

Comments and Discussions

Akiyoshi Horiuchi *

The purpose of this paper is to make clear the *raison d'être* of the Asia Development Bank (ADB) whose major mission is to financially assist Asian developing countries, and to make some relevant policy proposals for the Bank. In order to characterize the ADB's functions, the author mainly compares its credit policy with that of the World Bank.

I totally agree with the author's argument regarding the importance of the purpose. Since Japan has been the most important sponsor of the ADB, we Japanese should not be indifferent to issues of in what forms and to what extent the ADB has been contributing to the Asian economic development. Thus, I appreciate the intention of the author in this paper.

The author's analysis has produced some convincing results regarding the ADB's functions in the context of the Asian development. However, as he himself clearly recognizes, his research is still at the stage of a middle process. There remain a few full-scale investigations before he reaches a definite conclusion. For example, the author emphasizes that the ADB's credit policy has been more incentive compatible regarding borrower countries' development effort than the World Bank. However, he did not directly prove this proposition. He could have examined specific cases of the ADB's credit policy to provide evidence to directly support his proposition.

The author has also focused on how economic performances of recipient countries explained the credit policies of both the ADB and the World Bank. But, in my opinion, the author should have statistically examined how the credits supplied by these two banks contributed to borrower countries' development first of all. It might have also been interesting and important to investigate whether the choice of specific credit policy influenced effectiveness of the banks' credit supply to promote economic development.

In his policy proposal, the author claims that the ADB should post a specific development framework based on the Japan's experience of economic development. This may be agreeable. He suggests that the so-called "flying geese model" may be a hopeful candidate for the model. However, he has not proved it. In my opinion, given the rapidly developing global capital markets integrating the Asian countries and the other regions, the Japanese experience for the last century could not necessarily be an advisable model for the Asian developing countries.

In sum, the author of this paper was successful in providing us with a few important policy issues related to the ADB's policies. I hope he will be able to deepen his argument further both theoretically and empirically in the near future.

* Faculty of Policy Studies, Chuo University