
Abstract

Opium Eradication and Rural Socio-Economic Transformations in Kokang, Myanmar: With Special Focus on the Impact of Sugarcane Contract Farming by a Chinese Company

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Beginning in the 1890s, opium became the major source of income for rural inhabitants in Kokang, Myanmar. However, when the local government adopted an opium-eradication policy in the 1990s and banned opium in 2003, rural residents were plunged into extreme poverty. Since the end of the 1990s, alternative crops to opium poppies have been introduced, but most have failed, with the exception of sugarcane under contract farming with a sugar factory in China. The establishment of an alternative industry in urban areas—casinos—has attracted Chinese tourists. Based on surveys in 2012 and 2013 of twelve villages where sugarcane was introduced, and an in-depth study of one village in particular, this paper investigates the socio-economic impacts of sugarcane contract farming and the casino industry. We found that the income of the rural residents recovered to almost pre-2003 levels, but income disparities among the villagers widened remarkably due to the very unequal distribution of land suitable for sugarcane cultivation. Landless and marginal farmers depend on agricultural wages and migration to casinos, but casinos provide employment to mainly single young women, leaving young men largely unemployed. Furthermore, the casino industry has led to serious social problems inherent to gambling.

Abstract

Land Reforms in Senegal: Persisting Customary Land System in Economic Liberalization

Atsushi Miura

In Senegal, land reforms have been repeatedly implemented since the colonial era, giving rise to the modern land property system. Yet even today, the pre-colonial customary land system persists among rural people. This paper examines problems of land reforms in Senegal by comparing four land systems that have existed or been proposed since the pre-colonial era: the pre-colonial customary land tenure system, the national domain system introduced just after independence, the private property system that the government has tried to promote since the 1990s, and the land reform plan proposed by a national farmers' association, the CNCR. The paper also refers to the current land practices observed in rural areas to understand the problems of these four policies. Since the 1990s, the government has worked to centralize land entitlement procedures to enforce land entitlement and a private property system. This policy certainly secures farmers' land rights, but it also encourages commercialization of the land, thus allowing wealthy companies to grab for land at the expense of the farmers' livelihood. A customary land tenure system reduces such risk for farmers, yet the social relationship that frames this system can provoke corruption and exploitation of farmers by local leaders. The CNCR plan proposes a solution to this dilemma by participatory land management, but this plan still requires further elaboration.

Abstract

Changing Attitude of the Japanese Army toward China: Understanding the “Divided Governance and Cooperation Principle”

Hidemi Higuchi

This study discusses changes in the Japanese Army’s attitude toward China, relative to the emergence of the “divided governance and cooperation principle”, which was adopted as a national policy during the Sino-Japanese War. Previous research has understood the formation of a nation-state in China as an absolute truth, and it has misinterpreted the divided governance and cooperation principle as a policy whereby Japan merely divided the Chinese unified territory into several local governments, thus failing to examine the meaning of the second term, “cooperation.” However, within the army, there were two parallel conceptions: first, where Japan establishes a centralized administrative system by extending support to the Chinese central government’s unification project, and second, where Japan establishes a decentralized administrative system by facilitating cooperation with local authorities. This latter idea is what evolved into the divided governance and cooperation principle. When this principle was devised in the 1920s, Japan intended to capitalize on the complex wars between Chinese warlords by facilitating cooperation between China’s local authorities, thereby achieving the peaceful unification of China. However, following the Manchurian Incident, the characteristics of the divided governance and cooperation principle changed. Japan began establishing and managing pro-Japanese local governments and aimed to defeat the Chinese Nationalist Government, while promising Sino-Japanese cooperation and social stability in China.