

ASEAN auf dem Weg ins nächste Jahrtausend - die Weichen sind gestellt. Dieses Mal scheint es den Regierungsetagen ernst mit der wirtschaftlichen Integration. Verhindert werden soll um jeden Preis, daß - wie so oft in der Vergangenheit - alles bloße Propaganda bleibt und schnell in der bürokratischen Versenkung verschwindet. Schon bald wird sich zeigen, spätestens auf dem nächsten ASEAN-Gipfel 1995 in Bangkok, ob wirkliche Fortschritte in der wirtschaftlichen Zusammenarbeit gemacht worden sind oder ob die neue Freihandelszone als Papiertiger in der Schublade verschwunden ist.

Wolfgang Möllers

Workshop on Institutional Change and the Mobilisation or Exclusion of Labour in Development

Göttingen, 19.-21.November 1992

The first session of the EADI Working Group on "Labour, Employment and Development" was concerned with theoretical, rather broad issues aiming to create a base for further discussions on more concrete topics and empirical evidence.

Gerry Rodgers' (Geneva) paper: "Labour institutions and economic development: Issues and methods" reviewed the way institutions have been treated in the development economics literature, defined labour institutions in more detail and discussed their interrelationships with economic development. He proposed research priorities at macro, meso and micro level, particularly stressing meso-level issues of labour market structure and the institutions for wage setting and the mobilization of labour.

Concerning Patrick van Durme's (Antwerp) paper on "Labour market contracting in developing countries", the focus was on transaction costs, property rights and labour market contracting in developing countries. It was concluded that there is competition between institutions, but that this is not necessarily based on efficiency criteria but also on the interests of the parties concerned. He argued that the study of the transactions costs associated with different types of labour contracting arrangements would be fruitful in helping to explain the emergence of one rather than another. Both formal and informal institutions were relevant.

Ben Rogaly's (Oxford) paper, "Explaining diverse labour arrangements in rural India" raised several questions, including the forces generating fragmentation within society. In India fragmentation naturally occurs along caste lines, but the author pointed to examples of other lines of fragmentation, such as territoriality - the use of labourers from outside the village for social control of labourers in the village. The paper reviewed alternative labour market models (notably neo-classical and Marxian), arguing that most of them failed to explain contractual diversity - considerable in rural India. Imbalances of power in heterogeneous populations provided part of the answer. Answering a question, the author made it clear that arrangements are the product of not only the pattern of power relations in production, but also those of technology and ecology as well as supply and demand.

Session 2 was concerned with "Institutions, development and transformation: Evidence from the South". Arjan de Haan's (Rotterdam) paper "From shortage to surplus: Jute labour since 1880" analysed the various historical reasons for the emergence of unemployment in the jute industry near Calcutta. He discussed the institutions for labour inclusion and exclusion from a long-term perspective, noting that mobilisation and exclusion occurred simultaneously, indicating how the political and economic arrangements shifted the practices over time, and also demonstrating the tenacity over a long period of some structures that do not seem to be explicable from a purely economic point of view (like the role of the *sardar*). In the discussion, the following points were emphasised: (a) the labour surplus in the jute industry developed over time, not suddenly; (b) unemployment was the outcome of policy mistakes, and was not inherent to the structure of labour organisation; (c) exclusion of workers mainly meant women had to give up their work; (d) the formalisation of recruitment procedures did not succeed in doing away with middlemen (*sardars*); (e) when women lost their jobs it was mainly due to legislation.

Laurids Lauridsen's (Roskilde) paper on "Labour regimes as institutions in capitalist development in Taiwan. Structural demobilization and the new labour movement" analysed the evolution of the labour movement in Taiwan, which had been characterised by a low level of collective activity, weak organisation in the enterprises, and a low profile politically. Some reasons for the low trade union activity were (a) high degree of state control within the enterprises (Leninist structure); and (b) labour arrangements, relations in production, ideological aspects of control. However, the main reason was perhaps to be found in the fact that most enterprises were small, having a patriarchal labour regime dominated by family ties. Labourers in these micro-entrepreneurial structures did not primarily see themselves as permanent wage workers, but rather as prospective micro-entrepreneurs. And many were actually able to found their own enterprise. The core in the new labour movement, however, is centred around the heavy industry which has very strong authoritarian labour structures.

Inga Brandell's (Uppsala) paper on "Wage work, labour regulation and political reform in Algeria and Nigeria" addressed the linkage between people in the production process and people as citizens, these people being the same. The paper by Chantal Bernard (Paris) "En Algérie, l'approche institutionnelle des micro-entreprises a-t-elle sa raison d'être" discussed the rapid increase in the small and private enterprises in Algeria during the 1980s.

Beate Kruse's (Kaiserslautern) paper, "Policy options for the support of livelihood activities in the informal sector in developing countries", explored the conceptual problems of the informal sector, arguing that a more sophisticated view of informal activities was needed. She stressed the importance of the diversity of livelihood activities. This approach to informal production was broadly endorsed in the discussion.

In session 3 on "Transformation in China and Eastern Europe" Jutta Hebel's (Göttingen) paper on "Segmentation in the centrally planned labour system of the People's Republic of China. Insights from a comparative perspective" showed how labour market segmentation in China could be seen as an administrative outcome rather than one derived from market forces. She stressed that stabilisation of the labour system was basically through immobility - workers spent their lives within work units, so that while segmentation appeared and was structured

around inequality between work units, this was not destabilising. This also explained why qualifications were relatively unimportant - life chances were basically determined by the work unit to which one had access initially. Discussion of the paper focused on how the labour system succeeded in stabilising society - what were the informal rules? It was noted that the institutional approach to segmentation had to incorporate the State, and that in many ways it was society as a whole that was segmented, and not just labour.

The second paper on "Chinese labour in transition, 1978-1992", by Flemming Christiansen (Manchester), advocated the non-orthodox view that economic growth and successful labour transfer during the reforms was attributable not to market forces per se, but to the strategy of keeping imbalances and institutional barriers in the economy. The Chinese reformers chose to create new sectors of self-employment instead of reforming the old systems. By doing so, they created a institutional environment in which growth and labour transfer could take place. Moreover, the author stressed the 'progressive' role of *guanxi* (clientalism). *Guanxi* was instrumental to economic growth and labour transfer because it reduced the insecurity of having to work in an imperfect market and because it helped to beat corruption. Finally, the author demonstrated how family organisation/family cycles in particular) affected the realisation of reform policies and created a particular expenditure pattern and new income inequalities in the Chinese countryside.

The remaining papers of the session introduced an East European perspective on exclusion of labour in development. Klara Föti (Budapest) contributed with a paper on "Emergence of unemployment as an effect of economic transformation. Wanda Mizielinska and Tadeusz Smuga's (Warsaw) paper on "Ownership transformation and changes on the labour market" dealt with the question: to what extent is unemployment in Poland a result of privatisation and to what extent is it due to other factors, e.g. the recession?

The last session had four issues to discuss: first, the extent to which the meeting of the working group had covered the issues of transformation, mobilisation and exclusion; second, the immediate follow-up to the workshop in terms of reporting and activities; third, the longer term plan for the preparation of a coherent publication; and fourth the organisation of the sessions in the EADI's General Conference in Berlin.

The workshop provided a lively format for a collection of insightful and stimulating papers not at least because of the excellent organisation by Jutta Hebel.

Gerry Rodgers, Günter Schucher

"The Role of Mass Media Towards Unification of Korean Peninsula"

Hong Kong, 3.-6. Dezember 1992

Die "Korean Society for Journalism and Communication Studies" wollte die Konferenz zusammen mit der Nachrichtenagentur "Xinhua" in Peking veranstalten und Persönlichkeiten aus Nord-Korea hatten ihre Teilnahme zugesagt. Kurz vor Konferenzbeginn stellten die Mitveranstalter unsinnige Forderungen. Professor Dr. Choi Chang-Sup, Präsident der "Korean Society", war gezwungen, nach Hongkong auszuweichen.