

Development Economics

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1. Area of expertise, research area, or current themes in his/her research

Development Economics deals with various issues characteristic of developing countries such as economic growth, income distribution, public health, and urban migration. Such issues are the result of the best efforts under given circumstances by the people of developing countries who are fundamentally not different in ability or quality from those of developed countries. Since an individual in any society maximizes its own utility (including its family's), above economic issues must be analyzed by means of models of the individual optimization.

My current research topics include (1) the effect of external resource transfers (including FDA: Foreign Direct Investment and ODA: Official Development Assistance) on the recipient countries' economic and business performances, (2) donors' incentives and motives concerning ODA disbursements, and (3) the analysis on Japan's foreign aid for improving environment and governance in the recipient countries.

2. Supervision Policy

Research method is development economics as an applied economics. In the first semester of the first year, students master basic knowledge and technique (such as mathematics, statistics, quantitative economics, microeconomics, and macroeconomics). In the second semester, they improve specialized knowledge of development economics up to doctoral research level. They use standardized text books in North American graduate schools. From the second year, they start joint research with the adviser for their dissertation.

3. Advice to prospective students

It is highly recommended for prospective students to have their own research themes or at least some specific future carriers. They are supposed to make their maximum effort to reach their goals. In the first year of this doctor program, they usually have an extremely hard time except for those who already have enough mathematics and economics backgrounds. Also, it is essential for them to have enough language skills (at least English) to become a researcher in any academic institution, or an official at any international organization.