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Conference Announcement

Sustaining growth? Economic transition and natural resource management in East and Southeast Asia

Location : HoChiMinh City, Viet Nam

Organizers : V. Beckmann, N.H.Dung, E.Hegger, M.Spoor, X. Shi, J.Wessler (Chair)

Major Topics : Natural Resource Management and Economic Development, Economic Transition, Technical Change and Economic Growth

Conference Dates : 6/21/2007 to 6/21/2007

Submission Deadline : 2/28/2007

Send Submissions To : seminar@asia-link-recreate.com

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Motivation and background Economic and institutional reforms in China and Vietnam implemented since the end of the 1970s have caused an impressive economic growth. In several regions however, this growth was obtained at the expense of the quality of natural resources. As a consequence, future growth faces several challenges. This has been recognised by the involved countries. The economic policy aims at reducing the rapid growth rate and to promote sustainable development. Governmental policies aimed at controlling resource degradation are largely based on direct regulation and large-scale public projects. With the transition from planned to market economies however, resource use decisions have largely been transferred to households. Moreover, with the gradual integration of the economies of both countries into the world trading system, environmental policies increasingly have to take international environmental regimes into account. The seminar contributes to the analysis of environmental and natural resource use issues related to sustaining economic growth. Scope and objectives The scope of the seminar stretches from theoretical to empirical and policy studies, including cooperation for natural resource management, economics of property rights and institutions, bio-economic modelling, economics of agro-biodiversity and studies linking economic transition, international trade, agricultural production, and the environment. The objectives of the seminar are threefold. First, the seminar provides a forum for studies on the links between economic transition and sustainable development. Domestic economic liberalisation, international trade liberalisation and China's and Vietnam's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will greatly affect domestic prices and hence the use of natural resources in production, and bring home international environmental regimes, particularly issues of food safety, ISO standardisation and eco-labelling. Secondly, the seminar facilitates discussions on international relations in natural resource use, international trade and environmental agreements. Insights from theoretical models and empirical studies will directly help to shape local and international policies to facilitate economic transition in East Asian countries and to improve natural resource management. The role of environmental policies as well as international agreements for trade will be discussed. Thirdly, the transition from state-dominated to market-oriented economy raises concerns about decentralised, local and informal resource management institutions, and good governance. The seminar offers opportunities for formulating policy responses and strategies for direct action and implementation.

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