

***What a Japanese economist
expects to Asian journalists writing
socio-political and economic news***

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Re: Selected Articles you wrote

- Although it is said that the 21st century is a **Century of Asia** and that Asia will be **the Growth Center of the World**, I found most of the articles full of **problems and elegies**, rather than simplistic happy stories. Naturally. They are more urgent and they would influence the public at home and in the world.
- There is an expression in Tolstoy's novel, Anna Karenina: ***Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.*** Asia must be the same. So, **union is far from easy**, though Asian intelligent people wish to share and solve **problems and elegies** together. Nobody wish your neighbors would intervene your home affairs. But, we must union.

Wide Variety is the Feature of Current Asia -- as was in the past centuries. Articles tell:

- **Environment Issues including Global warming:** Water shortage in the China's North Region, Water shortage of Cashmere, Indonesia's flood control, Tibetan grassland area's climate change, Kiribati's war against Climate Change, Melamuchi Water Supply Project in Nepal, Natural Disasters in Bangladesh
- **Job Creation:** Pakistan's energy shortage, How to create jobs in rural areas in Cambodia.
- **Widening Income Gap and Absolute Poverty:** the very poor in Bangkok, New Nepal facing Hunger and Death
- **Problems of Government Policy:** Taiwan's issue of shopping vouchers, Privatization plan of 250 SOEs in Kyrgistan, Government Plan how to respond Global Financial Crisis in Tajikistan, the similar problems in Sri Lanka
- **Other:** Education in a war zone in Afghanistan, Women of a lesser society in India,

And, these are many other untold stories.

Asian Dreams and Dilemmas

- Dreams of Asians will be to create and live in societies being Peaceful, Environment-friendly, Relatively Rich, Relatively Egalitarian, Relatively free from Natural Disasters, where people love Families/Foreigners, Art/Music, and Diligence/Discipline.
- In reality, some of them or most of them are in short. That's why journalists must continue to write on so that people begin or continue to consider how to solve such problems
- Economists also consider similar problems. So, it make sense that both discuss seriously.

To begin with ---- Government Failures and Market Failures

- Asians know well about intractable Market Failures which drove Asian countries to messy situation in 1997-98: Asian financial Crisis, named as the 21st century-type crisis. IMF 's diagnoses then proved to be unsuccessful. Hence, Asians have made efforts not to repeat same tragedies and have been largely successful. Currency regime and how to work it is being fervantly probed.
- Then, what was *the Lehman Shock*? Surely, it was largely due to Market Failures, but it was also driven by lack of governance of the U.S. government/competent authorities.
- Hence, reforms of international institutions are inescapable.

IMF Reform on Debate

- Controversy is being made how to reform the IMF, a global institution which was originally set up not to repeat bad cycles of currency devaluations or *Beggar thy Neighbor Policy* which aroused the WWII.
- Until now, 17% of its equity is owned by the U.S., followed by Japan, European states.
- Most probably, Europe will be losers, and BRICs will be winners. China will be the No.2 shareholder of the Fund in a few years.
- Is China ready? ***More Right*** means ***More Obligation*** as a main stakeholder of the global issues.

China Factor in the Region

- Success story of the Deng Xiaoping's Open and Reform policy for 30 years after 30 years confusion. How? **Key words:** Infrastructure, Agriculture , Education, Foreign Capital and technology
- Attained (a) to feed huge population, currently 1.3 billion, (b) self-sufficiency of food, by **contract responsibility system/ household responsibility system** while farmers have been kept as lasting farmer's status.
- China destroyed the world-widely believed myth that developing countries become heavily-indebted in industrializing its economy and can hardly continue high rate of growth.
- Hundred millions of regulated, cheap farmer workers with hungry spirits enabled, through labor-intensive export activities, China as the factory of the world.
- China's growth has given big markets to other Asian economies, with some baggage---in areas such as Energy, Natural Resources, Foreign Market, Natural Environment incl. Global warming.

Farmers' Position in China as of 2007

- China's whole population: 1.3 billion
- Population in Non-city Areas: 950 million
- Population in Agriculture: 725 million
- Population with Farmer-status in Cities: over 200 million.
- Population of Farmer workers: 225 million. 85 million work as workers in Rural Areas, while 140 million work at cities like Shanghai and Guandong. 14.5 million with farmer's status go to cities annually
- Some 20 million returned to agricultural area. They were seemingly absorbed there without big problems.

Co-existence with the Dragon is Vital

- Maybe, even leaders of China could hardly control effectively its own direction under its peculiar development model, in the 21st century. China is too huge to be observed as an ordinary country. There is no effective measure to check its performance. Only global wisdom could.
- If the Dragon walks and paves its own way at well-coordinated manner, neighbors as well as the world would greatly benefited.
- Hence, the rest of the region and the world should try to make as many good-natured friends as possible there, through whom the country could be well guided.

Concluding Remarks:

- Asian development, with immense varieties, will continue to shed bright light, while leaving shadow indefinitely.
- As an intelligent human being, we must reexamine Inequality as Amartya Sen once did, and recall importance of *Potential Ability and Freedom in a society*.
- Read J.W. Fulbright's book: *Against the Arrogance of Power-My Personal History*. Looks beautiful for outsiders but only one's painstaking industry can solve difficult problems.
- *ADB's Mission: Must endeavor to probe problems deeply and work with people in member countries. Japan for one should co-work with ADB in areas of funding and wisdom.*
- *Good Journalists in Asian local must evolve to the Best Journalists in the Global Society, so must Good Economists evolve to the Best Socio-Scientists in the world.*