SDGs Goal 10
Reduce inequality within and among countries

Masaki Inaba
Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs
Day workers all over the nation, don’t die in a ditch in silence! Survive and fight back against them all!

Shuji Funamoto, 1975

Shuji Funamoto (1946 – 1975)

A radical activist and organizer of the day-workers labor movement in Japan in 1960-70’s. A founder of Kamagasaki Kyoto-Kaigi (“Congress for Collaborative Struggle to Expel Vicious Exploiters from Kamagasaki”, Japan’s largest day-workers district in Osaka City), he and his comrades organized day-workers into a labor movement that fought against exploitation and forced labor in the construction industry. After years spent escaping from arrest and prosecution from Japanese police, he committed suicide in 1975, on the same day Japanese Prince visited Okinawa Island after its integration to Japan.
Diverse Dimension of Poverty and Inequality

Day-workers enter the labor market as the result of inequality and discrimination
- Escaping rural poverty
- Discrimination (ethnic, buraku, etc.)
- Exclusion (physical and mental disability) etc.

Exploitation occurs daily when a criminal element (Yakuza) forced workers into gang labor

Top-Down hierarchical structure in the construction industry

Funamoto’s words:
To empower all people it is important to recognize day-workers as possessing rights to human dignity and to fight exploitation

Lack of access to social welfare schemes that are incomplete and unreliable, especially for day-workers

Violent and dangerous working environment
High risk of injury, NCDs, TB and alcoholism
Low wage as a result of exploitation
Japan’s Poverty and Inequality Nowadays

◆ **Myth**: Japan is an equal and successful society without poverty
◆ **Truth**: Japan has some people experiencing poverty and inequality, but they have often been hidden from sight. It also has some related problems due to its aging and shrinking population. Japan is a developed country but has been struggling together with other countries to resolve many shared social, political, environmental and economic problems.

Diverse Dimension of Inequality

- Child poverty: inheritance of poverty (relative poverty rate of children: 14%), Inter-generational inequality: the redistribution scheme has some negative effects and costs of education are huge; hence the perpetuation of inequality over generations.
- Poverty and gender inequality: more than 50% of single female household are under poverty line due to the low wage and precarious employment of women
- Aging and shrinking population: relative poverty rate of older households is 22% (general population: 16%) and making community/society less resilient against natural disasters (East Japan Great Earthquake/Tsunami, West Japan Great Flood)
- Weakened public social welfare/security schemes affected by aging, shrinking population and limited application policy of the government (Protection rate of Japan’s public assistance scheme under Public Assistance Act is only 32.1%)
Wide-range focus on inequality in SDGs’ Goal 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

### Inequality within countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10.1</th>
<th>Redistribution of growth for the bottom 40%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>Social Inclusion against marginalization and isolation</td>
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<td>10.3</td>
<td>Ensure equal opportunity by abolish harmful laws and policies</td>
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<td>10.4</td>
<td>Promote better policies to fight inequality</td>
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### Inequality among countries

<table>
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<th>10.5</th>
<th>Improve regulation and monitoring of global financial markets etc.</th>
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<td>10.6</td>
<td>More power for developing countries in international organizations</td>
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<td>10.7</td>
<td>Better migration by planned, well-managed migration policies</td>
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</tbody>
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Approaching poverty and inequality

- Effective Redistribution of growth
- Social Inclusion
- Abolish bad policy, enhance good policy

Approaching global inequality

- Better regulation and governance of global financing markets
- ODA for poorer countries
- Better migration policies
Difficulties in the era of science and technology innovation

SDGs: a sustainable society without poverty and inequality

With highly-developed IT technology

Big Transnational companies (GAFA etc.)
Architect Global Income Schemes

Contemporary major contradiction between expanding production capacities v. existing relations of production and ownership

Huge inequality will shake the current world order

Can SDGs solve this problem and how?
Science/Technology Innovation: new challenge on poverty/inequality

Full Implementation of STIs
= Truly “disruptive innovation” for whole society/economy
➢ Artificial Intelligence
➢ Electric vehicles
➢ Self-driving car
➢ Blockchain technology
➢ Crypto currencies etc.

New Paradigm of STIs and Crisis on SDGs

Huge unemployment
Human Alienation
Wider poverty and inequality
Crises of existing world order

* A burning issue on “business and human rights” and “responsible supply chain” on how to prevent resource exploitation from fragile countries.

Potentials of STIs in the field
Potential social harm caused by STIs

Poverty and inequality will enter a new phase of human history

Civil society should develop a shared strategy to respond STIs