Special Lecture
(date/time changed!)

Flying Geese Paradigm
: A Critical thought toward its application to East Asia

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Date: October 22 (Wed.) from 1 pm to 3 pm (date/time changed)
Venue: Meeting Room No.1 on 8th Floor at GSID
Language: English
Registration: Please send email in advance to Prof. Kawashima.

Mr. Kasahara’s representation introduces the Flying Geese (FG) paradigm and critically discusses its application to contemporary East Asian (and possibly elsewhere).

The FG paradigm (originated in the 1930s in Japan) explains that late industrial development is a catching-up process of a developing country. It explains that this development process is activated through interactions with early industrializers. In the 1980s, many Asian researchers upheld the paradigm as a regional development model, particularly for East Asian. As the region’s phenomenal growth began to draw wider attention in the 1980s, the paradigm also gained popularity within and beyond the region.

The paradigm suggests that East Asian economies have gone through rapid industrialization in a 'cascade' fashion, sequentially upgrading their manufacturing activities, initially with mobilizing their relatively cheap labour for production (and later for export) of imported consumer goods, and thereafter steadily upgrading such activities for products of different sectors. Therefore, regional economies, in their upgrading process, have gradually relocated their 'sunset' industries, i.e., those manufacturing activities that have lost cost advantage in production. These industrial migrations have tended to occur within the regional hierarchy headed by Japan, followed sequentially by the First-tier NIEs (South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong), the Second-tier NIES (Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia), China, and others. Here, trade, aid, FDI and other transactions among regional economies have functioned as channels of industrial relocation, thereby stimulating local industrialization. In short, the sequential transfer of manufacturing activities is seen in an orderly fashion, benefitting all economies in East Asia.

Mr. Kasahara will make a presentation of the paradigm in such a way that students with limited economics or statistics background can understand its essential elements, as well as the issues that seem to limit its application to the East Asian region. If time allows, he may attempt to discuss the most recent attempt of applying the paradigm beyond East Asia, for instance, to Eastern/Southern Europe, Latin America, and Africa.

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