



Kansai university and Faculty of Economics



International Symposium

Africa and Asia Entanglements in Past and Present : Bridging History and Development Studies

African and Japan, Africa and East Asia

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Abstract

The policies toward Africa of Japan, China, and South Korea have been narrated as if they were competitor. But, in the perspective of global economy, dynamics will be observed at regional base shared among them. It should be inevitable that the regional tie between Asia and Africa is going to be strengthened than one of Europe and Africa.

East Asian countries have developed their economies as manufacturing strongholds. This sort of economic development, namely export-oriented industrialization, was incarnated in China after 1980s. China used to be the biggest exporter of natural resources in Asia, but now, not only Chinese but also other East Asian manufacturers must find resources' suppliers outside Asia. Expanding China has inaugurated a new set of Africa policies with its priorities on resource procurement. Japan and South Korea followed it.

At the end of resource boom, China's Africa policy has changed again. Its main target seemingly shifted from resource procurement to manufacturing transfer and infrastructure building. In this regards, the comparison with Japan's economic cooperation policy in 1960s and 1970s will provide interesting implications. Japan implemented those policies toward Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia, and carried out manufacturing transfer at its final stage after 1980s. That development paved the way to integrated regional economy in Asia.

Can China find any landing strip for manufacturing productions in the African continent? What is the difference between Southeast Asia and Africa? These questions much connect with further international development in this century.