

Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences
P. O. Box 75023
Honolulu, Hi 96836

Conference Director(s):

Described below is an overview of a paper on the subject of Intergovernmental (Central-Local) Relations in Korea, Japan, and the United States.

1. Title of the submission

Phases of Intergovernmental Relations in Korea, Japan, and the United States: A Trans-Pacific Analysis of Central-Local Relations in Historical Perspective

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6. Abstract of paper

For your classification purposes our paper spans the fields (shown in your Conference listing) of Public Administration and Political Science. As the title indicates, it is comparative in the Trans-Pacific sense. We are in the process of drafting the essay so we would anticipate presenting it as a formal paper on/at a panel, workshop, or plenary session.

Description:

Institutional issues have returned to the center of attention in several fields in the social sciences. Nowhere are this more evident than in the exposition and analysis of governmental structures and formal (legal) arrangements. One component of institutional analysis is the manner in which power, authority, tasks, functions, and services are divided (or shared) on an areal basis. What are the assigned responsibilities of the central (national) governing entity and what are those of the regional (state/province/local) governmental jurisdictions? How, in other words, is authority divided on an area vs. functional basis (Fesler, 1949; Choi, Cho, and Wright, 2003)?

Descriptions or definitions of this division of authority on an area basis have employed a variety of terms to guide analysis, interpretations, and advocacy. Examples of such terms or concepts are: Federalism (Elazar, 1987), Intergovernmental Relations (Anderson, 1960; Wright, 1988), Central-Local Relations (Horie and

Nagata, 1999) Local Autonomy (Horie and Nishio, 1997) and Multi-Level Governance (Hooge and Marks, 2002).

For purposes of this (Choi/Wright) paper we have opted for the concept of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR). Among other issues addressed in the paper, the choice of this concept will be elaborated and justified. The central component of the paper, however, will be a comparative-historical analysis of the phases of IGR in Korea, Japan, and the United States. An approach to the study of IGR from the standpoint of phases (periods or eras) has established precedents (Elazar, 1990; Wright, 1988, 1997; Koike and Wright, 1998). The historical phases approach has utility in a comparative sense (Koike and Wright, 1998; Horie and Nishio, 1997). Our paper will extend the previous Trans-Pacific developments to those of IGR in Korea. The Republic of Korea has recently instituted various reforms involving IGR. It is appropriate and pertinent to examine these developments and to place them in a comparative context.