

Introduction to the May 2014 Issue
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Satisfaction with 12 Daily Life Aspects in Asia: ANPOR's first cooperative opinion polls conducted in 12 Asian societies

The first special issue of the Asian Journal for Public Opinion Research consists of two parts: first, a comparative analysis by Takashi Inoguchi, Miguel Basanez and Yuichi Kubota and 12 polling leaders of 12 Asian societies; second, household income, family life and human relations as crossed by educational achievement and marriage status for each of the 12 Asian societies. This special issue is significant for three reasons. First, it is based on the cooperative endeavor of those polling leaders of 12 Asian societies. Cooperation among Asian academics has seldom been attempted. This is a good breakthrough. Second, judging from our preliminary analysis of 12 society data, one of the most salient findings is that social relations are no less important than survival and material life in 12 societies. Materialism (modernism), post-materialism (post-modernism), and public sector dominance are three major dimensions of daily life aspects in 12 Asian societies. Which dimension dominates? Depending on how these dimensions are ranked, society types are determined. Some societies are survival dominant, some others are social relations dominant, further some others are public sector dominant (Inoguchi, 2014, in press a, and in press b.). Third, methodologically, much remains to be resolved. The relationship between populations and samples needs to be tidied up (Table 1). Linguistically, a close scrutiny should be conducted on the master English language questionnaire and local language questionnaires. Financially, submitting a joint proposal to some international organizations like the United Nations Development Program or some private foundations may be a step forward in forging a methodologically more rigorous, empirically more solid, and theoretically more productive endeavor.

Takashi Inoguchi

References

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Biographical Note

Takashi Inoguchi is Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo and President, University of Niigata Prefecture. He is also former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations assigned to The United Nations University Headquarters. He has B.A. and M.A. degrees from University of Tokyo and a Ph.D. from MIT. He has published numerous books and articles on a broad range of subjects. For the last decade he has executed large scale random sampled nation-wide surveys in all the Asian countries and societies (i.e., in East, Southeast, South and Central Asia, except for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Timor Leste) focusing on quality of life and well-being with 60 thousand respondents and 6 million observations. From this AsiaBarometer project he has published with co-author Seiji Fujii, *The Quality of Life in Asia: A Comparison of Quality of Life in 29 Asian Countries and Societies* (Springer, 2012). With Doh Chull Shin, coedited *The Quality of Life in Asia* (Springer 2010), coedited with Miguel Basanez et al, *Values and Lifestyle in Urban Asia* (SigloXXI Editores, 2005), and other there volumes of the AsiaBarometer (Akashi Shoten, 2001, 2008, 2009). On Japan and international affairs, he has published, among others, *The Political Economy of Japan* (Stanford University Press, 1988, coedited with Daniel Okimoto), *American Democracy Promotion* (Oxford University Press, 2000, coedited with Michael Cox and G. John Ikenberry), *Japanese Politics Today* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), and *The U.S.-Japan Security Alliance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). Dr. Inoguchi is a member of the Science Council of Japan, Founding Editor of *Japanese Journal of Political Science* (Cambridge University Press) and *Journal of International Relations of the Asia Pacific* (Oxford University Press). Of late, he is editor of *Asian Journal of Political Opinion Research* (open access journal). He also is Director of the AsiaBarometer Project and is Chairman of the Asian Consortium for Political Research. Based on Google Scholar Impact Indices, his total citations count (up to November 11, 2013) is 2,164; his h-index is 24, and his i10 index is 59.

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