

Abstract of Resilience Seminar in FY2006

The 12th Resilience Seminar

Date and Time: 10:00-11:30 Monday July 3rd 2006

Place: RIHN Lecture Hall

Co-organized by the Society of Commons Studies and Biwa-Yodo Watershed Project

Title: Developing Methods for Institutional Analysis: Institutional Diversity in Resource Management

Speaker: Elinor Ostrom, Co-Director, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University

[Abstract] Many policy texts stress the importance of institutions for political and economic development and for achieving sustainable resources. Yet, diverse scholars mean so many different things when they refer to institutions. And, there are many ways of conducting institutional analysis. I will present a brief overview of the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework that is laid out in my new book, *Understanding Institutional Diversity* (Princeton University Press, 2005). I will then dig into the framework to illustrate the diversity of rules we have discovered in doing field work related to common-pool resources (e.g. irrigation systems, forests, pastures, fisheries). In light of the diversity of rules in use, I will address the problem of recommending simple solutions to complex social and ecology problems and recommend considerable humility when we turn to policy recommendations. Building settings in which individual can adapt better rules in light of their experience in coping with problems over time is a better approach than presuming we know the right “blueprint” to build better institutions to cope with diverse problems we face. Resilience is enhanced by building institutions that can be adapted to local circumstances and change over time.

The 13th Resilience Seminar

Date and Time: Tuesday, 27 July 2006, 16:00-17:30

Place: RIHN Seminar Room 1&2

Title: Application of climate information for enhancing resilience to climate risk: Indian case study

Speaker: Prof. V. Geethalakshmi, Visiting Researcher at RIHN and Department of Meteorology, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, India

[Abstract] Planning for risk management should take into account of climate variability and expand the capacity to identify trends and adapt to hazards such as floods and droughts. Extreme weather and climatic events keep on cause much damage and loss to properties and lives in spite of considerable advance made in the forecasting and monitoring of climatic phenomena on varied time scale and space dimensions in the past. During 1990's, natural disasters hit the world to the tune of 500-800 times a year and resulted in loss of more than \$600 billion and affected 2 billion people (Anthes, 2005). There are lots of uncertainties exists in natural variability of climate, extent and impact of global warming and climate change, population increase and related problems and societal and human response to these anticipated changes. However, let these uncertainties not be an excuse for taking any action against facing and managing the climatic risks. Regional understanding of the past trends and likely changes in the future will help in planning for the climate related risk management strategies. Early warning systems should become an integral part of risk management and planning. Anticipation and prevention are more effective and less expensive than having to react to emergencies. Few case studies of Indian subcontinent will be discussed as an example.

The 14th Resilience Seminar

Date and Time: Monday, October 2nd, 2006, 15:30-17:15

Place: RIHN Seminar Room 1&2

15:30-16:30

Title: Influence of gregarious flowering of *Melocanna baccifera* in Mizoram, North-East India

Speaker: Shozo SHIABTA, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University

[Abstract] *Melocanna baccifera* distributes in North-East India, Bangladesh and Myanmar largely in slash-and-burn agriculture area. Although flowering period of the most bamboo species is not clear, this species has been recorded its flowering every 48 years and the next flowering will come on the end of this year. To understand the ecological characteristics of bamboo flowering this chance is very great for bamboo researchers. It is said that previous flowerings brought the catastrophic damage to Mizoram people. In these several decades, after the last flowering of *Melocanna* in 1959, the social system of Mizoram changes by the promotion of domicile, deterioration of slash-and-burn rotation and so on. The influence of current bamboo flowering upon this changing social system is also interesting.

16:30-17:15

Title: Zambia Field Trip Report

Speaker: Mitsunori Yoshimura, RIHN

The 15th Resilience Seminar

Date & time: Thursday, November 9th, 2006, 15:30-17:00

Place: RIHN Seminar Room 1&2

Title: International approach to drought early warning system for human security ~ Current trends in international organisations and Ethiopia ~

Speaker: Yukiko IITSUKA, Secretariat of the international peace cooperation headquarters, Cabinet office

[Abstract] Among the countries in which a natural disaster and armed conflicts are occurring frequently, the "early warning system" for drought preparedness has been established by international organisations and other development assistance organizations as what contributes to people's "human security". However, in addition to the early analysis of the system based on the conventional data collection, the alternative analysis which takes political and social factor into consideration more attracts global attention in recent years. For example, in order to increase the efficacy of the system, a new approach called "Twin Track Approach (TTA)" has been recently discussed by the U.N. food and agriculture organisation (FAO). It incorporates the political and social factor as an element which constitutes a resilience framework in vulnerable society. In Ethiopia, on the other hand, the early warning system has been advanced over the basis of cooperation of international organisations, including USAID, in many years since it was introduced most early.

In the presentation, first of all, the new argument, such as the TTA which international society including FAO advances, will be introduced. Secondly, the history and information gathering system of early warning system operating in Ethiopia will be mainly reported. Furthermore, it would be discussed that what kind of problem could be identified in the early warning system currently carried out in Ethiopia, considering the lively argument of the TTA. Finally, the challenge of ensuring human security in drought correspondence of Africa, as well as the possibility of that, would be considered.

The 16th Resilience Seminar

Date & time: Thursday, February 22nd, 2007, 15:30-17:00

Place: RIHN Lecture Hall

15:30-16:15

Title: Creating social space for economic activities among rural women in Southern Zambia

Speaker: Tokuko Narisawa, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University

[Abstract] In rural Tonga of Southern Zambia, women's source of cash income had been almost entirely limited to the sales of beer. Since the 1990s, economic hardships stemming from complex repercussions of the penetration of market economy, drought and cattle disease have deprived Tonga of cash income from agricultural and pastoral activities. For Tonga women, this has meant a loss of access to money which has been controlled by men. To counter this trend, development programs have been promoted for the empowerment of rural women. No studies, however, reveal the real feature of Tonga women's individual economic activities.

This presentation aims to discuss the rural Tonga women's way of accomplishing their own economic activities in the society, under recent socio-economic changes, based on field research conducted in a village located east of Monze, Southern Province of Zambia. I shall argue that it was the creative practice of women that played a central role in transforming local social space into their own "market"; a creativity which allowed women to pursue individual economic activities without contradicting social norms in a male-dominated economy.

16:15-17:00

Title: Sorghum cultivation in Gwembe valley, southern Zambia

Speaker: Kazue Awaji, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University

[Abstract] Gwembe valley, located in the southern part of Zambia, has poor rainfall and is often hit by drought. The people who live in the Gwembe valley cultivate sorghum that has drought resistance. I try to discuss about their sorghum cultivation under hard climate condition, from views of the cropping system and varietal Characteristics.