

---

**Chiba University Global Fair Society Program**  
**Online kickoff workshop**  
**“Global Fair Society After COVID-19: Emerging Agendas”**

**Date and Time : Wednesday 18 May 2022, 15:00-17:30, Japan Standard Time**

Abstract: This is a research essay based on the transcript of the seminar “Global Fair Society After COVID-19: Emerging Agendas”. Section 1 introduces the topic “Thriving in a post-pandemic world: Food security and the need for policy coordination” (By Dr.Xiang LI, Chiba University); Section 2 topic “International Cooperation in Climate Change: Toward a Post COVID-19” (By Dr. Xiaofang Zhang, Chiba University); Section 3 discusses the topic “Entering a Post-Coivd-19 Scenario in Mexico: how can we fight for a fairer (civil) society?” (By Mr. Alfonso Torrero, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana). Section 4 is discussants time.

**Moderator**

- Prof. Hikari Ishido (Chiba University)

**Panelists**

- Dr. Xiang LI, (Chiba University)
- Dr. Xiaofang Zhang (Chiba University)
- Mr. Alfonso Torrero (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana)

**Organizer:** Chiba University Global Fair Society Program

## **Introduction (by Prof.Jiro Mizushima)**

Since 2016, our group has engaged in this Fair Society program for almost six years, but today's kickoff workshop is a new start because this year has led to the efforts and achievement of our research members. Our project was chosen as one of the major programs supported by the International Institute of Advanced Studies of Chiba University. And it is our duty that we should deepen our research more than ever and publish more to reach the broad public.

Today's academic activity goes beyond the national border. Three presenters, two come from China, and one from Mexico, the opposite side of the globe. In this sense, this is truly a global academic workshop. Many unfair phenomena and divisions in the world manifest themselves with the rise of populist movements against the established order. In the French presidential elections last month, these divisions became more clear because the populist candidate got more than 40% of the total votes. It is interesting to see that a newly elected President Macron mentioned fair society in the speech. Just after the victory, he emphasized the importance of a fairer society associated, produced. I suppose that Macron recognizes that fairness is urgently needed to tackle the serious divisions in society. In this way, fairness and a fair society are key concepts for the world in the post-pandemic era. And in the age of globalization, we witnessed a growing need to ensure that people from all cultures and countries, and backgrounds are treated fairly, but how can we achieve this? This is a kickoff online workshop discussing emerging agendas in a concrete manner, specially tailored after the outbreak of COVID 19.

## **Section 1**

## Xiang Li

In the next 15 minutes or so or follow this schedule to talk about today's topics, the first part of the talk will be on the background stories. So, I will provide you some information about agriculture and discuss why it's important to focus on agriculture issues. So, then I will provide you some information about the current situation in global challenges. So, facts such as the structure of global production risk surrounding agriculture management and possible impacts will be covered in this section. In addition, issues in Japan will also be measured. The third part in the top there'll be the need of policy coordination.

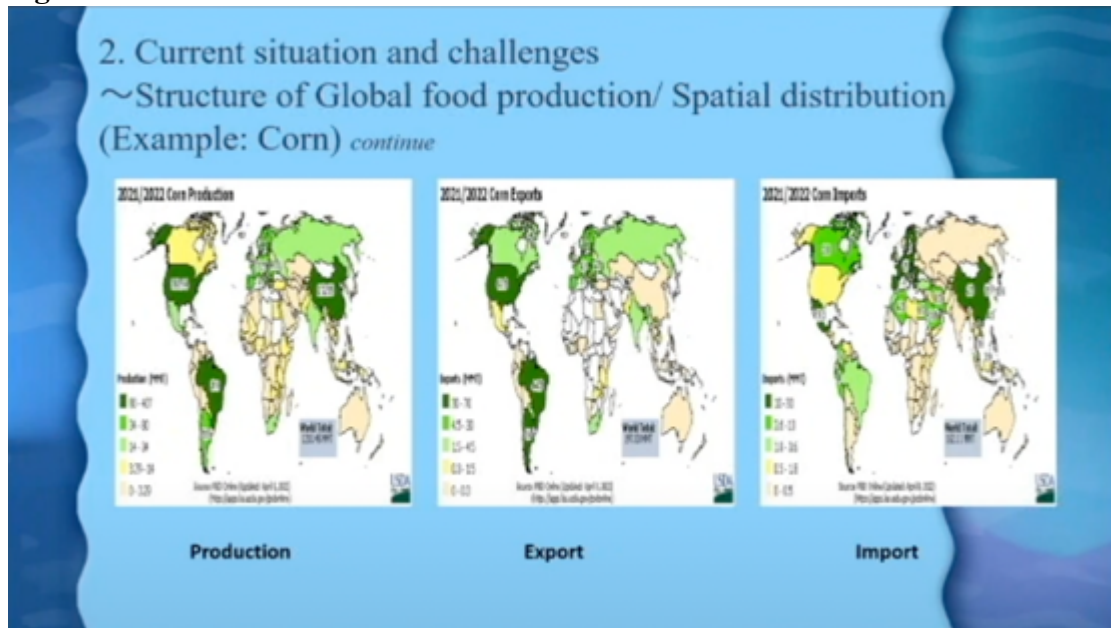
Let me show you some background information at first (Figure 1). why do we need to care about agriculture sectors? So, do relevant studies have any implication for us in our society? The answer is yes. So, agriculture sector not only provides us foods and feed crops but also energy source. One of the examples is bioethanol, which can be produced from corn. So, what are implications? In general, our survival relies on sustainable supply of foods. So, you can live without cars for a week, but you cannot survive without foods. So, moreover, at the current technology level, there are no available stuff that can substitute for agricultural products, so which means we must eat every day. As a result, sustainable supply of the foods become a prerequisite or the foundation of our social development. In addition to these facts, we might need to recognize the foods a special commodity. In some scenario, they can be become political weapons. So, traditionally, people perceive weapons to be things like guns, but the fact is that foods can change their identity and become weapons. Since food resources are not unlimited, so they can become powerful weapons when contrary negotiate with each other. So, in some scenario, they can change the comparative advantage between Country A and Country B.

**Figure 1 Background**



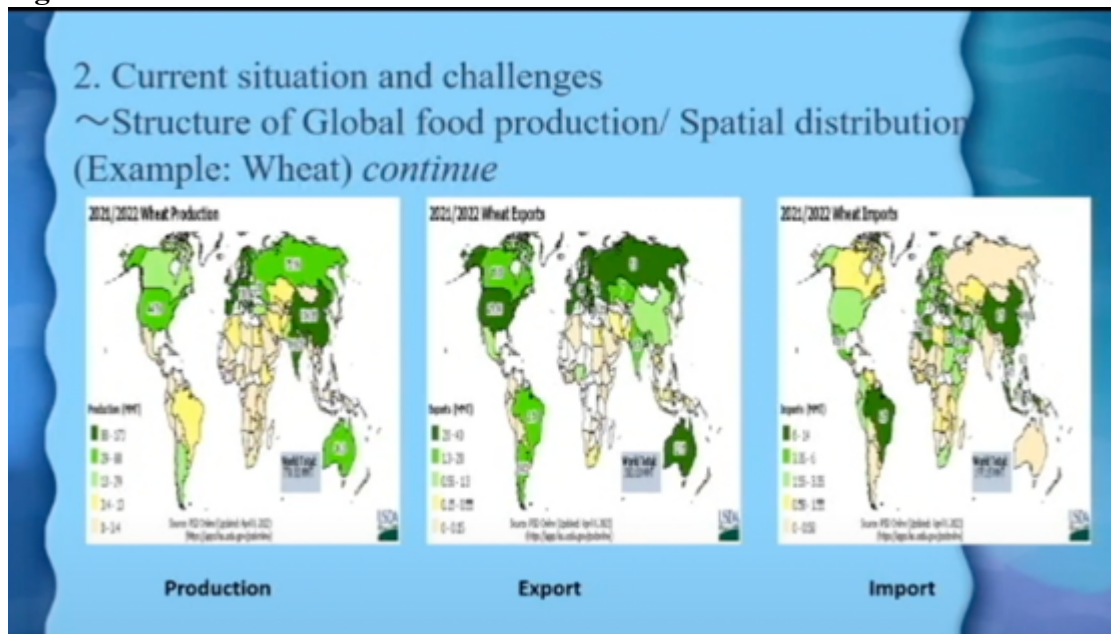
As I mentioned earlier, foods are unlimited. We would check the spatial distribution of our global food production. We can easily notice the countries around the world can only be grouped to be either net exporters or net importers. Figure 2 illustrates the cases of corn.

**Figure 2 The cases of corn**



So, figure 1 from the left to the right shows the production export, and import of corn. The darker green, the color shows the higher amount of its production, export, and import. For corn, the sheer production amount in the US and China, in general, account for over 50% of the total amount of global corn production. However, only a few countries such as the UK Brazil, and Russia have the capability to export corn to other countries. For all the types of crops such as the case of wheat, similar phenomena can be observed. Figure 3 shows the cases of wheat.

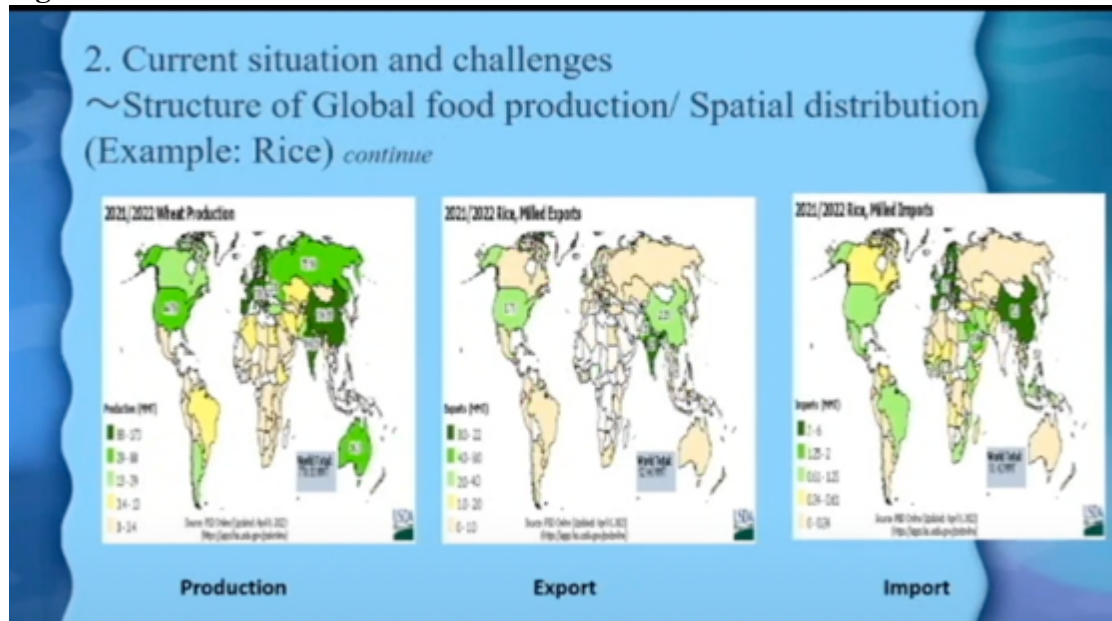
**Figure 3 The cases of wheat**



So, if you look at the export for you in the mid part, so we can again find that only a few numbers of countries such as Russia, and Ukraine have the capacity to export wheat. So, Figure 5 showed their cases of rice. So, India, in this case, becomes key exporter. So, well, developed countries, can all of them produce enough food for themselves?



**Figure 4 The cases of rice**



**Figure 5 Structure of global food production and issues 1**

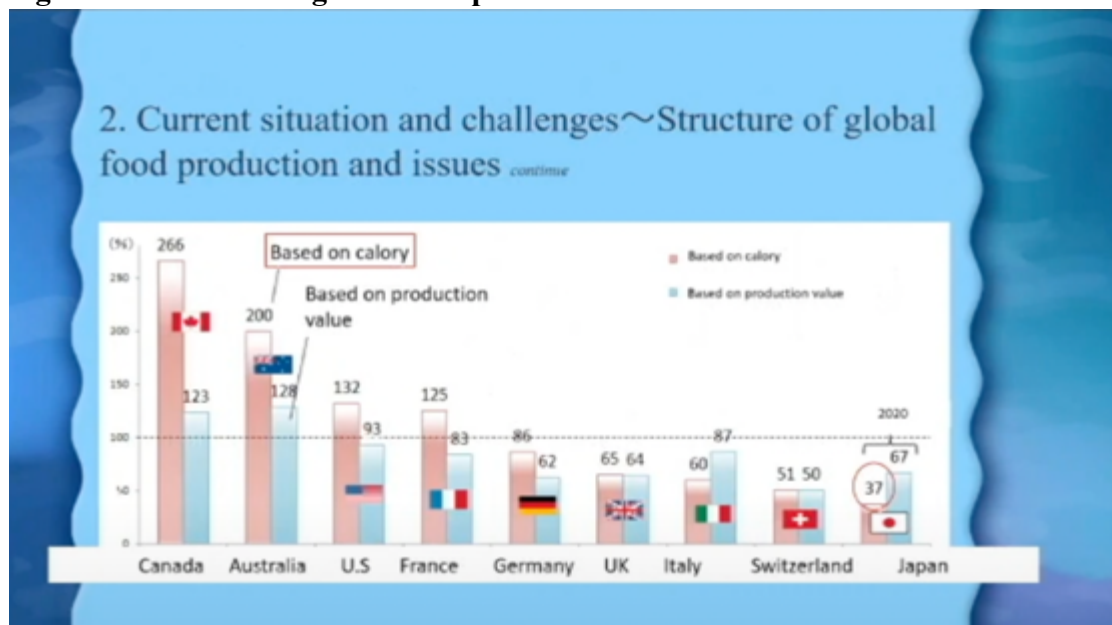
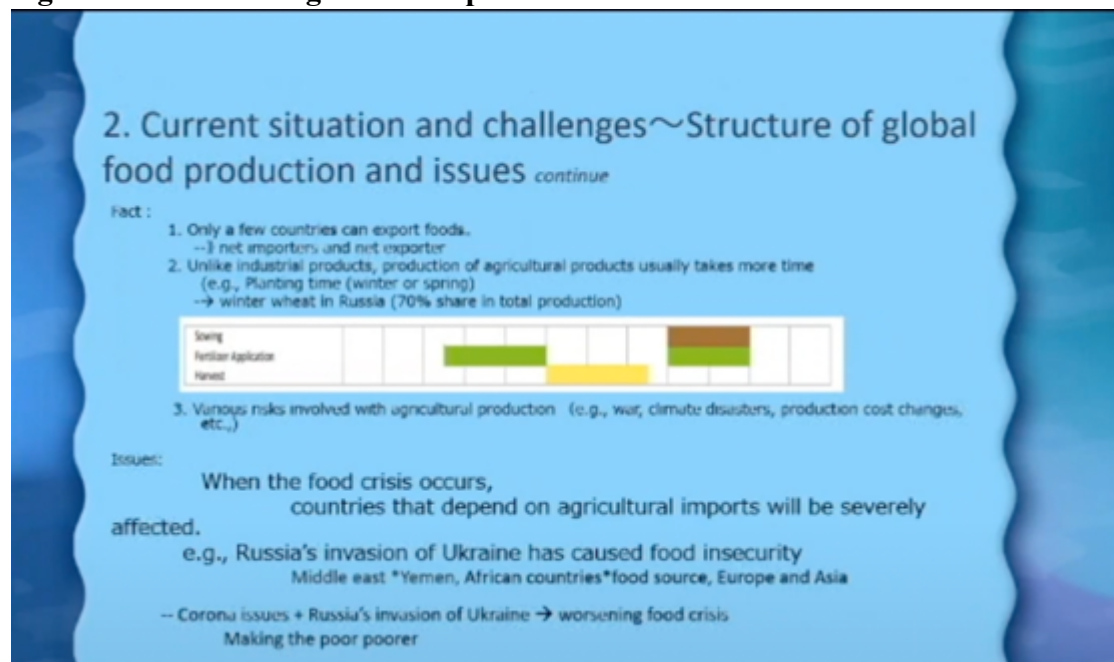


Figure 5, will illustrate only a few countries like Canada, Australia, the US, and France have self-sufficiency rates exceeding 100%. So, other countries like Germany, Italy, and Japan have self-sufficiency rates lower than 100%. So, what did these numbers imply? They indicate that only a few numbers of the country have the capability to export an extra amount of food. So, when a food crisis occurs, the country that relies on food imports will be significantly impacted. In the global market, the general rule is that those who pay the higher price will get what she or he wants at first. Although money is almighty in many situations, it may not work with food become shortage. So, when a food crisis occurs, so most countries quickly take measures such as limiting the export to ensure their national food security. India's recent holds in wheat export is a good example.

So, let me show you more facts so that would be clear how important the agriculture production is to ask into a global society (Figure 6).

**Figure 6 Structure of global food production and issues 2**



So, along with globalization, countries around the world have become net importers or net exporters. Only a few countries can export foods. Secondly, unlike the production of industrial products, so production of agricultural goods usually takes a longer time. The figure in the middle part showed the crop calendar and winter wheat in Russia. So, the sowing usually starts in October and the harvesting is in summer. And what's more, Russia's invasion of Ukraine occurred this year has already caused food insecurity affecting countries such as Yemen and African country that depends on agriculture production imports. So, besides Corona issues, Russia's invasion has worsened situations making food insecurity and the poor poorer.

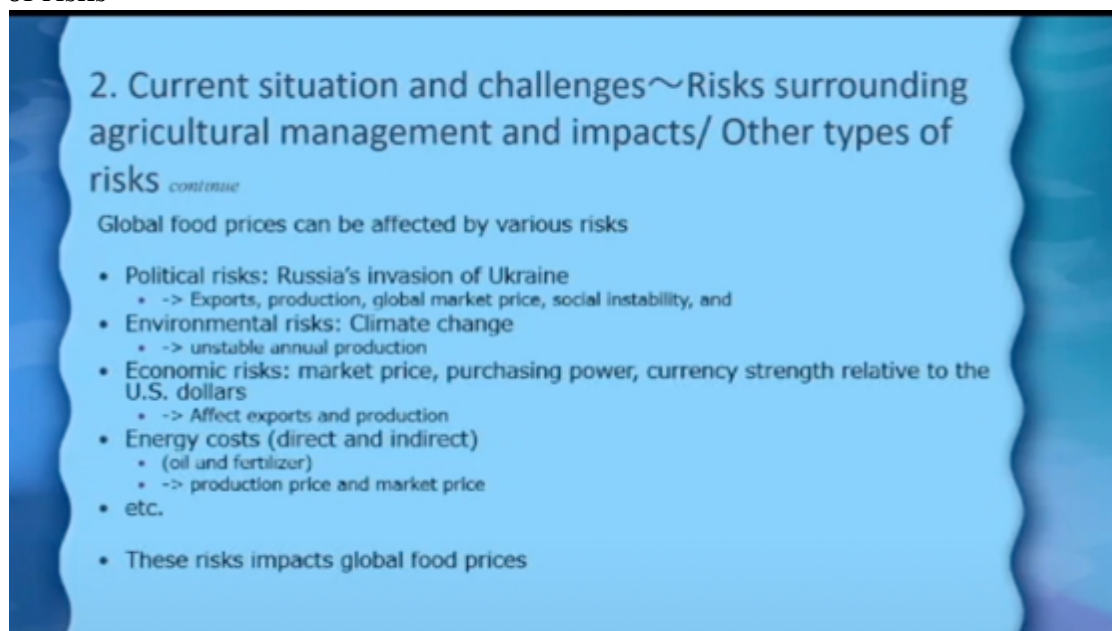
Well, most people often watch the news about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Very rarely do they notice the impacts of war on the trade and the market price. For crops like wheat, Russia is the leading exporter in the world. And Ukraine is the sixth big exporter, which accounts for 1/3rd of the total amount of global wheat you export. For maize, which is an important food crop, Ukraine's export amount accounts for over 10% of the total amount of the world's maize export. For N, P, and K three major fertilizers, Russia separately accounts for around 20% of the world fertilizer export. So, these numbers provide important clues for us to understand there is an impact of war on the markets.

**Figure 7 Risks surrounding agricultural management and impacts/ war risk**



For most people stabilizing the prices of global food prices are desirable. But like other commodities, they can be affected by various risks and change over time. So, let me show you more information about these key risk factors (Figure 8).

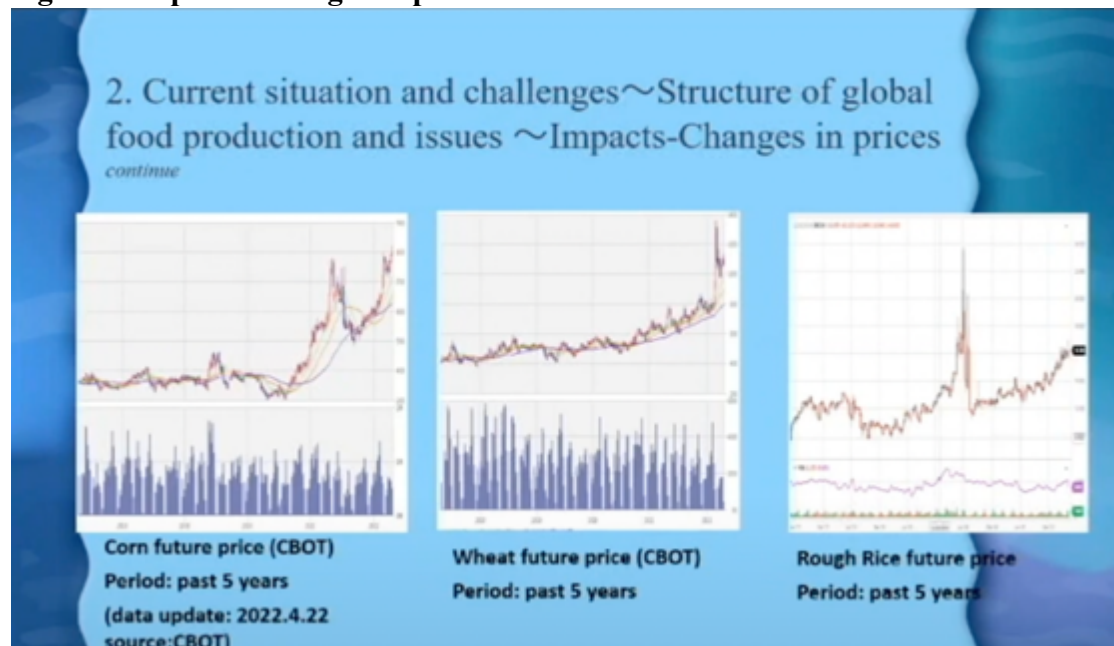
**Figure 8 Risks surrounding agricultural management and impacts/ Other types of risks**



One example is political risk, the Russian invasion can affect supply and push global market prices up. So, in addition to that point, environmental risks such as climate change can also affect production stability. So, moreover, economic risks such as currency strength relative to the US dollar can also affect export and production. So, moreover, the impact of the increase in the energy costs can increase production prices and market prices. So, if you look at the CBOT graph for future prices in Figure 9, we

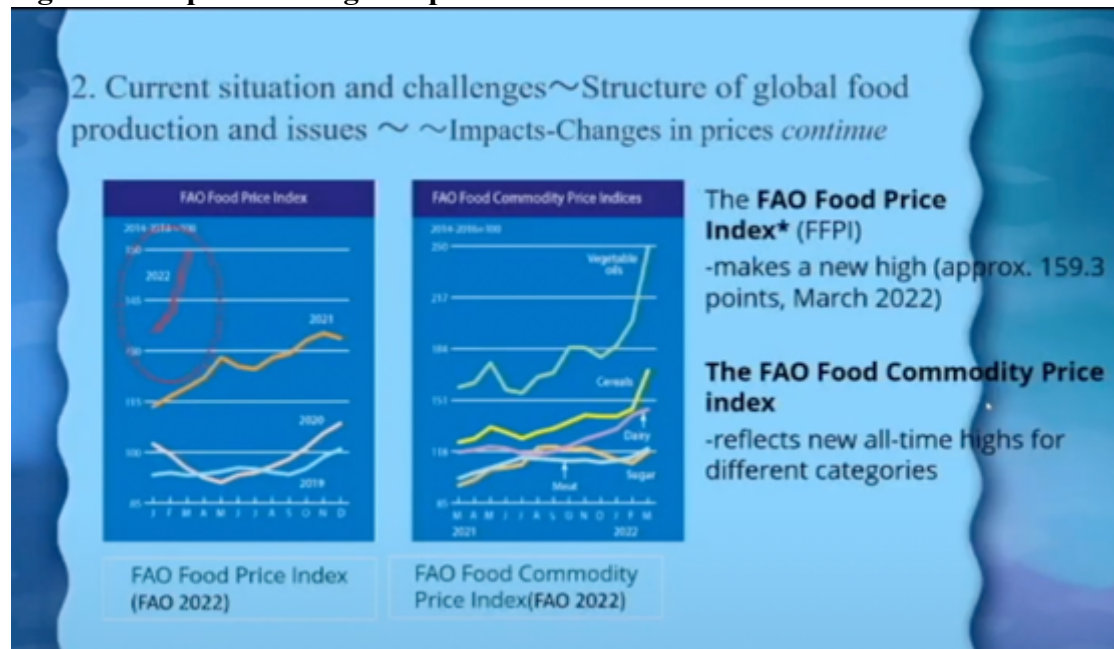
can find all the corn, wheat and rice jumped significantly after 2022, so these parts, this part, and this part.

**Figure 9 Impacts-Changes in prices**



Let me show you more information about the food price index. Figure 10 illustrates, they all show the prices maybe new highs for different commodities, especially for vegetable oil and maize.

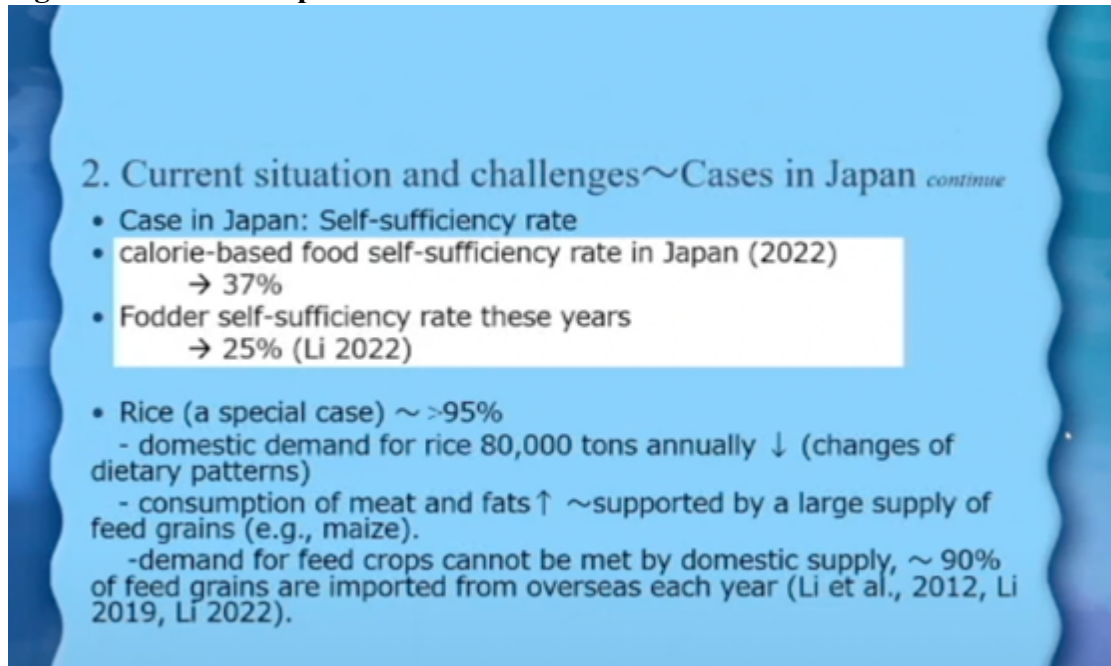
**Figure 10 Impacts-Changes in prices continue**



So, given the condition of global society, you may want to know more information about Japan. So, you may want to know what's happening now in Japan in this situation.



Figure 11 Cases in Japan 1



As Figure 11 shows, Japan compared to other developed country have the lowest self-sufficiency rate. So, the fodder self-sufficiency rate is even lower, which can be kept at around 25% this year. For the rice commodity, the self-sufficiency rate has been kept at about 95% as a national strategy. So, despite the government's political efforts, domestic demand for rice this year has decreased by 80,000 tons annually. So, such a result is related to the westernization of diet in Japan so different from the past. So, many people nowadays prefer to consume meat and fats. So increased demand for meat and oil requires more consumption and supply of the crops such as maize. Since demand for feed crop cannot be met by domestic supply, approximately 90% of feed grain are imported from overseas each year. So, to increase the self-sufficiency rate and reduce the possible rates of food insecurity, the Japanese government recently launched a new program called the feed rice production subsidy program. The subsidy for feed rice production is set higher than those for other grains. So, you might wonder, why feed rice production is promoted. So, there are several reasons

Figure 12 Cases in Japan 2

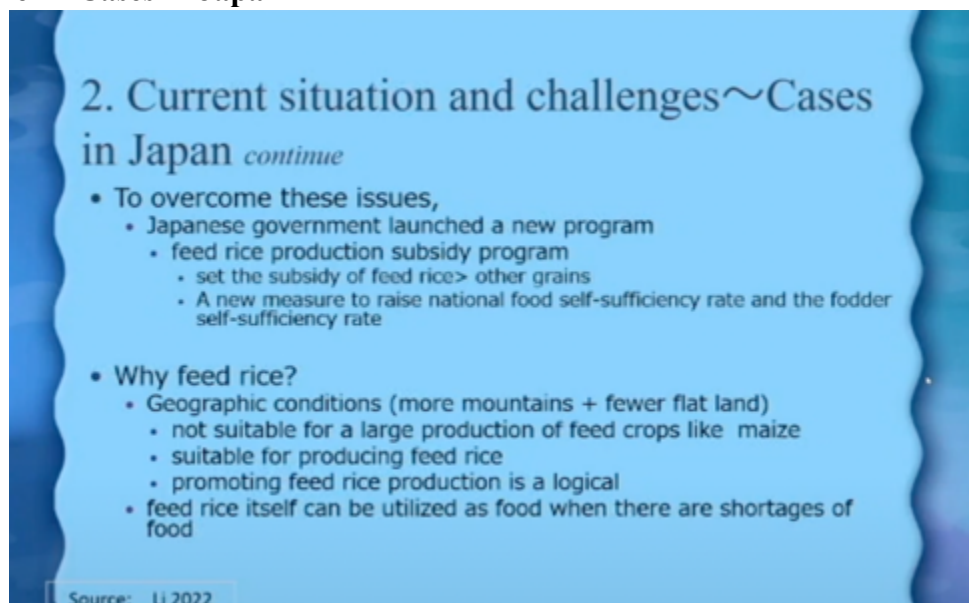


Figure 12. One reason is the geographic condition in Japan. So, land, in general, is not suitable for large production of feed crops like maize, but it's suitable for producing feed rice. So, secondly, feed rice itself can be utilized as food when there are shortages of food, thus promoting feed rice production has no conflict with the target of increasing food self-sufficiency rate. At any time, farmers are the key stakeholders in making the final decision on rice production. So, their reactions determine the success or failure of the policy. So, analyzing their thinking logic, and responses to environmental and socioeconomic changes, especially in the post-Corona society is extremely meaningful.

So, let me show you some recent research (Figure 13). In the food data analysis, it has been noticed that more than 50% of farmers in the Kanto region plan to reduce or stop rice production. So, comparatively speaking, younger farmers are more likely to do so, say, out of 52% of farmers who reduce or stop rice production, 43 of them chose not to produce the rice. So, this results in 22.6% of total rice relative farmers living in the agriculture sector. This is a significant important sign that indicates insufficient policy response. So, something important is not taken into consideration in the current policy. So, it has been noticed that farmers fear towards several types of risks such as climate change.

**Figure 13 cases in Japan 3**

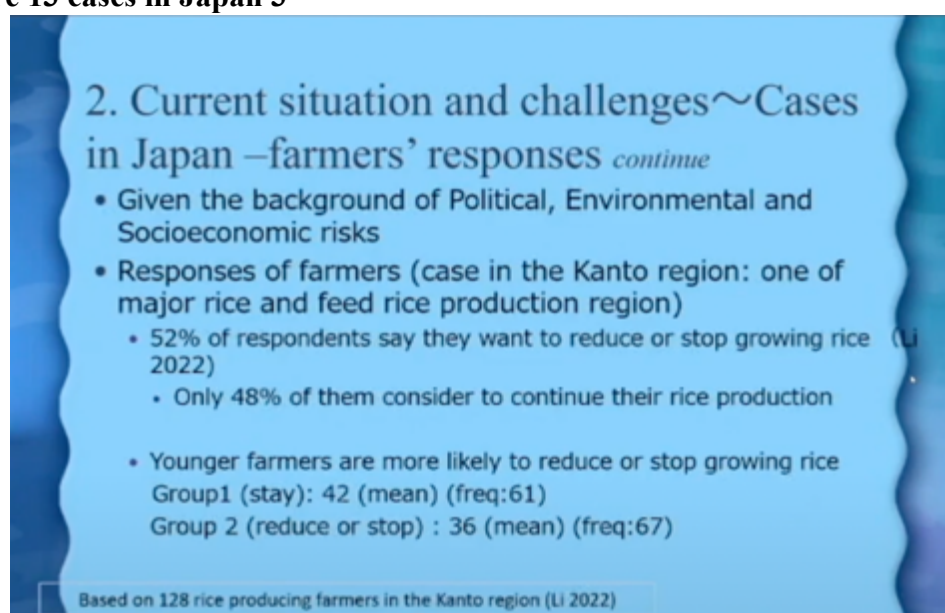


Figure 14 showed that. I am still actually analyzing data now, and hopefully to provide you with an overall image soon. But in general, what I can say is that making farmers remain in the agriculture sector requires income security. So, the government needs to provide additional support to cover the loss from those risks.



Figure 14 Cases in Japan Farmer's responses

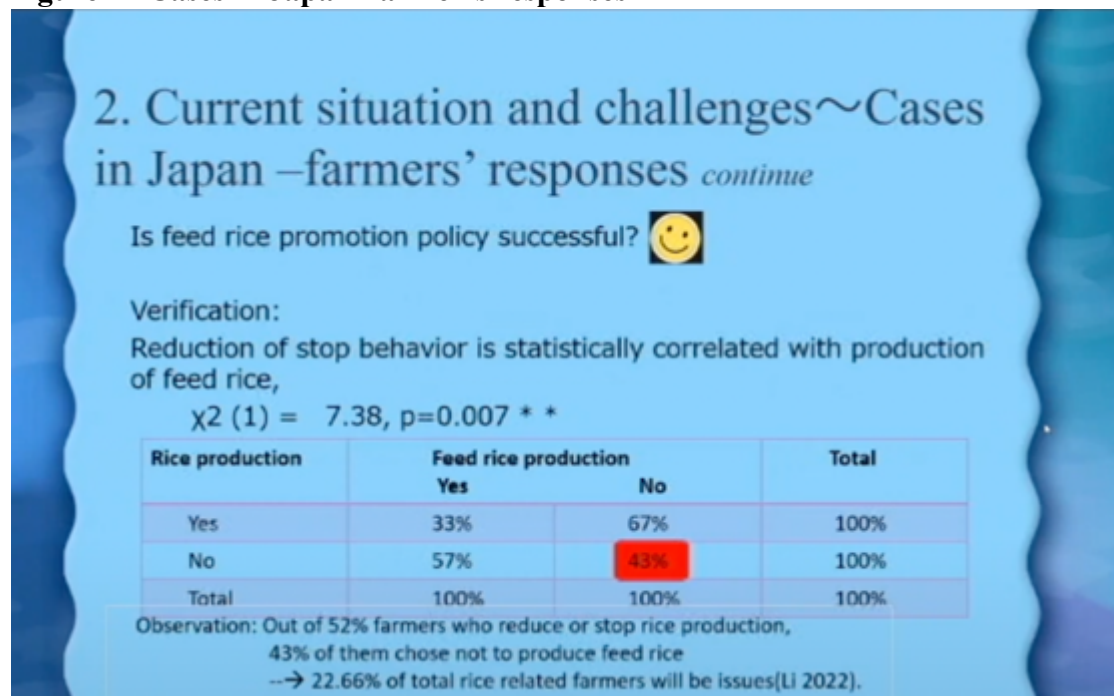
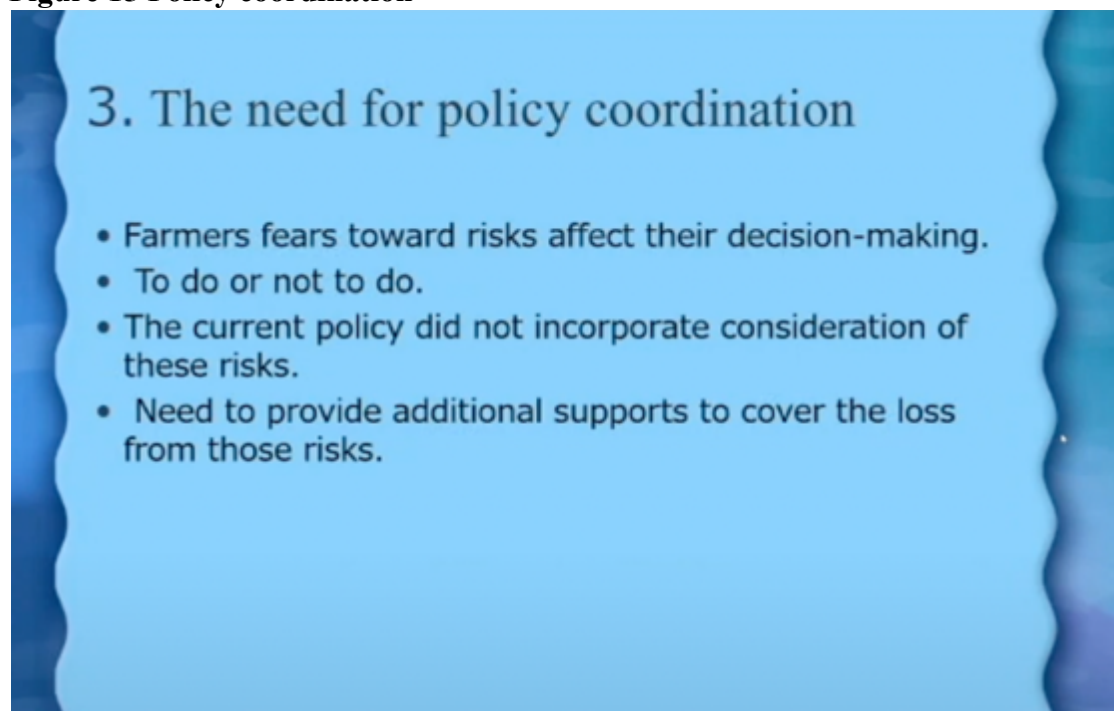


Figure 15 Policy coordination



## Section 2

**Dr. Xiaofang Zhang**

My topic for today is “International Cooperation in Climate Change: Toward a Post COVID-19”. First I’d like to talk about the background of my topic today. After the Industrial Revolution, the concentration of greenhouse gases increased sharply due to increased fossil fuel consumption and the decrease in forest area due to human production activities. Now Global Warming is one of the most demanding environmental problems. Due to the COVID-19 economic crisis, the world carbon dioxide, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2020 have reduced by 7% compared to 2019. It was good news for solving Global Warming, but it was just a short-term reduction. If the economic activity level recovered before covid-19, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will return too. As all human beings are perpetrators and victims of Global Warming, international cooperation is indispensable for solving Global Warming. However, building an effective and fair international framework is not easy.

Figure 16 shows how I will proceed with the five parts of the discussion.

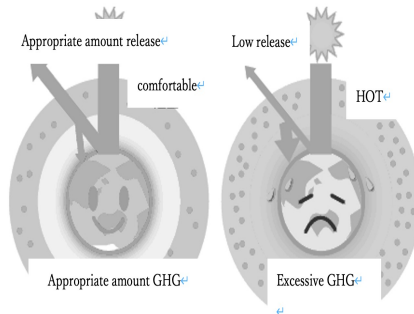
**Figure 16 Discussion proceed**



In part 1, I will talk a bit about the relationship between greenhouse gases and global warming. As Figure 17 shows the constant GHG on the Earth keeps the temperature suitable for the survival of living things. If there is no GHG on earth, the average temperature is thought to be around -18 ° C. After the Industrial Revolution, a large amount of GHG has been emission because of economic activities, and the average temperature of the earth has been rising.

**Figure 17 Global Warming and Climate Change**

### Part 1 Global Warming and Climate Change

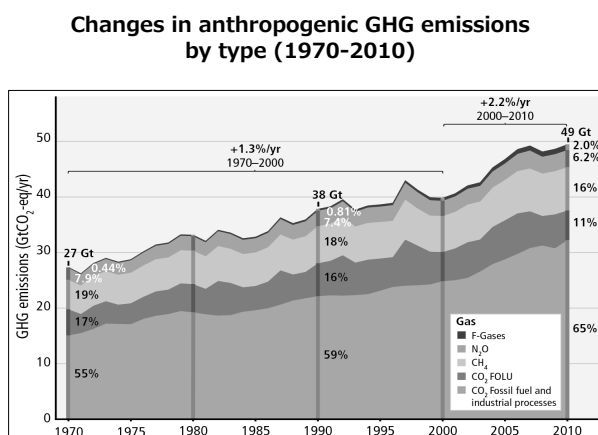


- The constant GHG on the Earth keeps the temperature suitable for the survival of living things.
- If there is no GHG on earth, the average temperature is thought to be around  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- After the Industrial Revolution, a large amount of GHG has been emission because of economic activities, and the average temperature of the earth has been rising, which is generally called "Global Warming".

Source: Hyogo Prefecture Freon Recovery and Processing Promotion Council:  
<http://www.hardoc.org/ondanka.html> (confirmed on October 3, 2021) translated by the author.

According to the intergovernmental panel on climate change's 6th report (IPCC), Human influence on Global Warming is unequivocal. The figure in Figure 18 shows us that 65% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from fossil fuels we use, such as coal, oil, gas, and industrial processes. So we can know that CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted directly or indirectly by human activities.

**Figure 18 Changes in anthropogenic GHG emissions by type(1970-2010)**

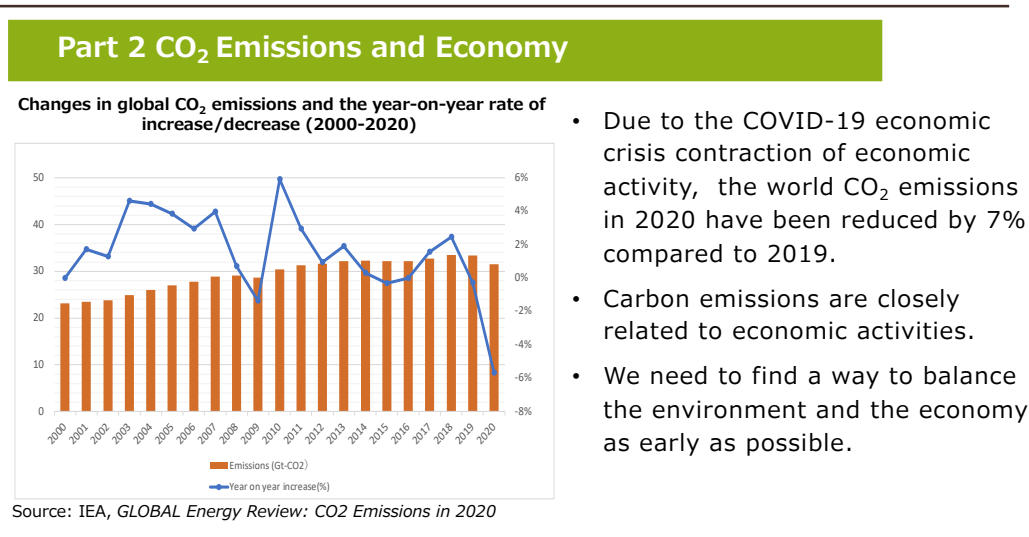


- Human influence on Global Warming is unequivocal. (IPCC, 2021: p.4. ).
- 65% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from the fossil fuels we use, such as coal, oil, gas, and industrial processes.
- CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted directly or indirectly by human activities.

Source: IPCC, 2014: p.5.

As Figure 19 shows due to the COVID-19 economic crisis, the world CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2020 have reduced by 7% compared to 2019. COVID-19 economic crisis proves that Carbon emissions are closely related to economic activities. As We cannot stop developing the economy to reduce co2 emissions. So, if the economic activity level recovered before covid-19, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will return too. we need to find a way to balance the environment and the economy as early as possible.

**Figure 19 Changes in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the year-on-year rate of increase/decrease (2000-2020)**



By the way, have you ever thought about why do we have to solve global warming, And why international cooperation is essential to solve global warming? The table on the left side of Figure 20 left side from IPCC may give us the answer. For easy understanding, I have summarized the table contents for 4points on the right side. As all populations are facing the negative effects of climate change. International cooperation is essential to solving global warming.

**Figure 20 Global Warming risk with high confidence, span sectors, and regions**

Global Warming risk with high confidence, span sectors, and regions	
i)	Risk of death, injury, ill-health, or disrupted livelihoods in low-lying coastal zones and small island developing states and other small islands, due to storm surges, coastal flooding, and sea level rise.
ii)	Risk of severe ill-health and disrupted livelihoods for large urban populations due to inland flooding in some regions.
iii)	Systemic risks due to extreme weather events leading to breakdown of infrastructure networks and critical services such as electricity, water supply, and health and emergency services.
iv)	Risk of mortality and morbidity during periods of extreme heat, particularly for vulnerable urban populations and those working outdoors in urban or rural areas.
v)	Risk of food insecurity and the breakdown of food systems linked to warming, drought, flooding, and precipitation variability and extremes, particularly for poorer populations in urban and rural settings.
vi)	Risk of loss of rural livelihoods and income due to insufficient access to drinking and irrigation water and reduced agricultural productivity, particularly for farmers and pastoralists with minimal capital in semi-arid regions.
vii)	Risk of loss of marine and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, and the ecosystem goods, functions, and services they provide for coastal livelihoods, especially for fishing communities in the tropics and the Arctic.
viii)	Risk of loss of terrestrial and inland water ecosystems, biodiversity, and the ecosystem goods, functions, and services they provide for livelihoods.

Source: IPCC 2014: p.12.

1. All populations are facing the negative effects of climate change.
2. Climate Change has negative impacts on ecosystems including human societies, so it will affect our lives, health, and livelihoods.
3. Some certain regions or groups are more susceptible to Climate Change.
4. The low-income groups have been more affected, which means a Fairness issue has occurred.

Next, let's see what the keyword is to solving climate change by linking rights and obligations in international cooperation. As Figure 21 shows EQUITY as a principle is a key to solving the climate crisis by linking RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

However, politics and the economy are still considered superior to equity. I will show you two examples to explain it. These 2 examples are all from 26 United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

**Figure 21 A key to solving the climate crisis on International Cooperation in Climate Change**

---

**Part 3 International Cooperation in Climate Change**

- what should be the criteria when considering the division of responsibilities of different countries such as emissions (past/present/future) and economic conditions (whether afford the cost of climate change measures)?
  - **EQUITY** as a principle is key to solving the climate crisis by linking RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS (UNFCCC, 2012). However, politics and the economy are still considered above equity.
- 

I will show you two examples to explain it. These two examples are shown in Figure 22 all from the 26 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which was held in England last year. The first one is about the Coal pledge: More than 40 countries pledge to quit coal, but some of the world's biggest coal-dependent countries, did not sign up. Another one is just 10 countries and regions participated in the international framework for oil and gas production phasing out. Why is it not easy to build effective international cooperation in climate change, even though climate change has many negative impacts on human society? Behavior economics theory may be helpful in understanding.

**Figure 22 Example of COP26**

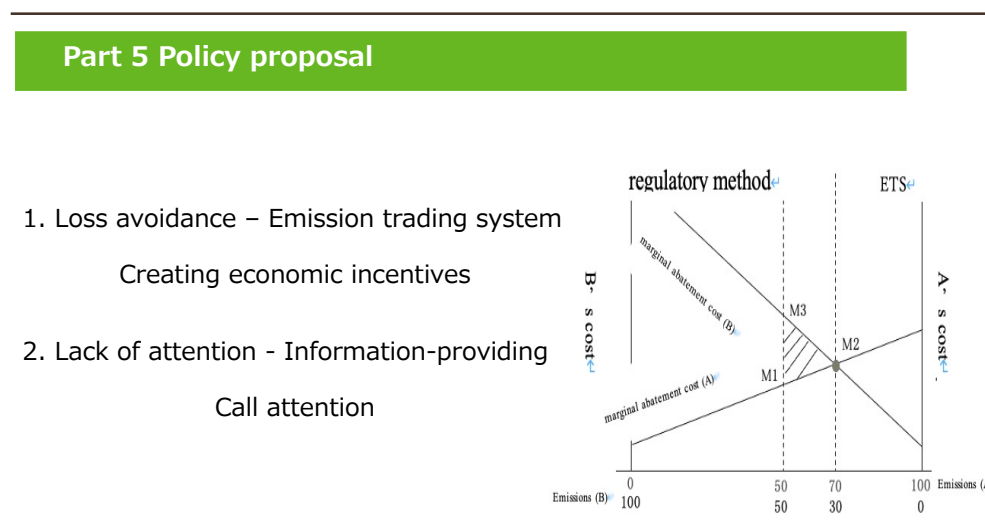
---

**Example of COP26**

- **Coal pledge: More than 40 countries pledge to quit coal.** Major coal-using countries including Poland, Vietnam, and Chile are among those to commit. **But some of the world's biggest coal-dependent countries, including China and the United States, did not sign up** (BBC NEWS, 2021).
  - **10 countries and regions**, such as Costa Rica, Denmark, France, and Ireland, **participated in the international framework for oil and gas production phasing out.** In contrast, **most oil-producing countries like Japan, the United States, and China did not sign up.**
-

Humans tend to perform "myopia behavior" that emphasizes the present rather than the future due to psychological tendencies such as "loss avoidance" and "status quo bias." The loss for environmental improvement is estimated to be larger than the gain for environmental improvement. Such "loss avoidance", which is a characteristic of human psychology, can be one factor that creates the inertia of postponing global warming countermeasures. Lack of attention is also one of the factors. For example, The governments of each country are facing many social issues such as domestic wealth disparity, income, and employment, not always giving priority solving to Global Warming. These psychological tendencies inherent in humans hinder compliance with reduction targets. So to solve Global Warming, we should overcome the loss avoidance and the status quo bias. At last, I want to give 2 Policy proposals to overcome the loss avoidance and the status quo bias.

**Figure 23 Policy proposal**



Next, I want to give two policy suggestions to overcome the loss avoidance and the status quo bias. First, to overcome loss avoidance, we can do creating emission incentives, such as an emission trading system, the ETS. I will explain how the ETS works. The Figure on the right side of Figure 23 shows the marginal abatement cost when two companies are assumed to reduce emissions. 100t-CO<sub>2</sub> is assumed as a reduction target for companies A and B. In the case of the regulatory method, both Company A and Company B should reduce evenly by 50 t-CO<sub>2</sub>. due to the difference in technology level, Company A can achieve the reduction target at a lower cost than Company B, even though the same emission is reduced. On the other hand, looking at the case of the (ETS), the emissions of both parties shift to the point where the reduced costs of both parties are equalized by utilizing the transactions. In the ETS case, Company A reduces emissions to 30t-CO<sub>2</sub>, and Company B reduces emissions to 70t-CO<sub>2</sub>. In the ETS case company B can sell their 20 t-CO<sub>2</sub> (70t-CO<sub>2</sub> -50 t-CO<sub>2</sub>) surplus emissions to company A. Compared to the regulatory method, the cost will be lower for the area of M1-M2-M3 (diagonal line). In short in the ETS there are economic benefits for both Company A and B.

To overcome status quo bias. We can Call attention such as emissions Information-provision. For example, assume requires the disclosure of national emission



information and progress. All countries are under pressure from the international community through the information provision method.

In the end, I want to say that international cooperation is indispensable for solving global warming. For the well-being of our and future generations, we should be building effective and strong international cooperation post-COVID-19. And at the same time, we must develop the economy and narrow economic inequality. That's all my presentations. Thank you to pay your attention.

### Section 3

#### Mr. Alfonso Torrero

I titled the presentation, 'entering a post-COVID-19 scenario in Mexico: how can we fight for a fairer (civil) society?' I put in parenthesis the civil word because I will focus on what is happening to civil society in our country. They're having many limitations to work. And this is also related to fairness in our country. So, before starting to talk about the post-COVID-19 scenario, I think that is very important to give a little context of what happened in Mexico during the pandemic because many of the situations are still taking place now.

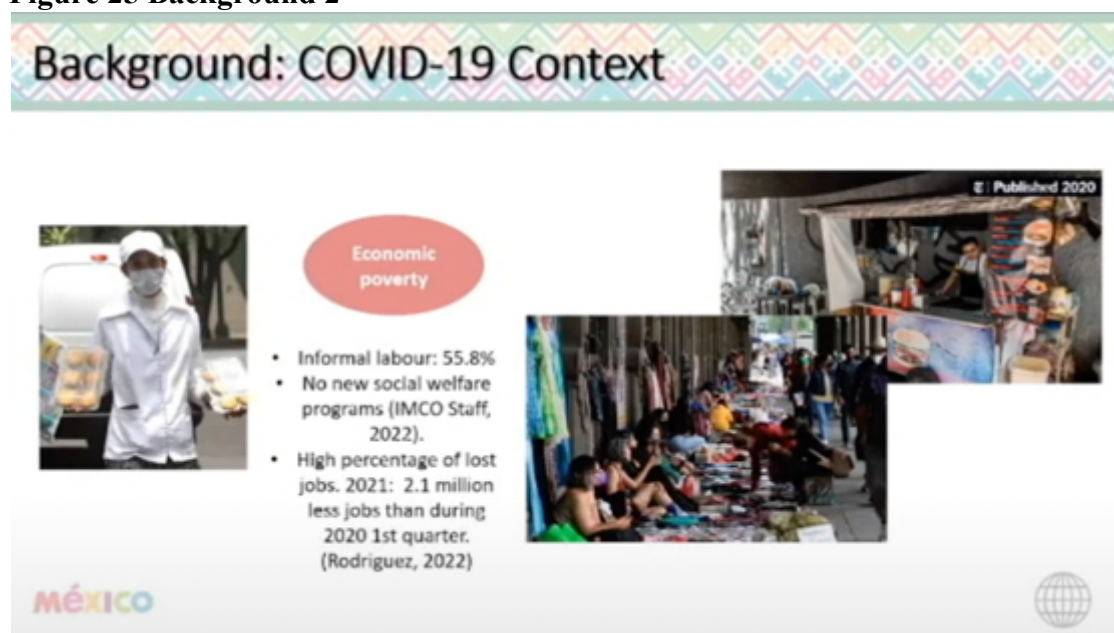
I believe that four main factors in a complex combination hindered the COVID-19 pandemic's appropriate control. I think that the first one is the healthcare sector. Mexico is one of the countries that less invest in healthcare. So, World Health Organization recommends that countries should invest 7% of their GDP in health and Mexico invests 4.53, so very low. And the result of this is a lack of adequate facilities, tools, health materials, and medicines. As you can see in the middle of the image in Figure 24, there is a small strike of workers of Mexican nurses that are asking for better materials to work, because they don't have the needed protection against the COVID-19. And well, the last result of this low health investment is that there was a high demand. At the pandemic peak, more than 100 hospitals were crowded or were full, and many people could not get the necessary attention or could not be hospitalized when they need a tank of oxygen, etcetera.

Figure 24 Background 1



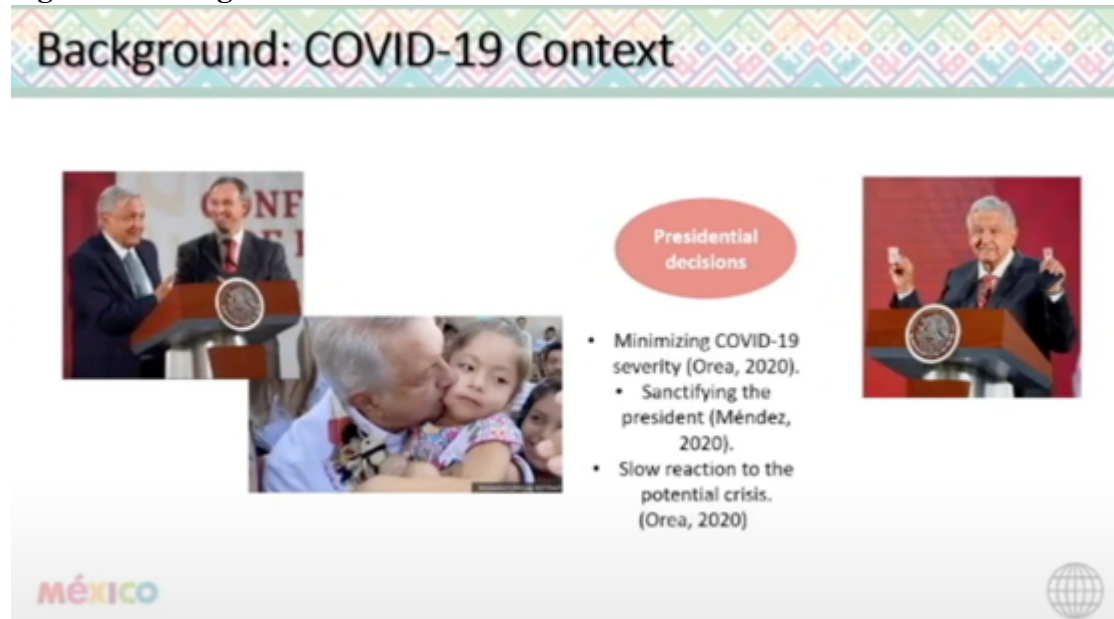
Another factor that is not just from the pandemic context, but in general in Mexico is the economic poverty. More than 60% of the population of families lives on \$5 a day. So, the prices of things in Mexico are not – this \$5 are not permitted to live well and to maintain a family, of course. And many people are also working in the informal sector. They have informal laborers. This means also that they do not have social security, home security, etcetera. So, during pandemics, they also had to work. And there were no new social welfare programs, or any intervention done by the government to help these people. And another statistics and important statistic is that even when we were living in poverty, the effects of the pandemic, 2.1 million jobs were lost from the beginning of the pandemic 2020 to the end of 2021. As you can see in Figure 25, these are common images of Mexican people, merchants, and sellers of any product you can imagine.

**Figure 25 Background 2**



Another factor that hinders the appropriate control of the pandemic was the presidential decisions. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our president in one of his programs, which is like the morning news. Since the beginning of the pandemic, he said that it was not very severe and that it was not an invention, but that his doctor told him that it was better not to use a mask. So, an important and influential figure also taking these decisions, make it worse in the pandemic situation. Have you seen these images (Figure 26)? He went on a visit to the countryside of the Mexico kissing little boys and girls. An important figure of the government that is held as a sub-secretary also said that the president was immune to the virus and other very bizarre situations that sound real like the President in the last photo to the right. He has two stamps in his hands. And he says that these saints were going to protect him against COVID.

Figure 26 Background 3



But of course, government and lack of infrastructure and economic resources were not the only problems during the pandemic. Many people did not follow the safety measures. And there were also anti-vax groups that made some small strikes, not like in the US. But, they still misinformed many people (Figure 27).

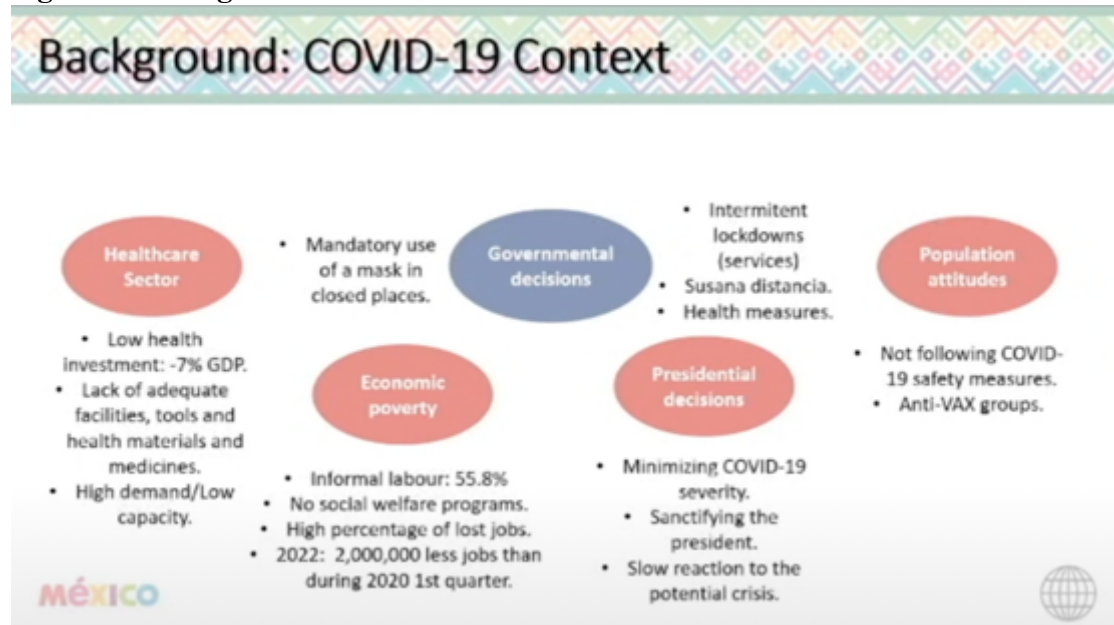
Figure 27 Background 4



Having these four aspects during the pandemic, the government made some decisions in this context as Figure 28 shows. They made some intermittent lockdowns like services were closed, like non-essential services, entertainment like the cinema or bar or some other, not essential places. And there was also the mandatory use of masking in enclosed places. The common health measures like sanitizing the places you were visiting and a very popular marketing strategy that they use. So, that was a way to try to make people aware of taking a good distance away from others, so as not to be contagious or catch the virus.

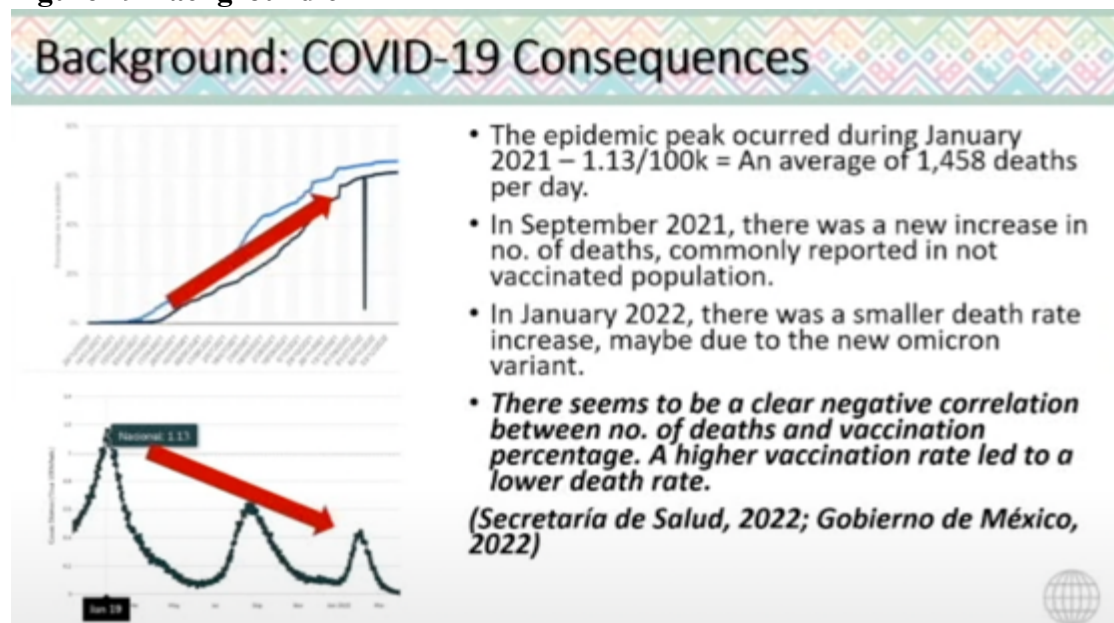


Figure 28 Background 5



So, in general, during 2020, Coronavirus cases in Mexico went increasingly up and the epidemic peak occurred in January 2021. And in these two graphics that I present here in the above one, there is a percentage of people vaccinated. And in the lower one, the one below is the number of diseases (Figure 29).

Figure 29 Background 6



So, basically, I found that there is a relation. It is suspected that when more people are vaccinated, there will be less that's related to the COVID-19. There are small examples in September or in January 2022, for example, when the new Omicron variant was in Mexico. There was like a small increase in cases in September, supposedly, what the health secretary of Mexico said is that deaths were related to people not vaccinated.

Coming back to the point of fairness in society. Decisions made by the government are limiting fairness in society. Particularly in civil society, for example, in NGOs, the

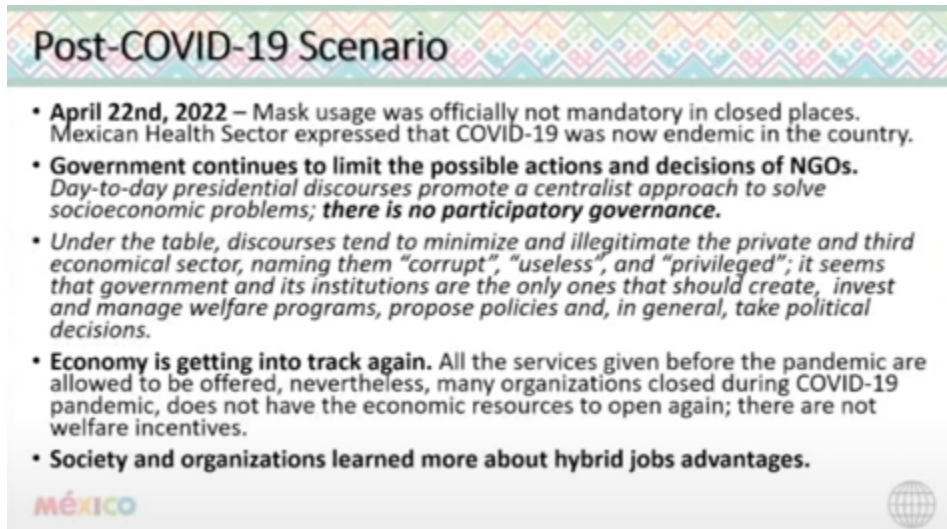
President proposed and passed a law to cut funds, and privileges previously given by the government. So, all the taxes obtained and then distributed by the government were not given to NGOs. In 2021 a new law was passed to limit the number of funds that society could get from citizens and corporations. And the idea behind or the justification behind these political decisions is that NGOs have led to corrupt activities like what is called money launderings like big enterprises giving money to civil society or NGOs, but this money was corrupted and so on. But he just has like two or three examples. And he took this decision just by generalizing the cases. Anyway, during the pandemic, there were some cases in which civil society worked together and help during the pandemic. So, something that the government didn't do and civil society was doing was gathering the basic food basket to give to people that lost their jobs, and people in communities in poverty. And another one, for example, the one from Fundacion Nemi, donated many masks and other healthy materials to people that needed them.

**Figure 30 Background 6**



So, the post-covid scenario in Mexico was like a gradual change but maybe officially we can say that on April the 22nd of this year, mask usage was officially not mandatory in close places. And maybe for many people, this was the post-COVID scenario. The Mexican health sector also expressed that COVID was now endemic in the country like it was not such a big problem, bit virus that will kill you. It was like a common flow. But as we see in the previous context, the government still limits the possible actions and decisions of NGOs. And decisions are taken or seem to be centrally taken. That means that the President or the institutions that the governmental institution that the President is now favoring are the ones that make decisions related to social welfare or other kinds of welfare.

Figure 31 Post-COVID-19 Scenario



This may be underneath because clearly, the President says like NGOs and the private sector, they are corrupt, useless, and privileged. It seems that government, as I say, and its institutions are the only ones that should create, invest, and manage welfare programs, and policies, and take political decisions. we are seeing low changes in the economic growth in Mexico. So, all the services given before the pandemic are allowed to be offered now. But many organizations and small businesses, for example, closed during the pandemic and are not able to or do not have the resources to open again. And there are non-governmental incentives for that. So, the government cannot solve everything it says in its discourses. I believe that an important interesting factor that not just in Mexico happens is that hybrid jobs that society and organizations learn from the advantages of the hybrid job. So some ideas, as we can see that the government is minimizing the civil society activists, and it cannot fulfill the population's basic needs. I believe that a good way to have better power and have a better consolidation and representativity is to work and collaborate with other social actors. So, civil society can get together with different organizations and social actors. And this has been seen to strengthen their representativity and decision making.

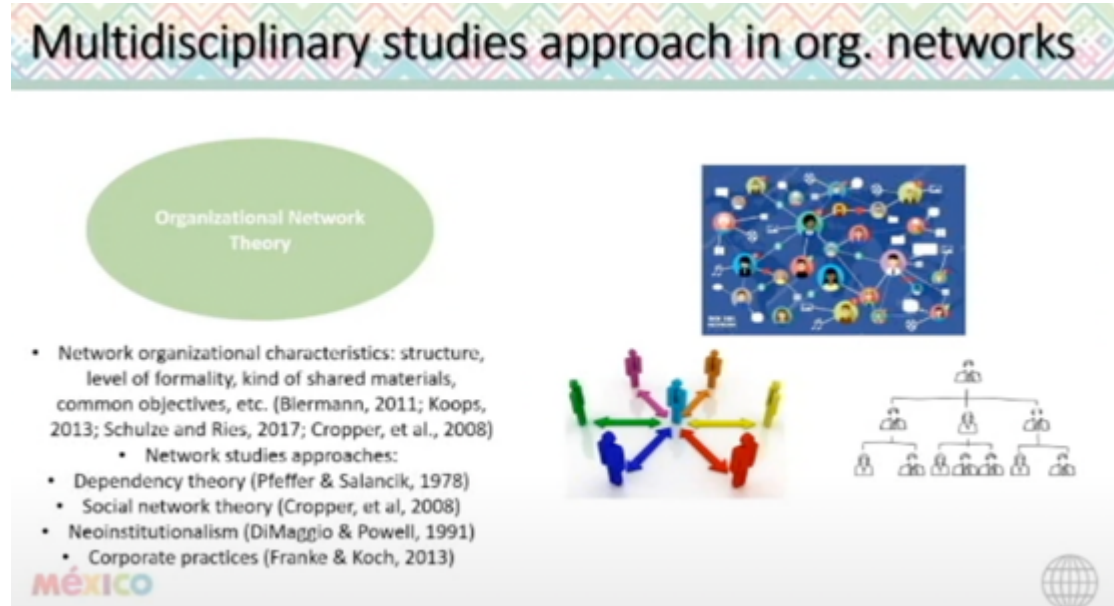
Figure 32 Post-COVID-19: ideas for a fairer (civil) society





Well, how do we study these relations of collaborations? I believe that there are many cases of failures in this collaboration test. And we tend to see that successes are the most common that are presented nowadays. But I believe that we should have a multidisciplinary view of this organizational network (Figure 33).

**Figure 33 Multidisciplinary studies approach in org networks 1**



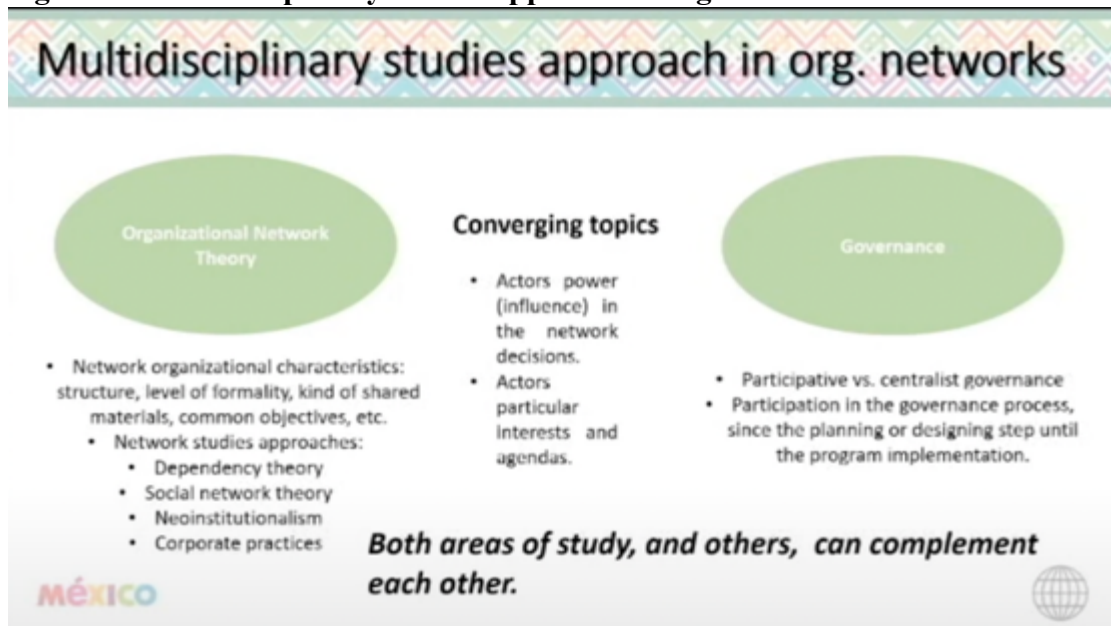
So, first of all, studying this characteristic of the structure, the formality, the shared material, and the common objectives of organizations. For example, when I speak about structure, let's see my inner part of the organigram that is not all the structures, but that represents how organizations are working and imagine that two of them like one is a very bureaucratic organization and the other is a very organic organization in which everybody is seen as equal. There are no defined roles. Well, we need to understand what happened with these two organizations or three or more organizations working together, how and what structure is the one that is imposed, or how do they get into a negotiation, for example, in their structure. And also there are network studies approaches that seem the older ones that talk about the dependency of resources between two organizations that makes them get together or social network theories that try to study the interaction between actors in a big network and the position of the actor what does it implies for in this case, the organization that is influencing a lot of other organizations from neo-institutionalism, sociological institutionalism like understanding what happens with the values and the values taken for granted from one organization is not compatible with the values of other organization.

So, these theories can be, I believe, combined with topics of governance, for example, in practice, but in theory, maybe a collaboration between organizations in a network is participative because everyone is helping to establish a program, but we need like to be very meticulous and to know, what actors are in the planning or designing steps, what values are well interesting, are more privileged or are considered in this organizational network.

Figure 34 Multidisciplinary studies approach in org networks 2



Figure 35 Multidisciplinary studies approach in org networks 3



So, I believe that studying a multidisciplinary approach in networks will help to have to understand how it will be better for civil society, it can help civil society to gain some place again and to be able to have more representativity. And I think that the topics theoretically are not incompatible like in organization network theory and in governance, in both studies, power or influence in the network is studied. Actors' particular agendas, interests and hidden agendas sometimes are also part of what we need to study if we want to know how to make maybe a more efficient network that is much more representative of minorities, of actors that have not been considered now by the government.

## Section 4 Q&A time

### Discussant: Professor Masaya Kobayashi

I'd like to first introduce my own theoretical effort briefly in the project, I wrote something about the concept of fairness. And I will briefly introduce the basic concept of myself. Today my speech is very brief. And so, I will shorten my essence. And the point is, what is a fair society? These are the most important questions in your project. I study political philosophy. So, I approach this issue from political philosophy, especially at first by John Rawls, a liberal. So, Rawls is well known in liberal political philosophy, and he wrote something about fairness. And he thinks of justice as fairness (Figure 36).

**Figure 36 Ideological Development of a fair society : Liberalism**

**IDEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF A FAIR SOCIETY  
(CHAPTER 2) : LIBERALISM**

- What is fairness? : Relationship with justice (in a narrow and broad sense)
- This starts with fair play.
- Rawls's "Justice as Fairness" Theory: Two Principles. Rules agreed upon by free and equal people
- A fair system of cooperation: (3) reciprocity (in the name of convenience by regulation), and (4) convenience of all participants.
- The Origin of Liberal Fair Society Theory (New Rawls Interpretation: Mid to Late → "Fair Society" will be important)

The diagram on the right is a Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'NOT DISCUSSION' and the right circle is labeled 'DISCUSSION'. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'NOT FAIR'.

And so, I first researched his own theory on justice and fairness. And then I developed my own theory of communitarian theory of fairness (Figure 37).

**Figure 37 Communitarian theory of Fairness**

**COMMUNITARIAN THEORY OF FAIRNESS**

- Craig L. Carr
- Equal Respect: Kant ?
- Rule Compliance: Are Rules Reasonable?
- Sincere social practice: Judged from common objectives, roles, and responsibilities.
- Not utilitarian (happiness) or Kantian (free-type, interactive) morality, but communitarian (connective, associated) morality of responsibility and virtue.
- A **different concept from justice** (correct distribution based on worthiness)
- The Possibility of **Comprehensive Fair Theory**

I found Craig Carr's book on fairness, and this is very suggestive, I think. this book criticizes, for example, Rawls' theory and Kantian theory of fairness. And he presented

a new theory and different concepts of justice. This theory is similar to communitarian concept. I think his communitarian theory of fairness, which emphasizes the importance of ethical factors related to fairness. So, I think these efforts including Rawls theory and Kant's theory are also important, so I push for the four-dimensional theory of justice (Figure 38).

**Figure 38 Multidimensional integrative fair society theory**

**MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATIVE FAIR SOCIETY THEORY**  
(CHAPTER 3)

- Fair Social Systems Theory: The Four Quadrants of Political Philosophy
- Rawls' Two-Dimensional Theory of Justice and Three-Dimensional Fair Society
- Compliance with rules, Kantian fairness, and "reciprocity," as Rawls calls it, are added to what Carr calls ethical "sincere social practice."
- The four-dimensional theory of justice in liberal communitarianism: (1) law-abiding, (2) equity (equality), (3) ethical fairness (square, uprightness: spirit), (4) reciprocity (welfare)

That is, first dimension is law abiding factor. Second dimension is related to equality. Third dimension is ethical fairness related to squareness and uprightness. Fourth theory is reciprocity, leading to fairness and welfare. So, I presented this theory as Figure 39 and Figure 40 show.

**Figure 39 Theory diagram 1**

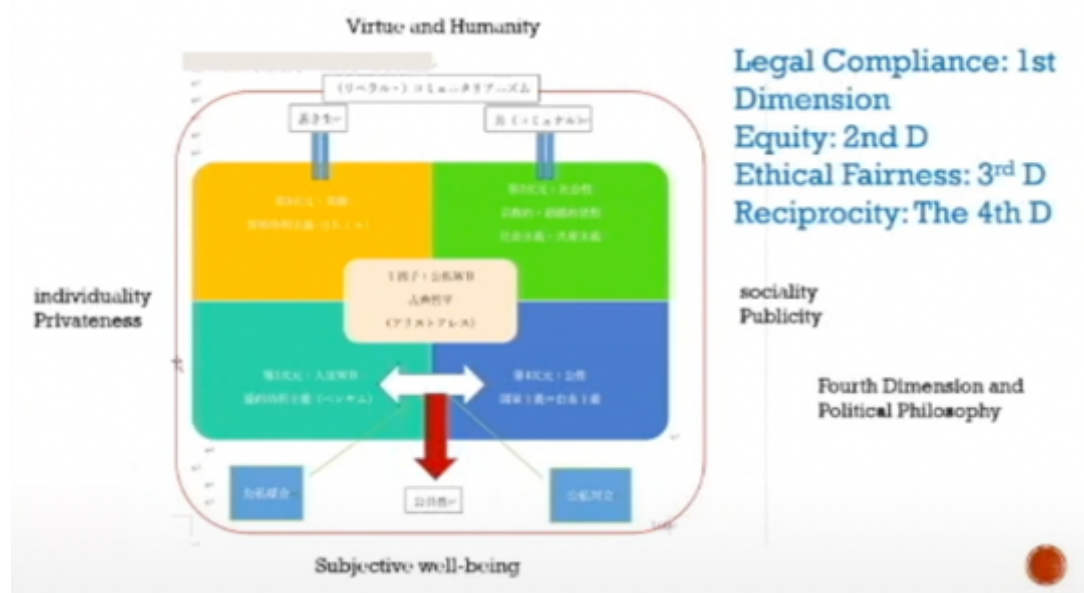
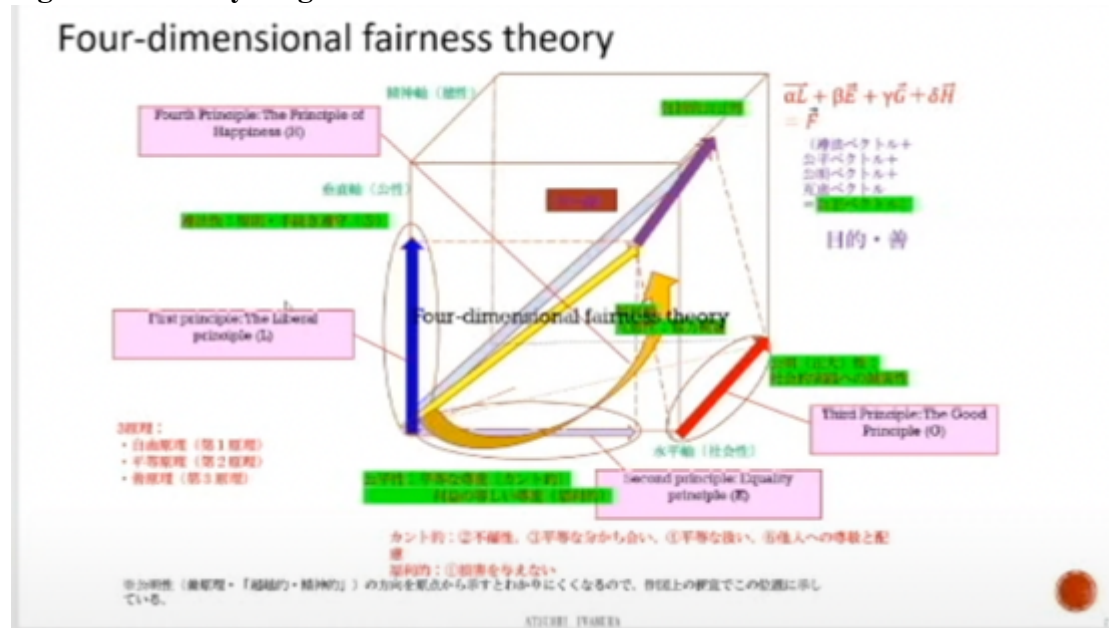




Figure 40 Theory diagram 2



I cut or shortened my presentation or explanation of these diagrams and figures. But these indicate there are four dimensions of fairness. We have to these four factors when we think of fairness. This can lead to a comprehensive theory of fairness, I think. So, I think this one is my theoretical effort now. And so, I also am trying to verify or demonstrate the theory of fairness experimentally. Because most philosophers don't deal with empirical analysis, I would like to develop empirical analysis based on political philosophy. So, I think this can lead to a comprehensive and fair society. And this can be very suggestive, for example, when we face the difficulty or problems of COVID-19.

Figure 41 Norms and demonstrations of a Fair society: The relationship with justice

## NORMS AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF A FAIR SOCIETY: THE RELATIONSHIP WITH JUSTICE

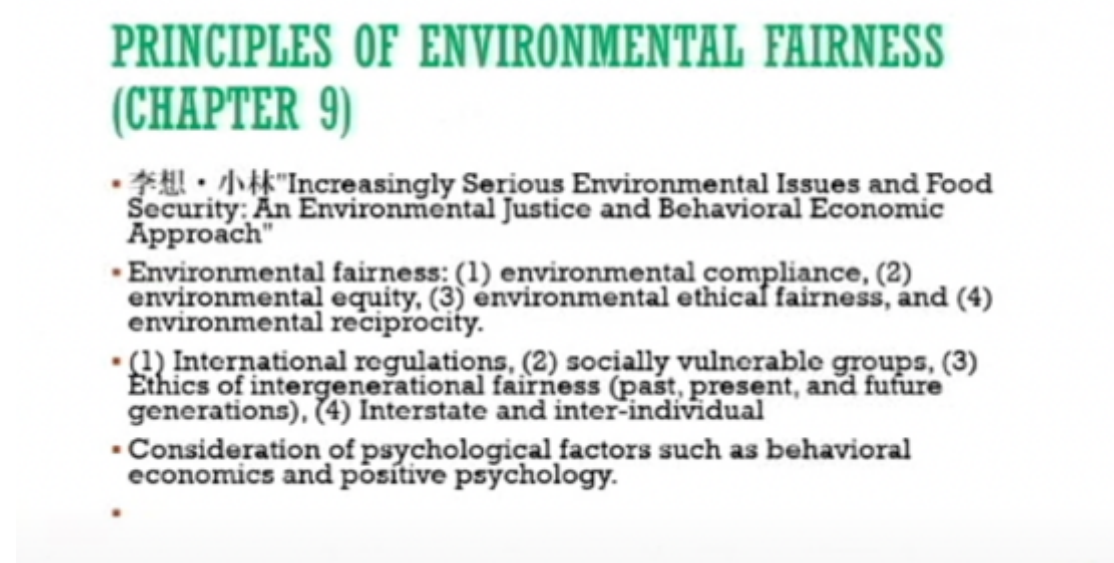
- **Challenge: Empirical analysis:** Formation of four-dimensional fair indicators.
- **The challenge is to realize a comprehensive and fair society.**
- **Justice: Substantive content (values, principles)**  
 Example: Equality of Opportunity  
 (Fairness)  $\Leftrightarrow$  Equality of Outcomes (Justice)

**Multidimensional Justice Theory: The Consequences of Well-being including Vertical (Freedom), Horizontal (Equality), Transcendence (Ethics and Goodness),**

This is very brief outline of my own theoretical and empirical efforts of projects. Then, I would like to make some questions to three very good speakers today. Actually, the first speaker Dr. Li is one of my very close colleagues. And so, she and I wrote an

article in this book (*"Vision of a Fair Society"*). So, my first question to Dr. Li is, her research is very suggestive of today's difficult problem of climate change.

**Figure 42 Environmental fairness**



So, she suggested talking about the governmental new policy, but I'd like to ask her about what is the most effective policy from her own point of view on the basis of her research? This is my first question. The second question is her presentation today has not so much related to fairness but actually, I know that she has an interest in a fair society. So, may I ask you to make more explanation, the relation between your own research and our fair society? These are the questions for the first presentation.

And the second speaker Dr. Zhang, I'm very sympathetic to her orientation toward international cooperation. So, my question to her is, how we can achieve this goal? And should we have a policy approach or ethical approach or some kind of approach on the basis of civil efforts? This is the question for the second presentation. And thank you for the third presentation by Alfonso Torrero. I'm very sympathetic and I am very interested in Mexican case. And actually, I'm very sympathetic to your orientation toward multi-dimensional studies, especially approaches in organizational networks, because I study public philosophy. The project on public philosophy, especially in Japan emphasizes the importance of civil society including NPO, and NGOs, and this, we think, is related to the concept of public common, rather than the government. And we think this is a very important factor in conceiving present society. But my question to you is that how does your orientation relate to the serious problem of COVID-19 in Mexico? I understand that in the Mexican case, Mexican President does not value civil society rights. This orientation is the result of COVID-19 or this is the result of the President's own ideological view, this is my question for the third presentation? Thank you.

#### **Discussant: Dr. Takayuki Kawase**

I have always said, a pandemic situation has never changed our sense of fairness but just revealed or uncovered our hidden or suppressed sense of unfairness. I think COVID-19 is a good trigger to find the problems of our society. Thanks to the



pandemic situation, we could find a lot of serious problems, which were previously concealed. At the early stage of pandemics, many Japanese people criticized politicians or the government itself. And the politicians who visited, for example, an expensive restaurant during a soft or informal lockdown. So, technically saying it was not locked down, but actually, we had the same kind of things. And now in Japan, someone criticized people who enjoy leisure activities or travel. In both cases, I think the reason of such kind of criticism is that such leisure activities are dangerous in these COVID situations. But I think the true reasons are hidden in different places. I guess, they criticized such activities because they think it is unfair. Frankly saying they're jealous or envious.

This issue does not have to do with COVID at all. This is the issue of fairness itself. Before Corona, lots of such kinds of unfairness in society are hidden, or at least people didn't care so much about that. But because of Corona, people became more and more irritated or sensitive to the unfairness. However, such unfairness has always existed since far before the pandemic situation started in Japan. So, COVID is just a trigger for people to become unfairly sensitive. And so, the issue is not to do with COVID but people use the rhetoric of quarantine hence they criticized social activities, saying it is very selfish to enjoy leisure activities during an emergency situation. Probably they consider quarantine is the strongest or the perfect public reason. But I think it is slightly hypocritical because their true reason is completely different. If they said, it is unfair because they don't have the same chance to enjoy such kinds of leisure activities, I would totally understand. And I would not agree, but at least I would understand the meaning of that criticism, but actually, they use the rhetoric of quarantine. So, I think it is kind of hypocritical.

In the literature of contemporary theories of justice that Professor Kobayashi explained. John Rawls and many other leaders think about individuals who are indifferent or independent from each other, so they don't care what the other people are doing. And on the other hand, Ronald Dworkin and other egalitarians think about individuals who are caring about other people and are sometimes jealous of other people. So, egalitarians take external preferences as important and the leaders take them as not important. So, in general, anyway, the society is filled up with such kind of envy or jealousy or a sense of unfairness, how can we justify our legitimate rights and interests? How can we persuade jealous people that this is not an unfair privilege but legitimate interests? One strategy may be to give up persuading others and hide such kinds of rights or interests, even if they are completely legitimate ones. By keeping them the secret, we can avoid making people angry.

By stopping, and showing off the gorgeous life we enjoy, we can prevent other people from attacking us. So, in such societies, the establishment of the social class would be a kind of secret society. In my opinion, this is a dangerous crisis of the integration of society or stability of society and such a cynical strategy might make the society unstable and fragile. On the other hand, the second strategy is to appeal to public reasons, as John Rawls explains, and keep going to persuade others. In a society of fragmentation or the archipelago of gated communities, it is very difficult to share public reasons. I think the reason is not something transcendental. It is not something independent of anyone's opinion. So, in my opinion, the reason is not something metaphysical but specific to the particular context. So, in my opinion, the reason is something local, relative to our cultures, opinions, or sense of fairness. I accept there is

always some fragmentation of reasons or the division of the ideas in our world. However, I hope there is at least a minimum level of a shared sense of reasons in our society in order to achieve the public policies on behalf of our social stability and justice. So, this is all my own opinion.

And I'm going to the next part, the questions or comments to today's presenters. I think all of today's presenters showed their own perspectives on after Corona society, for example, food policies and environmental programs are very important issues. Therefore, they should not be the matter only during pandemics time. And I think the essence of the basic philosophy of our policies about these issues should not be changed because of the pandemics. So, the COVID-19 should not be the reason to change our philosophy.

So, my question to Dr. Xiang Li is that food is something to do with human basic needs. If we don't eat, we must die. So, it's very important that basic needs of ourselves. So, it's the most typical topic of global justice in my opinion. And my question for you is, what do you think about the possibility of the protectionist food policy being successful in our global society? I think a lot of Japanese people, food nationalists, in my opinion, are choosing Japanese products in supermarkets. Probably, it depends on our personality of us. I think the situation is very different in the different countries. But I think, at least in Japan, the protectionist idea about food is very strong. So, if you have something about this tendency, please tell me about that.

And the question to Dr. Zhang, is quite opposite of the question to Dr. Li. What do you think about the possibility of global cooperation on environmental issues successful? I asked a question to Dr. Li about the protectionist idea. I asked the question to Dr. Zhang about the global risk idea of the environmental program. Because I am a little bit pessimistic about sharing the same idea on environmental issues all over the world, at least now. Because different countries have different ideas about economics and the value of environmental issues. So, what do you think is the most important thing for us to achieve global collaboration about environmental issues? So, this is the question for Dr. Zhang.

And next, the question to Mr. Alfonso Torrero. My question is a very basic and very general one besides pandemic issues. I am very interested in the difference and the common things between Japan and Latin American countries such as Mexico because Japan and Mexico must share something or a lot of things. Both of us are very close to Anglo-American civilization, which is a superpower and the mainstream of the contemporary world in practice and in theory. But at the same time, Japan, Mexico are still keeping something very different from America. I found we can share something very important. I think we should research what is this something important. And my question is a very basic one. What is the most fundamental or basic philosophical idea of Mexico? Probably, in America, it is personal freedom. And in Japan, it is harmony in society. So, what is it in Mexico?

### **Xiang Li**

Thank you so much for giving me wonderful comments. So, first, I'd like to respond to Professor Kobayashi's comments. It might be better for me to answer the second question the first. It's easier for me to answer. So, how does my research related to a fair society? Okay, which is the theme of this project? So, well, this research basically focused on food security and the measure to increase the overall supply of foods in Japan and at the global level. So, for example, people at any time no matter is poor or the rich can access the food, so it means it's a fair opportunity for all to access the foods.

So, my research focused more on the solution or the strategy the government or the policy can use to utilize to change farmers' minds from reducing rice production to continuing to produce rice. So, if the government policy works well and can change farmers' minds efficiently so that means the national self-sufficiency rate in Japan can increase in the long-term scale. So, in that term, fairness can be achieved, because the more the food can be produced, the cheaper the price itself. So, that means even the poor can access the food easily. So, maybe, in that perspective, my research can answer the questions, of how to achieve a fair society. And to the first question, I'm not sure if I get your point.

I think you tried to ask me the theme the government can do to self issues. So well, I just introduced some solutions or some measures the government can do. But in reality, in so food data analysis of my current research, I actually found the positive side of Corona issues to the farmers. So, in many cases, there are positive sides and negative sides. The rice production decreases in some scenarios, in some cases like in-country regions but rice production increases as well. So that means, in some scenarios, the government actually works. But in some scenarios, it doesn't work. So, my job right now is to find the best solution or to maximize the benefits for farmers and the people of society.

So, to find the best way to maximize the wealth or the fairness. So, the policy itself can be a good tool if the government can use this well. But in some scenarios, if it does not account for the necessary parameter that farmers actually cared about, so it might not work. So, I'm trying to find out the shortage of those issues and also trying to find the good points in the current policy. So, did I answer your questions? I'm not sure if I related it well or not. For Dr. Kawase's comments, so let me answer your questions now. You talk about the protection issues. So, probably, you want me to explain, what can the success of the policy itself? If people do not eat, they will die. You talk about that point. So, actually, I do agree with your point that the pandemic has increased the unfairness among people. So, can you repeat the question one more time? I am so sorry. I will try to catch your points.

### **Takayuki Kawase**

Actually, I try to ask the question about the possibility of the protectionist idea of the food policy's success. So, I think, at least in Japan, a lot of people want to eat the local foods, the foods produced around us. But I think probably a lot of people in foreign countries or outside Japan probably have a different idea about that, so the free trade policy. Yeah, actually, which is the more plausible idea in our current world?

### **Xiang Li**

If Japan wants more people to consume Japanese food, the best idea is to increase the self-sufficiency rate. So, to increase the supply, domestic supply, and decrease the market price, because people care about the price. The cheaper the price, the better, more people will consume. If I go to the market, sometimes I compare the prices. So, if product A is cheaper, so probably even that is produced in other countries like the US, I want to buy that. So, that's the basic idea for most people, I think. So, for production size, which is also related to my current research. I'm trying to think about the solution and measure the government can do to increase the overall national supply, especially the rice, because rice is the main food in Japan and which is critically important to people, national one to ensure food security. So, to reduce the impacts of

food insecurity so that's the only way I can think because countries like the United States and Australia, those countries usually have self-sufficiency rates exceeding 100%. But comparatively, Japan only has a rate of around 37%. So, that means we must change, otherwise, so we will be impacted.

**Takayuki Kawase**

Thank you so much. I think it's very interesting that Japan is such a very strongly food nationalist country that achieved such a role in sale-supply percentage. So it's, I think, a very interesting paradox.

**Xiaofang Zhang**

First, my answer to Professor Kobayashi is how to achieve our goals, I think to achieve we reduce the target of global warming, we can do many things as I introduced 65% CO2 emissions from the fossil fuel we use. So, in my opinion, promote the transformation of energy. Consumption structure is very important. For example, we can introduce more renewable energy and use EV cars. The next is my answer for Dr. Kawase. I'm very grateful for your opinions, different country has their own different way to reduce or solve global warming. The very important thing is to respect each other's opinions and promise to reduce the meat emission is very important. I hope I give the right answer to your questions.

**Takayuki Kawase**

Thank you very much. Actually, respecting each other's ideas is something that I really agree with. So, I totally agree with that. But I think so I said the different country has a different idea about environmental issues. So, for example, actually, it was but President Putin says global warming is a very good thing because Russia will be warm. And if I were Prime Minister of Japan, I would not have any confidence to persuade such kind of opinion. Of course, respecting other opinions is a very good thing and I totally agree with that, but on the other hand, there must be a limitation to that tolerance. Yes, so if you have some opinion about that, so please tell me. Let me explain the meaning of my questions. My question is, do you think it is possible to achieve a global agreement about environmental issues such as global warming? Is it possible to agree all over the world?

**Xiaofang Zhang**

It's a very big question.

**Takayuki Kawase**

I am a little bit pessimistic. I hope we can do that. But I think it is very difficult.

**Xiaofang Zhang**

Yes, I agree with you. I think it's difficult to achieve it. Even we know it's difficult. But it's very important to know why we couldn't achieve the goal. So, if you know the reason why we couldn't achieve it, you can think and let it go on.

**Takayuki Kawase**

That is exactly what I said in the last part of my comments. So, what do you think is the most important thing for us to achieve global collaboration. So, we should search

for the reasons that we cannot achieve agreement. There must be some reason that we cannot agree with each other. I think this is the most important thing for us.

**Masaya Kobayashi**

Yes. Actually, this issue is quite closely related to my question. My question is how it's possible. But actually, I think, I believe it's very difficult to try to do best effort. I have no answers that.

**Alfonso Torrero**

Yes, of course. Thank you for the questions. First, to Dr. Kobayashi, I think that it was very clear that since this presidential term started, the president's idea is to minimize the NGOs and civil society, in general, was little by little more clear since 2019. He began with discourses speaking about corruption in civil society. And then there were passing some laws that limit the resources given to civil society. So, I think, yeah, it is presidential or maybe not presidential – of this government in the general idea that civil society is not as important or should not be as important. I think that behind all of this, well, there is a long history in Mexico like the country is the first time that has a left-wing president. But he is very autocratic and very – he has a politic to argue with me or against me. So, it's difficult for example, also journalists, are very criticized when they show something that is not convenient for the government. And Mexico is a very dangerous place for journalists, the country with more...

**Hikari Ishido**

Connection, is there....? Hello Mr. Torrero. Is the connection okay? Here in Japan, we don't hear your voice. Okay, so it looks there is some connection problem.

While waiting, if there is any other comments or issues, please type them into the chatline because we got some time for making another round if the speakers are not too tired. So, if there are any comments, I mean, just by writing or maybe orally if you could raise your hand or, I mean, show up, switch on your camera, and then you can ask your question to any one of the three speakers.

**Alfonso Torrero**

My house connection just broke. But, I mean, I'm not trying to be like paranoid or just think that the actual government is the worst because the other day the other governments were also very corrupt and had many, many bad practices. So, I believe that, yes, in this presidential term with this government, they have a very particular agenda to work. And they consider that Mexico should, for example, take more central and conservative decisions and, for example, privatize the resources, the Mexican resources like the lithium or the energy. And I don't know, I believe that it's a very autocratic position of our government, not to let the critics take part in what has happened in the context problems. That's what I believe. And yes, this is just to reason my point. Yes, this is a situation of this new government. They are taking resources and limiting the way in which civil society works.

**Masaya Kobayashi**

Yeah, I understand your explanation of presidential orientation. So, my question is, what is the relation between the presidential orientation and the effect of the



government's policy on COVID-19. For example, some countries like Brazil and America in the Trump administration adopted a neoliberal or libertarian policy. I think this policy did not succeed because there are plenty of COVID-19 problems under these governments. So, I now learned that your country adopted a Presidential orientation, which does not value civil society. So, such orientation had some effective effects on the results of the policy of COVID-19. Because you said that vaccination is positive effects. And so, what's the relation between your country's policy and the effects of the policy on COVID-19?

**Alfonso Torrero**

Okay, I think it was not really, like, clear at the beginning. I believe that, at first watching the news, the government in the news, given by the President, they say that COVID was not really a problem, because they justify that just one in, I don't know, in 100 people having the virus will die. And they say some data that was not really confirmed. Like they also didn't consider, for example, the problems that were occurring or the pandemic occurrence in Europe like the Italian tragedy and the quantity of the deaths there. And I believe that they try to justify later on their first approach. They went into many phases, but in the end, I think that the President also promotes the vaccination in a certain way, but at the beginning, that was the most important time when they were no vaccines. He took that – how to say – this attitude, this like not very responsible attitude, saying that the virus was nothing to worry about. So, that's why I believe that during, well, not just his participation but was one of the elements that led to so many deaths in Mexico.

**Alfonso Torrero**

Dr. Kawase, I didn't understand the question. I'm so sorry. Like, what is the fundamental idea of Mexico?

**Takayuki Kawase**

In the philosophical sense, it is not a very difficult meaning. But what is the basic idea of the country itself? For example, I said, America, American government, American Constitution, American people respect the freedom of persons, freedom of individuals so much. And in Japan, I think the people respect the value of the harmony of the society. And what are most important things for Mexican people? So, very general question, so very easy question, not very academic. What is the most important thing for Mexican people?

**Alfonso Torrero**

Okay, I believe that many Latin American countries is like Mexico is very focused on being warm to others and to have like proximity with other members of society. I believe a lot of that is in Mexico. Not really harmony in society, because, I mean, I believe that sometimes it's very chaotic, everything that happens here, and people do not follow rules in other countries. But I think that's something that characterizes the relations in the country or what people deserve to be seen as is an as warm and welcoming person. I think that is a typical Mexican idea.

**Takayuki Kawase**

Thank you very much. Actually, I had the theory of Samuel Huntington, the conflict of civilization in my mind, so probably Latin American countries and Japan, probably

have something in common, but probably have something very different, in my opinion. So, in that theory, Japan is a very unique civilization, and actually, I don't know. I'm not sure it is true or not, but actually, I think at least, Japan and Latin American country is the marginalized area of the Anglo-American civilization, in my opinion, so thanks anyway.

**Alfonso Torrero**

Okay, okay. Like the influence of Anglo-American culture in both countries or what do you mean by...?

**Takayuki Kawase**

For example, actually, my major is Rawls. Japanese constitutions I think came from America. So, actually, I think it is a good thing because I'm basically supporting the philosophy of the American Constitution. But anyway, the Constitution, the basic idea of the Japanese government came from America, but I think we still have a lot of things, which is very different from America, for example. And it is a very difficult thing. But recently, we imported the judicial system from America, so we copied that, but it didn't work very well. So, actually, the Japanese constitutional idea, I think, is very good and worked very well in Japanese society. But the judicial system and the criminal procedures didn't work very well in Japan. Actually, we have a lot of common things with America. But at the same time, we have very different things from America. So, this is my opinion about the relationship between Japan and America. And I guess Mexico must have a similar situation in the relation to America. So, this is my guess.

**Alfonso Torrero**

Okay. I'm not sure either. I think that Mexico has an aspirational approach to the US like all the marketing, all the things that the US does, and has a better – not lifestyle but life quality. It's like something aspirational for many people. And I'm not sure how much, for example, American laws affected Mexican laws, but honestly, I am not sure. I will leave that. What I know is that there is a lot of aspirational interest in the American Dream, the so-called American Dream by Mexicans. And yeah, that's a relation and for other people like in the rest of in many countries of the world, North America is not seen as a very good country in some aspects, like, they have like conquering tactics. And they just will do anything for your resources and things like that. So, it depends on people, but in general, I believe is an aspirational idea of the US.

**Takayuki Kawase**

Thank you. I think the biggest difference between Japan and Mexico is that Mexico is connected to America directly on the ground. So, actually, there are serious issues about immigration that we don't have. So, I think Japanese people don't have such kind of strong aspiration for America at least not so strong as a Mexican people, I think. So, this is I think a very big difference.

**Alfonso Torrero**

Yes, yes, of course. Yes. And Mexican nationalists appreciate the other countries like, I don't know, European ones that have a very nationalistic position and so on. They are like more open – Mexican is more open and just try to – I believe they just try to be friendly with the world or something like everybody comes to Mexico without any difficulty, even external politics did not block, for example, during the pandemic and

their flights to Mexico and things like that. It's like Mexico is very open to other countries even when you speak about politics.

### **Hikari Ishido**

Thank you so much. I wish to make my own very brief comment as an economist. So, these days, I hear that you know, food prices are going up and then there is no returning back, never to the original point in terms of food and also in terms of, you know, energy. So, that comes into environmental policy-making issue. And then reaching an agreement among different stakeholders, I mean, networking is quite sometimes difficult, right, regionally even. So, globally, it's even more difficult to reach an agreement. We sometimes hear the words let us agree to disagree first, then there will not be any final battle. But what we see across the globe is that's not a feasible option to agree to disagree in a peaceful manner. So, that's why countries are fighting against countries and then we never know what the fairness-oriented viewpoint on could be and how to solve this kind of antagonistic, hostile situation. But definitely, we need to think about the maximin principle, right, according to the Philosopher John Rawls, maximizing the minimum standard in terms of food security and environmental policy, complementation between the government sector and civil society. The minimal, the worst-case scenario should be avoided. That's what I also agree with.

I mean it could be reached, I mean, to some kind of consensus, because the minimal, the worst-case scenario should definitely be solved, and then who can recognize this. Of course, in your mindset, okay, as a politician or a country leader, okay, who cares about this worst case, group of people, yes. But at least if we are to agree to reach some kind of a consensus, then, of course, this maximin principle would apply to all the, I mean, each of these cases discussed in today's workshop. But, of course, other philosophers might say, okay, trying to agree itself is some kind of, you know, terrorized situation, right. So, we are not coerced to make some kind of a global final agreement. I wish to take some pointers from that kind of remark and so after all, it's difficult. But I should say this is a kickoff workshop. We cannot solve all these conundrums and difficult questions. So, at least we should to the best of our knowledge, and to the best of our intention, keep getting together online and also offline, and then keep thinking, keep releasing what we think about this fairness, although, it's not reachable near at hand sort of thing. Yes, we know it.

We acknowledge it, but we still have plenty for the sake of this project, and we still have some time. So, let us keep thinking. All right, so that's my kind of like, I mean, the kickoff type of remark. Thank you so much. So, okay, we still have some time, but I don't see any typing into the chat line. And so, if there is anything from the audience today, yes, we are pleased to welcome anything. If not, then we wish to move on to the final item which is a closing remark from both Professor Jiro Mizushima and Professor Masaya Kobayashi. Would that be all right? Just a wrap-up remark from each of them. Okay. So, if there are no more specific comments or questions, let us move on to the final wrap-up session. So, can we invite Professor Jiro Mizushima, please?

### **Jiro Mizushima**

Thank you very much for the presentations and comments. Today, we had a very extensive and enthusiastic discussion. I enjoyed it very much. And it is worth to see that this is our kickoff symposium. So, as Professor Ishido pointed out, this is the start of our discussions. But anyway, after I heard the three presentations, I noticed that

there is a common theme behind the three presentations. And I think that is the conflict or contrast between national framework and global perspective, national or patriotic framework versus global international viewpoints. That is very important and contrasts or underlying conflict. Professor Li pointed out the food supply. Yes, the self-sufficiency rate of rice and rice is okay in Japan, but in general, the self-sufficiency rate of food is very low.

In this case, some kinds of protectionism based on nationalism probably is not evil, but it is in one sense necessary to be safe against the change in the world market such as the outbreak of war. But in contrast to that, good protectionism, Dr. Zhang pointed out that if each state pursues its own goal, it is quite difficult to reach an agreement and climate change would not be realized. Probably, climate disaster might come. In this sense, we have to abandon our nationalistic viewpoints. And we have to cooperate internationally. But as today's discussion shows, it is difficult to reach an agreement, and Professor Ishido point out agree to disagree. Yes. I am a political scientist, and I am studying European politics. In Europe, there is a new term for fuel transition to a carbon-neutral. In this term, we see the word fair. What is fair? It means that the abolishment or if you abolish all fossil fuels, that's good for the climate, but it might damage other sections of the society. It is not fair. We have to consider many aspects of the things like climate or employment or other distribution, economy, and finance. So, if we consider these various kinds of aspects, we can consider a fair transition. In this sense, this agreement is the start of fairness, because fairness is not equality. Equal distribution is not always fair distribution. In some countries or in other countries, there is a difference between what is right and what is equal. So, we have to think about what fairness is, and we have to discuss and exchange our views. And this is the start of fairness, I think.

And about the presentation of Alfonso Torrero, thank you for the representation from Mexico. And he also pointed out the president of a populist movement. And populists are in general nationalistic and patriotic. And they don't like the influence from outside. Probably, the president of Mexico does not like the influence of global civil society in Mexico. He does not like the interference from outside. In this sense, nationalism works negatively on civil society. It did much damage, to the effect of COVID-19 during these years. So, these three presentations showed us the positive side and negative sides of the nationalist framework and global framework. We cannot say which is right, nationalism is evil, and globalism is right. We can't say about it. However, what we can say at this moment is I think we have to think globally. But at the same time, we have to take the national context into consideration. Today, we got many lessons from the presentations and the discussions. Thank you, and until next time.

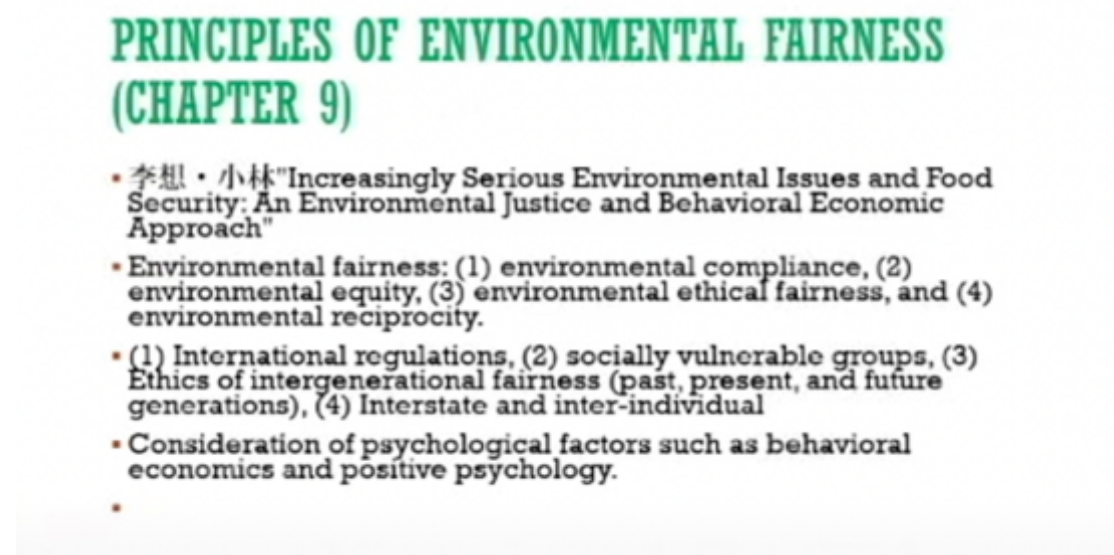
### **Masaya Kobayashi**

Thank you very much, very interesting discussions. These discussions inspired me very much. I'd like to say something about the inspiration there (Figure 43). First, for the presentation of Dr. Li, actually, I have some slides on our chapter. This is a chapter with Dr. Li.

In that chapter, we push for the idea of environmental fairness, that is environmental compliance, environmental equity or equal equity, environmental ethical fairness, and environmental reciprocity. And as for the measures to cope with the issue, first, international regulations; second, how to cope with socially vulnerable groups; third, ethics of intergenerational fairness; fourth, interstate and individual considerations of

various factors. And we think that today's discussion, something has much common with these arguments, and especially the discussion as for the civilization push for, Dr. Kawase, remind me of a very important issue because I'm very interested in the issue of conflicts of civilization in my lectures on comparative politics. So, obviously, I was very annoyed by the clash of civilization between Western countries and Islamic interpretations. Now, I feel that there emerged a very serious civilizational conflict between Russia and Europe and other civilizational people.

**Figure 43 Environmental fairness (chapter 9)**



So, this issue is very important and very, very serious in the contemporary world. I think that this issue should be included in theoretical frontiers or a research topic for fairness. As well as the environmental issue, there is the problem of intergenerational and also global fairness. Obviously, as political philosophers, we are very familiar with the concept of global justice. But I think global fairness has not so popular in the contemporary academic world. So, we have to explore the concept as well as global justice and also domestic justice, and fairness. And my own research on the domestic concept, and context is related to the impact of fairness on the well-being of people. In my experiment, mentor studies, I demonstrated that people's wellness, people's well-being have been influenced by the government to policy related to fairness and justice. In that essence, justice and fairness are very important in tackling the issue of COVID-19. And also, I think, these kinds of intergenerational and also global fairness have very important factors in dealing with people around the world, especially in the context of the clash of civilizations. Actually, this is the first time I encountered this issue. So, I'm very grateful for the present content and today's discussion. Thank you very much.

**END**

---