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# Household welfare impacts of natural and manmade disasters in Korea and Japan

Wednesday 21 November 2012 12.30 – 1.30 pm

Professor Yasuyuki Sawada University of Tokyo

Acton Theatre Level 1, JG Crawford Building 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU



People in both developed and developing countries face a variety of unexpected events. Large scale natural and manmade disasters generate the most devastating outcomes. Based on household micro-data, Professor Yasuyuki Sawada will compare two manmade disasters, the 1997-98 financial crises in Korea and Japan as well as two natural disasters in Japan, the Great Hanshin Awaji (Kobe) earthquake in 1995 and Chuetsu earthquake in 2004. The impact of each disaster on household welfare is differentiated due to heterogenous conditions. While the financial crises affect both Korean and Japanese households seriously, the magnitude of welfare impacts is much higher in Korea than in Japan. Intriguingly, in both Kobe and Chuetsu, the means for coping are specific to the nature of shocks caused by the earthquakes.

Yasuyuki Sawada is a professor in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo. He has been a Visiting Researcher of the JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI); Faculty Fellow of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry (RIETI), a Visiting Fellow to the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and a member of intergovernmental Joint Research Project on a New Era of Japan-Korea Relations. His research interests include econometric investigations of individual, household and firm behaviours under risks using micro-data from developing and developed countries such as China, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Japan. Recently, he has been investigating the impacts of natural disasters on household welfare including the Sichuan, Kobe, Chuetsu, and Tohoku earthquakes, the Asian Tsunami disaster, Typhoon Milenyo in the Philippines, and avian influenza in Vietnam.

This seminar is presented by the Australia-Japan Research Centre at the Crawford School of Public Policy.

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This seminar is free and open to the public

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