

Introduction

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Introduction

Many researchers had been occupied with the debate on the structural adjustment since the late 1980s. Both pros and cons were exhausted as they found themselves trapped in a different dimension of the adjustment. It was the impact of globalisation that threw them into confusions when they endeavoured to find measures for national economic recovery. The once miraculous East Asian economies were also struck in the mire of economic crisis. No African countries could find an alternative framework for their development efforts. On the other hand, the former Eastern European countries transformed themselves into viable economic units, and some of them appeared in the global economy as emerging markets.

Similar emergence of actors was witnessed in every part of the world. Even if their national economies had been stagnating for a long period, political and economic changes could give birth to many units of action in domestic scene. And those actors became driving forces that furthered overall transformation of their society and economy. The present project is interested in this very process.

It started by asking a set of questions:

What kind of actors emerged in the prior and ongoing period of structural adjustment?

How did they emerge as the main elements in their respective sectors?

What were the major organizational challenges they brought to the society concerned?

And so on.

Several actors were selected for our consideration. In the political realm, action-oriented groups such as women's groups and youth movements attracted our interest. Various NGO activities were selected, as well as civil rights organizations that were targeted as a priority sector. These selections reflect the situation of Nigeria where our field works were implemented. In the economic realm, various types of brand new enterprises filled economic space that was widened with the

reduction of the state's influence in the business field. Accordingly so-called expatriate business was selected as a target group.

Some Nigeria based researchers kindly shared the burden of project. Dr. Hussaina Abdullah reviewed the structural adjustment era of Nigeria generally, and she argued there was keen competition among Nigerian women's movements that accompanied the differing and differentiated responses toward the structural adjustment and political reform programme. Dr. Cyril Obi discussed factors that explained the re-emergence of radical youth activism as the main propellant of the social movements agitating for self-determination and change in Nigeria's oil producing communities of the Niger Delta. Prof. Ayodeji Olukaju dealt with indigenous, single-issue human right organizations in Nigeria. He also examined the development, travails, strategies and achievements of movements for enforcement of fundamental human rights from a historical perspective. Katsuya Mochizuki, as a coordinator of the project, tried to look into the expatriate business community in Nigeria. The main focus is on the transition of Chinese community that show contrasting performances when compared with others like the Indian and Labanese communities.

There were some noteworthy merits in following the performance of individual actors. Firstly, we could avoid the bias caused by an over-generalization. As often pointed out, responses toward the structural adjustment were different from sector to sector. Timing and magnitude of the adjustment varied even among sub-sectors. Individual case studies contributed to understanding differences of adjustment mechanism in each sector. Secondly, we could also understand detailed historical background through our descriptive works. Some actors re-emerged and were re-vitalized in new settings brought by the structural adjustment. Without following unique history of their emergence, causal analysis would become un-reliable one.

There are also many tasks in the next phase of this project. Among other things, we have to test out our analysis in a wider perspective. For this purpose, it will be indispensable to introduce comparative method for analysis. All case studies with

this project were those of Nigeria. We need to evaluate our findings from comparative perspectives. The other task is elaboration of terminology and concept itself. In our project, terms like 'emergence' or 'emergent actor' were frequently used, and all types of new phenomena and actors were described in that way. Both are vague in their meanings even as descriptive terms. If we can elaborate them properly, it would contribute to implementation of comparative analysis.