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Land Degradation and Urban Sanitation in Sahel, West Africa
This article outlines the drivers that are leading the development of ‘ecotowns’ in Japan. Simply put, ecotowns are multi-stakeholder initiatives focusing on private enterprises, but also involving the public sector and the civil society at large. They are developed as specialized areas for industrial development that are environmentally friendly. The write up introduces the basic features and development framework of the ecotown concept. It is illustrated with a case study of the Kawasaki ecotown. Implications are drawn for local decision-makers to enable environmentally sensitive urban and industrial development through ecotowns.

The U.S. Republican Party has been characterized as a party embracing free markets and limited government for a long time. Nevertheless, few Republican politicians resisted President Donald Trump when he pursued policies conflicting with their principles. The overwhelming majority of GOP’s rank-and-file members and supporters approved Trump’s economic agendas. Did it happen simply because Trump was the President? Or does it imply underlying tension within GOP over its economic thinking and policies? This paper investigates how conservative policy entrepreneurs have formulated ideas against Republicans’ economic orthodoxy and influenced policy development, and how the changing political, socioeconomic and international environment is affecting economic policy discussion in the party. This article argues that Republicans’ economic orthodoxy is being challenged in a lasting manner and the rise of new economic thinking embracing social cohesion as well as free markets and limited government could fundamentally reshape Republican Party’s economic narratives and policies.

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Abstract
January 17, 2020, marked the 25th anniversary of the Southern Hyogo Earthquake. In the decades since the disaster, a whole new generation has emerged in the region with no experience or direct knowledge of the great earthquake. Yet it is the young people of this generation who will need to pass on the memories of the great earthquake to future generations. In order to clarify the attitudes and awareness among the post-earthquake generation regarding the heritage of disaster memories, the Kwansei Gakuin University School of Policy Studies and Community Media FMYY, a local community broadcasting company, undertook a joint project to survey young people in the region. The survey was carried out among undergraduate students at three universities in the former disaster region: Kwansei Gakuin University, Kobe University, and Kobe Tokiwa University. There were 445 valid responses. The survey questionnaire covered the following five major areas: (1) sources of information on the Southern Hyogo Earthquake, (2) interest in the disaster, (3) awareness and attitudes regarding the heritage of disaster memories, (4) which memories should be passed on, and (5) effective methods for passing on the memories. Upon completion of the survey results, the following factors became evident. Close to 70 percent of the respondents said they learned about the Southern Hyogo Earthquake in school and felt that school education was an effective method for passing on the memories of the disaster. Among the memories that respondents felt were the most important to be passed on were those conveying practical information that would be useful for disaster mitigation and responding to future disasters. Interest was high in objective facts and data related to the disaster. In contrast, interest was relatively low in subjective information, such as the emotions, feelings, and painful memories of the victims. In conclusion, our research group has chosen to conceptualize this phenomenon of biased interest in memory heritage among those of the post-earthquake generation as "selective inheritance of disaster memories.”

Teaching Note
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Title A Review of International Field Trips: Adding Value to the Learning of and Preparing for Global Human Resources in Japan
Abstract Experiential learning emphasized that integrating teaching and practice can reinforce the effectiveness of learning. However, studies that viewed the long-term impacts of international field trips conducted in formal education are limited. This paper presents the archives of the international field trips conducted by the Konishi Seminars. The Konishi Seminars has been bringing Japanese university students to the Philippines to work in cooperation with local NGOs with disadvantaged communities in harsh environments including a landfill and slum area in Metro Manila every year since 2010. This form of international fieldwork benefits the students, as it provides them with an opportunity for experiential learning, exposes them to various aspects of planning and processing, and enhances learning by integrating theory and practice. Furthermore, the field work contributed to the development of skill sets necessary for future career and enhanced self-confidence. In addition, the Philippines fieldwork enabled students to view their own country from the outside, where they can reflect on issues and problems from a global perspective and consider the implementation of actionable measures to improve their countries.

Research Note
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Title The Japanese Approach to Nuclear Weapons 2012-2018: The Role of the Nuclear Umbrella
Abstract Literature on the Japanese approach to nuclear weapons commonly has two themes: the debate on whether Japan is likely to build a weapon, and the apparent contradiction between its pro-disarmament stance and its support of the US nuclear umbrella. Interest in these two has increased in the second nuclear age, but the consensus remains that a Japanese bomb is very unlikely, and that Japan continues to pursue the two contradictory aims. This paper looks at the years 2012–2018, in particular at the security reforms under Abe, the election of Trump in the USA, and the renewed global disarmament movement culminating in the 2017 Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty, and assesses whether there was any change in approach. It concludes that there was not, with the nuclear umbrella remaining central to Japanese policy, and that the dilemma between disarmament and the nuclear umbrella became increasingly untenable.

Policy Topics
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Title Purity and Dirt in the Sustainability of Urban Civilization: Land Degradation and Urban Sanitation in Sahel, West Africa