

Development of an Open Platform under New Editorship

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In April 2020, I took over as the editor of *The Senshu Social Well-being Review* from Professor Jun Oyane. He was the first to assume the journal's editorship after 2014 and is responsible for the publication of close to 40 path-breaking articles. Under his inspiring leadership, the journal became an open platform for multidisciplinary discussions on various domains of social well-being research. He received the wholehearted approval of the entire editorial board in all his endeavors as the journal's editor. After six fruitful years as the helm, Prof. Oyane resigned from his position to become a deputy editor of the journal in April 2020. We welcomed Dr. Keitaro Yazaki as a deputy editor and Dr. Tatsuo Komorida as a new member of the editorial board. Dr. Yazaki has been engaged in the journal's editorial process as a post-doctoral researcher since the publication of the first volume and is an assistant professor at Tainan University of Technology, Taiwan. Dr. Komorida, a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellow at Sophia University, is currently conducting an inspiring multi-method study on the mental health of sexual minorities in Japan. I am convinced that the support of these rising researchers will strengthen the journal's editorship more than ever.

This volume contains three non-reviewed commentaries. In the first commentary, Phan Cao Nhat Anh reviews policies on female labor participation implemented in Vietnam and Japan and highlights the similarities

and differences in institutional and cultural contexts in both countries. Female labor participation is considered an important policy agenda, particularly in East Asian societies that are experiencing the effects of rapid aging. It is also a major Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus area. In the second commentary, Kiyohisa Shibai investigates the possible common factors of life satisfaction in the Asia-Pacific region, which exhibits considerable regional diversity in its economy, politics, and culture, using the *Asia-Pacific Values Survey 2010–2014*, one of the most reliable and well-organized regional surveys. His research identifies satisfaction with family life as the only common factor in the region. This finding suggests that social capital is a significant consideration in the region despite its diversity in many aspects. Finally, in the third commentary, Aguru Ishibashi thoroughly reviews research on the prospective approach in social mobility studies and suggests a principle on model construction, based on the population transition theory in demography. His research reminds us that structural contexts play a significant role in investigations on regularities in social sciences.

This volume also incorporates a translation of Hiroo Harada's paper in Japanese, which was originally published in *Seijo University Economic Papers*, No. 231 (January 2021). I appreciate the editorial board of *Seijo University Economic Papers*, which gave *The Senshu Social Well-being Review* permission to publish the translation.

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In the translation, Hiroo Harada reviews the timeline of the COVID-19 response in Japan up until the end of 2020 and discusses challenges and recommendations for the pandemic. We observed tremendous diversity in the trajectories of and responses to the epidemic among societies. The diversity came from different institutional and cultural settings in each society. One of the most critical objectives of social well-being research is to dissect the mechanism of well-being in different institutional contexts. The pandemic might have given us precious data to promote this research.

In June 2020, a complete dataset of the *Social Well-Being Surveys in Asia* (SoWSA) was finally published for the academic community at Korea Social Science Data Archive. The dataset includes a volume of essential and pioneering measures on the social well-being, social capital, and other institutional/cultural settings of seven East and Southeast Asian societies: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. We encourage all researchers and practitioners in social well-being and related disciplines to submit manuscripts for review at any time.