

Foreword

It is our great pleasure to publish this volume compiling the results of the research activities of the African Studies Center – Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (ASC-TUFS) in 2018. It derives mainly from a research project and two research meetings that are mutually related. First, assisted by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), we started the three-year research project titled ‘Resource Management and Political Power in Rural Africa’ in April 2018 (JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B). Principal investigator: Shinichi Takeuchi). This project has constituted a centre of the ASC’s research activities since then. The second is a joint seminar that the ASC organised with the University of Pretoria on 13 and 14 September 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa. Around 50 researchers, students, and practitioners from six countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Japan, Mozambique, Rwanda, and South Africa) attended the UP-TUFS seminar, at which 23 papers were presented. Broad themes related to Africa and Japan were discussed on the first day of the seminar. The discussion focused on resource management on the second day. Third, the ASC also jointly organised a panel (Resource Management and Political Power in Rural Africa) and a roundtable session (Resource Management and Political Power: Comparison Between Africa and Asia) with the Institute of Developing Economies – JETRO at the Africa-Asia ‘A New Axis of Knowledge’ Second Edition, an international research conference held on 20-22 September at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. As an official partner of the conference, the ASC invited a dozen of researchers from Asian and African countries.

Contributors to this volume are either members of the research project or participants at the research meetings, or both. This volume, containing 11 papers, is divided into two parts. Part I is composed of three papers dealing with development and migration. These papers were originally prepared for the first-day meeting at the UP-TUFS seminar. Part II includes eight papers focusing the topic of resource management and political power. All papers in this volume are works in progress, and comments and suggestions are most welcome.

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