role of the APEC Process: Behind the Border, Beyond the Bogor Goals* on Tuesday, 14th and Wednesday, 15th March 2006, the Chiba University 21st Century COE programme: the Research Centre on Public Affairs for Sustainable Welfare Society (ReCPA) organises this conference with which to open the debate in order to contribute to the development of 'Sustainable Welfare Society' in Asia and the EU. Under globalisation and population ageing which challenge Asia and the Pacific region, it is now necessary for policy makers, scientists, NGOs to discuss and re-define an increasing role of social policy to economic policy in the region in order to attain mutual goals for social and economic developments.

The conference aims to discuss social policies from the EU and Asia comparative perspective, in order to establish an independent identity for social quality, with a

unique focus on the quality of *the social*, which enables it to act as the rationale for economic, social and cultural policies and, therefore, an escape from the dominance of narrow thinking in policy making. These Asian states should respect cultural diversities and cross-cultural understanding. This supposes specific public policies for creating social justice, equity and democratic based relationships, which implicates the strengthening of human welfare. The conference's motive is that the enlarged FTA zones in Asia may be characterised with considerable international population mobility and an emergence of new social actors and organisations in the region. This is also a key component of broader cultural diversity. The diversity and the emergence of the new civil society may carry important implications for policies in Asia, and *Options and Choices* towards the supposed 'Sustainable Welfare Society'. Important for this conference is to examine the role and implications of cultural diversity and new emergencies of social actors (volunteers and social entrepreneurs) and organisations (voluntary organisations, NGOs and INGOs) and to

understand in which way they may contribute to 'Sustainable Welfare Society'.

This conference may be seen as the first Asian event for debating the nature of public policies with which to contribute to 'Sustainable Welfare Society' and its international co-operation. Therefore, the conference should deliver the starting points for comparative research on welfare states in Asia, as well as in Europe. Implicitly, scientists present their suppositions about the nature of these 'Sustainable Welfare Society' in the context of the recent history of their countries and their interpretations of the consequences of global tendencies for their countries, regions and cities: how to cope with these consequences in order to prepare for social justice, equity and democratic based relationships and the related human welfare under current circumstances?

With this in mind the conference will have a twofold character. First, scientists from Asia will be invited to present related papers. Second, the Chiba University ReCPA with the European Foundation on Social Quality (EFSQ) will start a debate about new 'Sustainable Welfare Society' on the basis of the recent outcomes of the 'social quality approach' in comparison to the manifold of 'quality of life approaches' in Europe, to contribute to international co-operations under the idea of Social Asia and its regional collaboration with establishing and developing a methodology and research framework to these issues. This debate will be related to the outcomes of the papers by the invited scientists, in order to connect this main theme with recent experiences and interpretations in Asian countries. In addition, the main purpose of this exercise is to start an Asian University Consortium on Social Quality (AUCSQ) to elaborate of coherent and consistent contributions to the idea of 'Sustainable Welfare Society' in Asia. Under the theme, Chiba University ReCPA and the European Foundation on Social Quality (EFSQ) will also start the elaboration of this twofold character of the conference and further development (See Appendix).

2. Background Information for the COE Conference

Tetsuo Ogawa & Laurent van der Maesen

Societal trends and public policies interact strongly with individuals' quality of life. Public policies also carry strong impacts on the ways in which people try to pursue their aims and personal goals, and their possibilities of achieving them. This objective is to expand the ideas of the public perceptions and public policy concerning the relations between, on the one hand, current societal and policy trends, and on the other, the quality of life (or well-being) of individual citizens, as well as the implications of these relations for public policies. This addresses the effects of societal trends and of policies on quality of life. Such trends may include: changes in demographic trends related to population ageing and low fertility rates; in gender roles; in social or family relations; in the organisation of care for children, the sick or the growing

demand for older people in need of care; in work and use of time; in division of labour and income. Another important aspect of the concepts in public policy includes the relation between public policies (namely social care, employment, education, environment and health policy) and people's coping strategies throughout their lifespan. This could also address the relationships between traditional economic indicators of welfare, such as GDP, and innovative measures of the quality of life including subjective and objective indicators of the quality of life by the WHO and the Human Development Index (HDI) and Human Poverty Index (HPI) advocated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Gender aspects of these issues should be examined and a comparative approach is highly appropriate in this context.

Social inequalities present major challenges towards many Asian Society and may affect their cohesion as well as their social and economic development. The objective is to understand how inequalities in society change, are reproduced, and their economic and social consequences. This conference should address the effects of production and reproduction of social inequalities and their rise or fall; how such inequalities and their consequences vary between different Asian Society, as well as in other regions of the world, including differences in social mobility. Other aspects, which may be addressed, include the relations between social inequalities and economic and social performance (e.g. growth, productivity, quality of life, crime, social cohesion and the "quality of society", the Social Quality approach advocated by the EFSQ; cultural issues of inequality including the impact of inequalities on attitudes to others). The changing role of knowledge-related factors in inequalities - e.g. of knowledge aspects of cultural and social capital acquired by individuals, of qualifications of particular kinds, of access to knowledge-producing institutions, to training, acquisition of capabilities in seeking out relevant information - may be explored. Inequalities of various kinds and their interrelations should be considered. The actual and potential role of policies in relation to the above issues must be assessed, and gender perspectives should be included in the conference. Improvements of measures of inequality, including how changes in the use of public services and of public facilities which are "free" or heavily subsidised could be included in the assessment of trends in inequality.

The adherents of the new social quality approach adopt the thesis that a clear understanding of 'the social' vanished from social science itself (economics, sociology, political science, law). Over time, the interpretation of social and individual developed into a direction that confronts the two as distinct areas, relating as mutually external 'faits sociaux' on the one hand and 'faits individuels' on the other hand. Moreover, individuals are seen as the actual core of life, confronted with a society, which is a seemingly superior power. Therefore, a simplified measurement of well-being and social justice, reducing them to the status of individuals, is rather limited. As valuable as results may be in certain regards and as

useful as they may be for informing *ad-hoc* policies, they largely fail as soon as it comes to conceptualise policies in the sense of fundamentally shaping society. Actually, attempts to measure well-being are largely reduced on managerialist social policy and social management approaches. They aim at regulating relations between individuals and, at most, certain groups. However, by and large there is at most only a very limited understanding of what ‘the social’ actually is and how it is produced. Finally, this particular Western European position seems to be inadequate for analysing processes in Asian countries as well.

In the context of the ‘quality of life approaches’ recent years have seen a huge expansion in the statistical data available to policy makers and the general public in Europe, including statistical digests from Eurostat, DG Employment’s Social Situation report and the Quality of Life in Europe series from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin. While this expansion of information is a positive step, because such information is part of the life-blood of democracy, it has a paradoxical dimension. As vital as statistical data are to both policy making and political participation they tend to reinforce policy fragmentation,

which makes it hard for policy makers to tackle problems in a holistic way and for citizens to comprehend what is happening to society, due to a misunderstanding of the reciprocity (or better dialectic) between the individual and societal wholes. This is where the social quality concept comes in. The key aim of social quality is to overcome the present fragmentation of policy, for example at the EU level, between welfare policies, economic policies, employment policies, juridical policies and cultural policies. Its aim is also to overcome the dualistic interpretation of the relationship between individual beings and societal wholes. By creating a coherent, theoretically grounded, concept that not only embraces all policies but also all stages of the policy process it is intended to furnish both policy makers and the general public with an analytical tool to understand society and the role of its citizens, and to change it. The comparison between the social quality approach and the manifold of quality of life approaches will also be based on the recent study by David Phillips from the University of Sheffield (*Quality of Life*, London: Routledge, 2006). In other words, since the last decade impressive work is done which will function as an instrument for this conference in Chiba.

3. Programme

Monday, 27th March

09:45- 9:55 Welcome Remarks:

Professor Toyoki Kozai, President,
Chiba University

Guest Greetings:

Ms Silvia Kofler, First Counsellor,
Head of Press, Public and Cultural
Affairs, Delegation of the European
Commission to Japan

10:00-10:10 Opening Address:

Dr. Tetsuo Ogawa, Faculty of Law
and Economics, Chiba University

10:15-11:00 The First Keynote Lecture:

‘Reflecting on East Asia Regionalism’

Professor Takashi Shiraishi, Vice
President, National Graduate
Institute for Policy Studies, Japan

11:10-11:20 <Coffee break>

**<First Sustainable Welfare Society Symposium>
The Future of Well-being: Myths and Realities in Asia
and the EU from Warfare States to Welfare Society?**

Chair: Dr King Tsao, Chinese University of
Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, P.R. China

11:20-11:40 ‘Rethinking the Institutional Blueprint of
APEC’

Dr. David W.F. Huang, Associate
Fellow, the Academia Sinica and
Associate Professor of Politics,
Institute of National Development,
National Taiwan University, Taiwan

11:40-12:00 ‘Poverty in Asia and the Role of Social
Policy: Possible Lessons from Europe’

Professor David Gordon, Director,
Townsend Centre for International
Poverty, Research, University of
Bristol, U.K.

12:00-13:30 <Lunch and Lunchtime Session (closed)>

13:30-13:50 ‘Social Protection Systems in Newly
Industrializing Countries in the 21st
Century: A Comparative Study among
Asia, Africa and Latin America’

Mr Koichi Usami, Institute of
Developing Economies, Japan External
Trade Organisation (IDE – JETRO)

13:50-14:10 ‘Citizenship and Social Justice: the
Emerging Challenge to Sustainability from
Declining Public Trust’

Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby,
Network Director, Social Contexts
and Responses to Risk (SCARR),
University of Kent at Canterbury,
U.K.

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| 14:10-14:30 | ‘Possibilities of “Sustainable Welfare Society in Asia”: Different Paths from the European Experience?’ Professor Yoshinori Hiroi, Faculty of Law and Economics, Chiba University, Japan | Chair: Professor O-K Lai, Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan |
| 14:30-14:50 | ‘Russian Pension Reform as an Example of a Welfare Reform in a Transition Economy’ Dr. Dmitrei Streltsov, Senior Expert, Trade Representative of the Russian Federation, Russia | 11:20-11:40 ‘Sustainable Welfare Societies and the Social Quality approach’ Dr. Laurent J.G. van der Maesen, Director, the European Foundation on Social Quality, the Netherlands |
| 14:50-15:10 | ‘The Workfare Illusion: Why Workfare Is and Will Remain of Limited Significance in EU Member States’ Dr. Michael Dostal, Brunel University, U.K. | 11:40-12:00 ‘Social Quality in Established Democracies May Require Emotional and Rational Participatory Space’ Mr Osama M. Rajkhan, Social Affairs Officer and Human Rights Focal Point, Population and Social Integration Section, Emerging Social Issues Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand |
| 15:10-15:30 | ‘How Can the World Best Respond to China’s Growing Strength?’ Dr. Suzanne X. Yang, Assistant Director, China Programme, University of Oxford, U.K. | 12:00-13:30 <Lunch and Lunchtime Session (closed)> |
| 15:30-15:45 | <Coffee break> | 13:30-13:50 ‘Social Protection in the Context of Rapid Ageing: A Major Asian Challenge for Establishing Sustainable Welfare States’ Dr D. Wesumperuma, HelpAge International, Thailand |
| 15:45-17:00 | Discussion Chair: Professor Shogo Takegawa, University of Tokyo | 13:50-14:10 ‘Are we all Confucianists? Similarities and differences in between European And East-Asian policies for care of frail older people’ Dr. Bernard Casey, Pension Institute, Cass Business School, U.K. |
| 17:10-18:00 | The Second Keynote Lecture: ‘The Prospects for Sustainable Welfare East and West: A Potential Role for Social Quality?’ Professor Dr Alan Walker, University of Sheffield, U.K. Introducer: Professor Makoto Kono, Hyogo University, Japan | 14:10-14:30 ‘Globalisation and Ageing in India: Urgent Need For Radical Policy Reforms’ Dr. Arvind K. Joshi, Banaras Hindu University, India |
| 18:00-19:40 | Reception at <i>Keyaki-Kaikan</i> | 14:30-14:50 ‘Common Property Resources and the Changing Structure of Village Society in India’ Professor Haruka Yanagisawa, Faculty of Law and Economics, Chiba University, Japan |
| Tuesday, 28th March | | |
| 10:00-10:10 | Opening: Dr Ilcheong Yi, Kyushu University, Japan | 14:50-15:10 ‘The Development of Social Care Market in China: A Sociological Perspective’ Professor Xiaomei Pei, Gerontology Research Centre, Tsinghua University, P.R. China |
| 10:15-11:00 | The Third Keynote Lecture: ‘Social Quality: a Philosophical Analysis’ Professor Dr Jan Baars, University of Tilburg, the Netherlands Comments: Professor Masaya Kobayashi, Faculty of Law and Economics, Chiba University | 15:10-15:30 ‘Work, Risk and its Management in Asia – A Preliminary Observation’ Dr. Raymond Chan, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, P.R. China |
| 11:00-11:20 | <Coffee break> | 15:30-15:45 <Coffee break> |
| <The Second Sustainable Welfare Society Symposium> Developing Well-being in Asia and the EU: Research Comparability and Methodology - the Social Quality Approach | | |
| | | 15:45-17:00 Discussion Chair: Dr Laurent van der Maesen and Dr Tetsuo Ogawa |

17:10-18:00 The Fourth Keynote lecture:
'Social Policy and International Co-
operation in Asia and the Pacific: A
Concluding remark on the Chiba
University COE Conference'
Professor Gordon Chan, Division
Head, Division of Social Security,
National Policy Foundation and
National Taiwan University, Taiwan

<Other Speakers and Panelists>

Professor Akira Suehoro, Institute of Social Science, The
University of Tokyo, Japan
Professor Toshio Watanabe, President, Takushoku
University, Japan
Professor Chizuru Kabumoto, Sugiyama Jogakuen
University, Japan
Mr Keiichiro Oizumi, the Japan Research Institute, Japan
Professor Ngiam Tee Liang, National University of
Singapore, Singapore

Registration: please visit the following site:

<http://www.kokuhoken.or.jp/21ceo/>

(Charge: conference is free, reception is 5,000 Yen)

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