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## 論文の要旨

This thesis focuses on the Role of the Japanese foreign aid in promoting local economic development in developing countries using the cases of post-Soviet states of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. The object of this study is to analyze the impact of activities accomplished under the OVOP project and trace the contribution of these projects to the local economic development. The general goal of this study is to make a contribution to the discussion of why aid is being given and its effectiveness in supporting local economic development process in recipient countries. There are very few limited studies which attempt to cover the topic of Japanese foreign aid and its role in local economic development of post-Soviet states. Comparing cases of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, this thesis aims to identify the factors contributing to the effectiveness or failure of Japan's development practices. In order to do so, this thesis raises the following question: How did bilateral relationship between Japan and ODA recipient countries impact the local economic development of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan?

This thesis answers this main question in the following six main chapters. After providing the brief explanation on the context in which the research is conducted in the introductory chapter, the first chapter provides the theoretical and contextual frameworks for analysis. The second chapter familiarizes with the research method applied which is rooted in the intersection of the fields of International Relations and Development Economics. The third chapter then discusses the Japanese ODA policy towards the countries

of Central Asia and the South Caucasus. The chapter four engages into a quantitative analysis of these cases by discussing the economic development in respective countries and by providing the statistical data on the state and characteristics of Japanese ODA flows to recipient countries. The chapter five will then engage into the qualitative part using the Japanese ODA policy towards Armenia and Kyrgyzstan as cases which describe Japan's efforts to facilitate the process of local economic development. The final chapter provides comparative analysis by summarizing the main findings of the research.

As is widely covered in the literature on the development aid, Japan has been very active aid provider to the development countries in general and to the post-Soviet states including those in Central Asia and the Caucasus. In this sense, Japanese ODA has served multiple purposes: it was used as a main tool for establishing bilateral relationship and supporting Japan's foreign policy objectives in recipient countries. It has also channeled the Japanese expertise in developing economies and economic and social systems.

In analyzing the data from JICA reports as well as evaluation of the projects conducted within OVOP initiative, this thesis aims not only to describe the essence of the projects conducted but also evaluate their significance. Although this thesis does not adopt a particular measure scale to evaluate these projects in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, it does aim to point the efficiency and deficiency of the undertaken OVOP initiatives in these two countries. In terms of success stories, this thesis praises the Japanese OVOP involvement in Armenia. In doing so, this thesis emphasizes that OVOP undertaken in Armenia distinguishes from the OVOP undertaken elsewhere in the more qualified target group which has been involved in it which consisted mainly from experienced businessmen and businesswomen. Mainly due to this background, the participants performed better in promoting their products not only through a conventional trade channels and shops but also employing the opportunities presented by an online shopping as well as promotion through Facebook and other social networks.

Compared to such experience, the OVOP initiative in Kyrgyzstan was described in the thesis as having profound impact on local product development and local capacity development in producing certain products indigenous to a particular area where OVOP has been initiated. At the same time, when compared to OVOP in Armenia, OVOP applied to the conditions of Kyrgyzstan demonstrating certain weaknesses of this scheme.

In particular, the main target group in Kyrgyzstan consisted mainly of the peasants and local community inhabitants who were skilled enough to produce certain products but their lacked basic commercial and product distribution skills. These participants displayed enthusiasm in the initial stage of the OVOP product implementation when their participants were provided free training and were given certain financial resources to cover some basic costs for initiating the production. However, after the product has been produced, these participants opted for a traditional channels of distributing their products which quickly displayed the signs of exhaustion. These participants were very slow in adopting to this new situation primarily because they lacked any skills and technical expertise in on-line trades. In addition, the enthusiasm of participants quickly faded once the financial assistance from the Japanese part has ceased. In such situation, many of the initially organized groups of OVOP participants displayed the preference of withdrawing from the OVOP initiative and opted to discontinue participating in it.

## 審査の要旨

### 1 批評

This study attempted to trace the impact of such developmental assistance. As a result, it demonstrates that majority of the Japanese development projects has brought about the positive impact on recipients in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. This thesis exemplifies this argument through the case study of Armenia and analysis of the Japanese technical assistance and support to its agricultural and private sectors. This, in turn, has served as an important factor in revitalizing the local economic development of the country. In Kyrgyzstan, this thesis argues, Japanese efforts to support the revitalization of the Kyrgyz economy was limited to the provision of technical assistance and implementation of infrastructure development projects. These projects had less impact on economic development of the country since projects implemented under Japanese ODA scheme had less exposure and generated less economic opportunities to scale up the country-wide development process. Nevertheless, unlike Armenian case, in Kyrgyzstan, Japan`s efforts to spur the economic development of the country was accomplished by multi-vector operations in the areas of transport infrastructure, agricultural development, social development, and human resources development. These projects were deemed as crucial in supporting local communities and enabling them to benefit from Japanese expertise and technology.

Through analysis of these two case studies and their comparison to each other, this thesis emphasizes that the ODA provided by the Japanese government serves as crucial tool for the transfer of material resources and know-how to the countries which did not have possess such knowledge prior to the implementation of these projects. In such analysis, this thesis argues that the transfer of the Japanese know-how and knowledge represents one of the unique features of the Japanese assistance when compared to other available alternatives such as from China or Korea. This thesis then argued that the Japanese development assistance of such type can make a greater contribution to the achievement of economic development goals of developing countries as it focuses on supporting not just the infrastructure development projects but also local capacity building. According to this thesis, this in turn creates a greater economic value for recipient countries.

### 2 最終試験

The final examination committee conducted a final examination on July 10, 2018. The applicant provided an overview of the dissertation, and addressed questions and comments raised during the Question-and-Answer session. All committee members reached a final decision that the applicant passed the final examination.

### 3 結論

Therefore, the final examination committee approved that the applicant is qualified to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy.