

An Analysis of Previous Research on the Relationship between South Korea and the Global South

OTSU Kento*

This paper analyzes South Korea's relationship with the Global South from four perspectives: the current situation, key challenges, strategic approaches, and future prospects, primarily based on a review of previous research. Drawing on its historical experience as a formerly colonized country and its rapid economic development, South Korea seeks to position itself as an intermediary or a coordinator of international order bridging the Global South and the Global North. However, several issues remain unresolved, including the conceptual ambiguity of the Global South, the need for clearer diplomatic strategies, the strategic prioritization of partner countries, and the concretization of institutional frameworks. By synthesizing these debates, the paper offers both theoretical insights and practical foundations for the formulation of forward-looking political economic strategies.

* AAIJ member

Professor, KOMAZAWA University

“Great Power Competition” swaying the Philippines ——Shift Viewpoint to “Resisting Global South”——

FUKUSHIMA Koji*

The US has been securing its economic interests through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which seeks to strengthen US supply chains in the region and ensure the profitability of its investments. The Philippines is being established as a key IPEF hub as evidenced by the US Trade Mission and the Indo-Pacific Business Forum held in the Philippines in May 2024. The Philippines’ Luzon Economic Corridor is the first Indo-Pacific project proposed under the Group of Seven (G-7)’s Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), as a strategic response to China’s BRI, the Belt and Road Initiative.

The US in coordination with Japan and the Philippines are to enhance high-impact infrastructure projects around key areas such as Clark, Subic Bay and CALABARZON region, for connecting critical supply chains, particularly in semiconductors, clean energy and agribusiness. Nickel is an important element for all clean energy technologies for decades to come and the Philippines is the world’s second largest producer of this mineral.

On the other hand, rural communities in the Philippines are being exposed to environment and human cost amid a super-rapid expansion in the mining of nickel for rising global demand, especially for electric vehicles.

“Great Power Competition” is an excellent analytical perspective for viewing divided and conflicted world political economy between US and China, but you cannot see the irreversible cost of communities from it, and you should listen to the voices of people around the world resisting expropriation under “Great Power Competition”.

* AAIJ member

Associate Professor, KOMAZAWA University

The Political Regime and Transformation of the Market Economy in Cambodia

SHIGETA Yasuhiro *

This paper examines how Cambodia, fifty years after the establishment of the Pol Pot regime, has transitioned within the complex and diverse areas of today's globalized polycrisis and within the broader context of the Global South. It focuses on the evolution of Cambodia's political system and market economy, exploring the current challenges and prospects of political governance and economic gap. Furthermore, the paper analyzes why the Cambodian People's Party has maintained a long-standing dominant position despite the country's parliamentary democratic framework, considering the interrelationships among politics, the market economy, and civil society.

* AAIJ member

Former Professor, Utsunomiya University

Strengthening Power Relations Through Development Assistance in Rural Bangladesh: Relationships Between Non-Governmental Organisations and Local Influential People Over Drinking Water Supply

YAMADA Shota*

This study seeks to elucidate the mechanisms by which drinking water supply facilities are established by development agencies in rural Bangladesh, with a focus on the characteristics and motivations of the participants, reasons that development agencies selected the participants and the impact of people's participation on the outcome of drinking water supply projects. The results of field surveys conducted in a village in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh indicate that local influential people have a strong impact on development assistance projects related to drinking water and that the distribution of water supply facilities may be biased as a result of their intent being reflected in the project. One reason for the strong impact of local influential people on development assistance projects related to drinking water supply is the alignment of development assistance agencies' expectations with those of local influential people. In other words, development agencies seek information about rural communities, while local influential people use development agencies as external authorities and seek to legitimise and maintain their authority by distributing development aid. However, achieving universal and equitable drinking water infrastructure requires the participation of diverse stakeholders during the development process, including not only powerful individuals but also local residents. Therefore, development aid agencies' role in creating such opportunities is important.

*Lecturer, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagoya City University