

Editorial

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Dear colleagues,

You now have the opportunity to read the sixth issue of the **Development, Environment and Foresight** journal, published by the Department of Development and Environmental Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic.

The journal is among others indexed by the ERIH PLUS database. The European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS) was created and developed by European researchers under the coordination of the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation (ESF). The ERIH lists, which initially covered only humanities disciplines, were first published by ESF in 2008, while revised lists were made available in 2011-2012. In 2014, responsibility for the maintenance and operation of ERIH was transferred to the NSD – Norwegian Centre for Research Data. The reference index at NSD is called ERIH PLUS in order to indicate that it has been extended to include the social sciences.

The first paper in this issue is authored by Jaromír Harmáček, Miroslav Syrovátka and Pavla Vítová (all from Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic) and focuses on what are the motives of territorial allocation of Japanese development aid. After reviewing 12 available empirical studies with some inconsistent results, the authors applied regression analysis over the recent and relatively long period (1994–2014). The overall results is that, the factors measuring governance, democracy and freedom are all significant determinants – Japan tends to reward countries that have better governance and higher level of freedom and democracy. If these institutional factors increase the effectiveness of aid, Japanese aid allocation can be viewed positively. On the other hand, the dynamics of economic growth is not a significant factor – Japan does not reward countries growing faster with more aid.

The second paper presented by Tshering Pelzom and Om Katel from Royal University of Bhutan aims at Youth Perception of Agriculture and potential for employment in the context of rural development in Bhutan. In Bhutan, agriculture provides employment and livelihoods to more than half of the total population. Therefore, this paper aims to provide the ways on how youth can be attracted and engaged in agriculture sector and its implications to food security of Bhutan.

The last paper of this issue is authored by PhD student from the Department of Development and Environmental Studies at Palacký University Olomouc, Martin Schlossarek. The paper explores the Relevance and Meaning of Charity in the Context of Microfinance. In this paper the author claims that it is necessary to clearly distinguish between charitable and commercial forms of microfinance. The issue is especially important for (potential) donors to microfinance institutions, which rely on fundraising to finance their operations.

Therefore he proposes theoretical parameters for charitable microfinance institutions and for the identification of charitable products.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we are looking forward to the next one. We would like to motivate and invite other authors to contribute to the knowledge and expertise in the areas of development, environment and foresight by sending their submissions to the editorial board of the DEF journal. The aim of the journal is to cultivate academic discussion in the scope of the journal as well as beyond its borders.

Thank you for your support

Jiří Pánek // managing editor