

Introduction

Political and economic changes gave birth to many units of action, and those actors became the driving forces that furthered overall transformation of society and economy. We witnessed many such actors in post structural adjustment Africa. Among them several actors were selected for our considerations in the international workshop. In the political realm, action-oriented groups such as women's groups and youth movements attracted our interest. This selection reflects the situation of the country (Nigeria) where field works were implemented. In the economic realm, various types of business groups filled the economic space that was widened with the reduction of the state's influence in the business field.

Research topics were reshuffled among researchers who participated in the collaborative research group on the Emergent Actors in African Political Economy. Prof. Ayodeji Olukoju focused on some emergent business actors that operated in a generally dismal picture of Nigerian economy. He started from the conceptualization of business-government relations, and reviewed the evolution of business community from a historical perspective. His examination showed how a new umbrella organization emerged as the effective mouthpiece of the private sector in Nigeria. Dr. Cyril Obi examined women movements in Nigeria's oil-producing communities as an emergent social force in the popular struggles in the period following the adoption of the Structural Adjustment Programme. His paper is also devoted to redressing the gender-blind shortfall in the analysis of the social struggles. In connection with Dr. Obi's paper, it became indispensable to clarify the nature of women's movement in Nigeria. Katsuya Mochizuki tried to summarize Dr. Hussaina Abdullah's paper that argued the competition among the Nigerian women's movements that accompanied the differing and differentiated responses toward the structural adjustment and political reform programme.

There must be some tasks in the next phase of this project. Among all, we have to test out our analysis in a broader context. It will be useful to introduce a comparative method for analysis. All our case studies are concerning Nigerian society and economy. We need to re-evaluate our discussions from comparative perspectives. The other task is elaboration of terminology and concept. In our project, terms like 'emergence' or 'emergent actor' were frequently used, and all types of new phenomena and actors were described in that way. Both are vague in their meanings even as descriptive terms. If we can elaborate them properly, it would contribute to a comparative analysis itself. We do expect feedbacks from readers on ideas and arguments that appear in this proceeding.