

**Dividends of Sustainability:  
Impacts of Development Policies in Asia**

**PRESENTATION 2:**

**IMPACTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON HUMAN QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) IN ASIA**

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**Abstract**

The impact of globalization on human quality of life (QOL) is an issue heatedly debated by academics, policy makers, private sectors, social organizations and even by the general public in Asia, as elsewhere. This paper examines whether human QOL in the Asian countries is converging (or diverging), and assesses the impact of globalization on QOL trends in the region. Using panel data of selected countries from 1975 to 2005 over five-year intervals, and applying the dynamic panel data model, the study finds that human QOL of most countries in the region is moving closer to that in Japan (the benchmark country of this study) and that globalization has significant impacts on this convergence. More specifically, overall indicators of human QOL, measured by the human development index (HDI), is converging and the overall as well as economic, social and political indicators of globalization are highly significant in this convergence process. Similarly, a disaggregated analysis of the sub-constructs of HDI shows that health and education indicators are also converging and globalization has a significant impact on the convergence process. Although the income aspect of QOL is found diverging sharply, the globalization indicators are not significant on the divergence process and the shrinking gap in health and education indicators outweigh the income gap, which leads the overall human QOL convergence in the region. These findings give hope to the developing world in the context of rapid growth of global income inequality in recent decades.

**Short Biography**

Jeet B. Sapkota is a 2nd Year PhD candidate in GSAPS and Research Fellow in GIARI, Waseda University. Since July 2009, he is serving as an Executive Member of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities-Doctoral Student Network (APRU-DSN). He was awarded by the ASPAC Esterline Graduate Student Best Paper Award in the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the *Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC)* in June 2009 in USA. Before came to Japan, he served for the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal for 3 years as a Planning Officer. His research interest is to assess the impact of globalization on human quality of life in the Asia-Pacific region.