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Competition, Trust, and Cooperation

A Comparative Study

With 15 Figures
and 1 Table



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Preface

It was at the fifth SEEP-Conference on Economic Ethics and philosophy in autumn 1997 that the organizational work of the seventh conference in 1999 was entrusted to the editors of this volume. Prof. Peter Koslowski, series editor of *The Studies in Economic Ethics and Philosophy*, SEEP, expressed the hope that the SEEP-Conference be held in the Far-East for the first time would bring a new comparative aspect to economic ethics and philosophy. Further, the agenda of economic ethics seemed to increase its significance also in Japan and other Asian countries especially due to the spread of corruption in the government and business under the financial crisis that attacked these nations in the late 1990s. Though we chose "Competition, Trust, and Cooperation" as the general theme of the conference, this should include the collusion, distrust, and corruption as the opposite side of the medal.

The conference was held on March 10-12, 1999 at the Kansai Seminar House of the Nippon Christian Academy, Kyoto, Japan. Fourteen papers were submitted to the conference. In addition to twelve papers that are printed in this volume, Prof. Ruisheng Wang (Capital Normal University, Beijing) read his paper on ethical problems in the context of Asian financial crisis and Prof. Agnar Sandmo (Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration) did the same by his paper on societal aspect of the competition promotion policy.

Further, a Japanese paper on ethical aspect of psychiatric theory of Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan by Ryohei Rokutanda, M.A., was discussed in an affiliated meeting.

We remember the days of early spring in the North of Kyoto; we discussed papers ardently one by one, refreshed ourselves by green tea, and walked quiet promenades on the hillside. The Kyoto conference 1999 was not realized without the financial support by the Egusa Fund for the Promotion of Social Sciences, Tokyo, and by the Suntory Foundation, Osaka. We thank them sincerely.

PREFACE

We arranged the twelve revised papers into three parts, Part One: Basic Considerations, Part Two: Historical and Comparative Perspectives, and Part Three: Modern Economic and Political Issues. An introductory remark seems unnecessary, since two general papers of the editors are presented at the outset of the volume. Though we regret the papers of Prof. Wang and Prof. Sandmo are not contained here due to different reasons, still we are glad that the Kyoto conference brought forth such a rich as well as balanced collection of papers on economic ethics and philosophy focused on competition and cooperation. We thank Prof. Koslowski for his useful suggestions and Prof. Sangki Kim for his voluntary help in supervising the manuscripts.

June 2000

Yuichi Shionoya

Kiichiro Yagi

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