

COMPLETION REPORT

I acknowledge and thank the generous sponsorship of the Sumitomo Foundation. I started off this project with three questions in mind: (1) What factors caused the decline of the coal industry in Japan? (2) Are technological factors important in this issue? (3) What other explanations accounted for the decline of the coal industry in Japan? My manuscript based on this project arrived at the following findings. (1) Economic factors are an important factor that caused the Japanese coal industry to decline, particularly in terms of coal pricing and competitiveness with imported coal resources. I looked at the major issues of this dominant narrative. (2) Technology played an important historical role in the mechanization of the industry but there is a natural limit to its continued development in terms of geological factors as well as spatial makeup of the delivery routes. (3) Economic factors are inter-related with spatial explanations, the geography and how coal delivery systems are organized in Japan. Distances and the level of development of transportation infrastructure account for the pricing of the coal resources as well. As a result of my interactions with other scholars in academic conferences in this topic, I have three other important additional perspectives to my research manuscript. First, the idea of a comparative perspective with China is often broached in conference Q&A sessions. I have integrated this useful suggestion into the manuscript. Are spatial theories applicable to China useful for studying Japan and, vice versa, were the historical circumstances surrounding Japan's coal industrial decline applicable to China's future coal industrial development? Secondly, the gentrification of coal mines that were closed down provides some clues about changing socioeconomic conditions that are related to their declines in the first place. Are coal towns that have shut down sustainable economically and what are the prospects of replacing the former resource-supplying economy with service and retail sectors. Can limited production be revived in some cases? Third, an international relations (IR) perspective is further discussed in the narrative, given its influence on other factors such as regional competition for coal resources, technological and economic development. Are the ideas of realism and cooperation applicable here? And how do the ideas of state size, wealth and environmental priorities apply to relations between resource-supplying and resource-consuming states? My continuing plan is to work on the manuscript as a monograph project and incorporate the useful comments received from the audiences of the conferences where I presented. I will also use the Sumitomo grant as a seed grant for developing the project further.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

***Verbal Presentation and Conference abstracts

Panel Presenter, "Discussing Coal Delivery as a Historical Problem: Are Geography and Infrastructure Relevant Historical Factors in Discussing Internal Coal Waterway Delivery in China and Japan?" in Panel 69 Border Crossing 10.45 am to 12.45 pm DelMar A/B, 3rd Level Friday, 22 March 2013 Formal session of Association for Asian Studies (AAS) 2013 San Diego, California (peer reviewed, refereed)

Lim Tai Wei, Presented "A Historical Overview of the Last Coal Mine Closures in Japan" in the New York Conference on Asian Studies 28 September 2012 at State University of New York at New Platz. (refereed conference)

Lim, Tai Wei, "The Final Closures of Coal Mines in Japan: A Historical Overview Utilizing the Conceptual Perspective of Mine Closure Policy Implementation Studies" presented in Session 6G: The Social History of Institutions: A Multidisciplinary Sino-Japanese Panel with Case Studies on Overseas Chinese Education & Culture, HK-Japan Exchanges and Environment-energy Sustainability Parallel Sessions 6 on 9 March 2013 (Sat) 11 am to 12.30 pm at the 8th Annual Conference of The Asian Studies Association of Hong Kong (ASAHK): Transformations, Development and Culture in Asia: Multidisciplinary Perspectives at The Hong Kong Institute of Education. [Refereed]

Presented "A Historical Overview of the Coal Industry in Asia: Interactions between the "Smaller" (South Korea, Taiwan, HK) and the "Large" Emerging/Developed Economies (India, Japan, China) of Asia" in the conference "The Small Powers in World Politics: Asian and African Perspectives" 22 June 2012 Friday City University of Hong Kong.

(Refereed conference)

Presenter, paper titled "Leadership Transitions and Narratives of Coal Energy Policies and Use in the US, China and Japan: Implications of the Obama Administration Second Term, 18th CCP Congress and Return of LDP" in the International Conference on "Asian-American Relations after the 2012 US Presidential Election" organized by the Graduate Institute of Asian Studies, College of International Studies, Tamkang University on 14 March 2013 (Thurs) (published in conference proceedings, p. 228-252) "Invited for review, refereed"

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Lim, Tai Wei, Discussing Domestic Coal Delivery as a Historical Problem: Are Spatial Factors and Infrastructure Limitations the Major Constraints in China and Japan? – An interpretative work on maps and preliminary scope studies for fieldwork. (Manuscript, writing in progress)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

Lim, Tai Wei, "Coal Utilization in India and Japan: A Narrative-Analysis" in the South Asian Journal of Global Business Research (SAJGBR) Vol 2, Iss1 edited by Khilji, Shaista (UK: Emerald), available at <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?issn=2045-4457> [Accepted (06-Sep-2012) Print Publish: 01-Apr-2013 vol:2, iss:1]