

高等研究所 第 60 回 月例研究会 (WIAS 60th Monthly Workshop)

【日 時】1 月 10 (金) 11 : 00~12 : 30

【会 場】7 号館 1 階 Faculty Meeting Lounge

【発表者】Sutee ANANTSUKSOMSRI 助教、伊藤 昇 助教

1. Sutee ANANTSUKSOMSRI 助教 : 11 : 00~11 : 40

Title: The Economic Impact of the First-Time Car Buyer Tax Rebate Program in Thailand: A Computable General Equilibrium Approach



One of leading global automobile makers, Thailand is currently ranked first in ASEAN and 15th world's largest automobile manufacturer. The country aims to be one of the world's top 10 automobile makers in the upcoming years. The automotive industry is a driving force for the Thai economy. It accounts for ten percent of GDP of the country, employs more than 500,000 direct skilled-labor jobs, and creates spillover effects to other industries in the economy. The industry was severely hit by the East Japan Quake and the Great Thai Flood in 2011; however, only a year later, in 2012 it quickly recovers from these disasters. The exceptionally high growth in both production and

sales sectors in Thailand in 2012 pushed the car production to the new record. Another positive factor creating high domestic demand for automobile was the government's tax rebates for first-time car buyers.

This tax rebate policy was launched in order to help the automotive industry recover in the wake of 2011 devastating floods, to boost the economy, as well as to increase a number of jobs and a number of car ownerships. In addition to the car makers, more than one million people are expected to benefit from this policy. However, some economists predict that defaults on car loans will increase since many buyers may not be able to maintain their car ownership. One of the debt-collection service providers also forecast that about the quarter of the total loans will become bad debts. Besides the economic impact of this policy, increasing number of cars has worsened the already terrible traffic congestion problems in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region since approximately half of the total applicants for the rebates reside in this region.

The government believes that this first-car buyer tax rebate program will contribute to the growth of the automotive industry and the economy of the country. However, many people suggest that the policy is mainly to popularize the government by aiming to benefit the lowincome households. In this study, the benefit-cost analysis of this controversial tax rebate scheme will be examined. The structural path analysis (SPA) of the economy will reveal the paths to which the impact of the policy is transmitted. The economic impact of this policy will be analyzed using computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling to investigate the economywide and distributional impacts on income distribution of this tax rebate program. The policy implications of this study will also be discussed.

Keywords: Thailand, automotive industry, CGE

Collaborator: Nij TONTISIRIN, Nattapong PUTTANAPONG, Thammasat University, Thailand

2. 伊藤 昇 助教 (Noboru ITO) : 11 : 50～12 : 30

「“結び目”と私」



「私とは何か？私以外のものとは何か？」ということは、文系理系問わず、10代には多かれ少なかれ直面する問題だと思います。一見してそれが、一体どういうものであるのか、「そこに在る」とわかっているはずなのに、理解が難しいのです。

結び目は、「目の前で見て、どう結ばれているか見ているはずなのに、実は見えていない」ことを経験させてくれます。一目で見て、それが一体何なのかわからない結び目があるのです。絡まった紐がほどけるのかほどけないのか、すぐにわからない、といったことは、例えば裁縫道具で遊んだ経験がある、おそらく多くの人は納得してくださると思います。

本講演では、最先端の数学や物理の大問題と関係する、「結び目の数学」に私がどのように取り組んできたかを、ご紹介します。

(Title) Knots and me

“What am I?”; “What are the things around me?” These are fundamental problems faced by many teenagers. However, it often happens that though we encounter these problems, we do not understand these sufficiently.

Take a look at a complicated knot; while we can see the knot, we still do not know all its intricacies. For example, it is not easy to determine how a complicated knot may be the unknotted (have you ever played with strings at sawing?). In this talk, I introduce my work on the mathematics of knots and relate it to important problems in mathematics and physics.