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33

# Barometers of Quality of Life Around the Globe

*How Are We Doing?*



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# The AsiaBarometer: Its Aim, Its Scope and Its Development

Takashi Inoguchi and Seiji Fujii

**Abstract** The AsiaBarometer is the public opinion survey project for Asia with the focus on the daily lives of ordinary people. From its commencement in 2002 to date, the AsiaBarometer project has conducted four consecutive annual surveys encompassing 27 countries and two areas of Asia. It intends to raise the standards of empirical research in social sciences in Asia to the levels comparable to those in the United States and Western countries. The growing literature based on the AsiaBarometer survey data and research outcomes indicates that the AsiaBarometer has been achieving its original goals. It has been successful in building solid empirical multi-country data bases in Asia for deeper and sharper analyses of Asia's developmental, democratizing and regionalizing potentials.

**Keywords** Daily lives of ordinary people · AsiaBarometer · bottom-up perspective · regional opinion survey · cross-national analysis

## Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to introduce the AsiaBarometer project headed by Takashi Inoguchi at Chuo University in Japan, focusing on its developments and achievements from its commencement in 2002 up to May, 2007. The AsiaBarometer is a regional opinion survey project regularly conducted in a broader East Asia encompassing East, Southeast, South and Central Asia with a focus on the daily lives of ordinary people.<sup>1</sup> It was launched in 2002 in the article by Takashi Inoguchi (2002) in the monthly magazine *Chuo Koron* (Central Review). Different from other regional opinion surveys in

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Asia that originated from the Third Wave democratization of the last quarter of the last century in such countries as the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan, the most pronounced feature of the AsiaBarometer Survey is that the AsiaBarometer originates from the genuinely academic interests in the daily lives, views, and sentiments of ordinary people in Asia. Their values, life styles, and the physical, psychological, and sociological aspects of their life are highlighted throughout. This project is the direct and extended successor to the Asia-Europe Survey also headed by Takashi Inoguchi conducted in 2000 which covered nine East and Southeast Asian countries and nine European countries (Blondel and Inoguchi, 2006; Inoguchi and Blondel, 2008). On the basis of the predecessor's success, experience and knowledge, the shift in focus is from norms and values in the Eurasian Continent to the daily lives of ordinary people in Asia.

In this essay we discuss the aim and scope of the AsiaBarometer in the next section, focusing on both business and academic benefits. Section "Principles" goes over eight principles for formulating the questionnaire and analyzing the survey data. Section "Questionnaire" classifies the questionnaire of the AsiaBarometer 2006 Survey. The core modules include living conditions, patterns of daily and economic life, value priorities, subjective quality of life, quality of society, identities, political consciousness, views on social issues and demographics. It is one of the few surveys to regularly ask a variety of questions on aspects of quality of life or a related basis. After a brief explanation of the sampling methodology, Section "Achievement and Development" discusses the achievement and development of the project since inception, focusing on the literature using the AsiaBarometer survey results and data. The literature is classified along with above categories. Section "Conclusion" will conclude. The list of the literature about the AsiaBarometer is in Section "Bibliography".

## **Aim and Scope**

The first AsiaBarometer Survey was conducted in summer 2003 in ten Asian societies. So far, five annual surveys were conducted in every consecutive year. Appendix 1 shows the countries with the years when the survey was conducted. In other words, after the 2003 survey covered ten countries of Asia, the 2004 survey focused attention on thirteen countries of East and Southeast Asia, that is ASEAN Plus Three. The 2005 survey included seven South Asian countries and seven Central Asian countries. The 2006 survey covered seven East Asian societies, and the 2007 survey covers six Southeast Asian countries. To our knowledge, it was the first time in survey history

that an opinion survey was conducted in Turkmenistan and Bhutan in 2005 (Inoguchi, 2007c).

The AsiaBarometer is the largest and the most comprehensive survey project ever as far as the region of Asia is concerned, in which data accumulation and service have long remained until recently improved. It fills a void of empirical social science and cross-national survey data in this demographically vast, developmentally dynamic, technologically increasingly proficient, and politically steadily democratizing region. Because of the wealth and ready availability of a large pool of academic research data, there has been an overwhelming tendency to use data originating from Western countries. The AsiaBarometer intends to correct this gap. This would be the first way in which the AsiaBarometer could contribute to scholarship. The AsiaBarometer makes the survey data accessible to researchers all around the world. The survey data is available through the AsiaBarometer website (<https://www.asiabarometer.org>) and through the data archives such as Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in the University of Michigan and the Social Science Japan Data Archive in the Institute of Social Science of the University of Tokyo.<sup>2</sup> It is also our policy to bring out (1) the questionnaire, field reports, other basic information and selective tables and figures and (2) country profile analyses and (3) thematic cross-national analyses in one annual volume in English.

As a result, a vast range of Asian social phenomena would become objects of comparative research. Such research up to now has focused on Western countries because of the ready availability of a large pool of data which is necessary for empirical research in the social sciences. In addition, an increase in scholarly research based on a shared awareness of issues would result in a fuller body of scientific knowledge. It is comparative surveys with each Asian country that are likely to produce propositions that can be generalized across the entire region of Asia.

During the process of doing such research, scholars from each country could cooperate and interact with each other. The connection among scholars and research organizations would be strengthened, which in turn contributes to an improvement of Asian study and a development of the academic community of Asia. Moreover, since research outcomes obtained from local studies should ideally be returned to and shared by the local citizens, cooperative schemes built at each local area could be used to improve the skills and abilities of the scholars.

Not only could the Asiabarometer raise the standards of social scientific research in Asia to levels comparable to those in the United States and Western Europe, but it would also make some contributions to indirectly

helping to bring about economic prosperity and regional stability in Asia (Inoguchi, 2004d). A regional survey of public opinion would benefit businesses. Like other opinion polls, the AsiaBarometer Survey gathers information such as socioeconomic backgrounds and demographic characteristics along with people's values and norms about their society, politics, science and technology, gender and international affairs. Knowing better under certain circumstances develops trust and social capital, which in turn becomes a foundation of wealth accumulation (Fukuyama, 1992). Companies can assemble basic data on income levels, consumer preferences, and life styles with which to formulate strategies for product development, manufacturing, and marketing and to identify the scale and location of target markets. Such an informational infrastructure would surely be a boon to business companies in East and Southeast Asia, many of which have been frustrated by the sluggish domestic economy and yet remain stuck in it because they do not have a good grasp of markets elsewhere in Asia.

A region-wide social survey is necessary and desirable in Asia – East, Southeast, South and Central Asia in that, in an era of globalization, a national economy is too small for dynamic and forward-looking business firms. They must become truly global and monitor the global market. That is why they spend an enormous amount of money on deciphering and predicting coming market trends one step ahead of the rest. Integration of the financial market has gone very far on a global scale. Money flies rapidly around the globe, scrambling into the space where profits are regarded as a great possibility in the near future and receding from the space where profits are least likely to be generated. A space must be created which is both competitive in quality and massive in quantity. One of the ways to create such a space is a regional free trade agreement. To constitute a component of such a competitive and massive economic space is positive, because that attracts money from all over the world. That is why regional free trade agreements flourish and deepen in many regions of the world. To facilitate and accelerate the generation of such a regional space, one must become truly regional continuously monitoring regional market and non-market forces. Such monitoring exercises must include the monitoring of the hearts and minds of people on the street. Not only economic and financial but also social, psychological and political forces unfolding in each country must be grasped systematically on a regional scale. When Asia has been on the road of dynamic economic expansion, a regional survey grasps its complex and dynamic realities at the grassroots level systematically in the form of data generated through survey research. To carry it out, its institutionalization is a prerequisite to any next step of regional economic cooperation, coordination and further integration.

In addition to economic prosperity, the knowledge obtained from such a survey would also serve as the foundation for greater regional stability. A shared perception about how the world is changing would facilitate adaptation to such changes, which could minimize social upheaval and disintegration. A common perception could also gradually generate a sense of Asian identity, promoting sentiments of belonging and of attachment to the region. In addition, regularly gathered survey results serve as a disarming instrument because they help eliminate the suspicions that states are liable to hold about other countries. In order for global governance to function properly, there must be healthy arrangements for the disclosure of information. The AsiaBarometer Survey would be a tool for gathering and disclosing information on key topics such as the extent to which the rule of law is working to prevent crime and corruption and the objectives and policies according to which business, governments, and other socially significant organizations are operating (Inoguchi, 2004d).

The prospect for the AsiaBarometer Survey is bright. First, because it enlightens us. We should be able to know more about ourselves. The AsiaBarometer survey helps us immensely by collecting data on the daily lives of ordinary people, by analyzing them and by making data and research products available to those interested the world over. Second, the AsiaBarometer survey benefits its users – academics, business leaders, political leaders and journalists. In other words, those who benefit are not only users but also supporters of the AsiaBarometer survey (Inoguchi, 2004d).

## Principles

The principles of the AsiaBarometer are expressed in eight precepts: (1) minimize obtrusiveness in asking questions; (2) try to be as clear and concrete as possible in formulating questions; (3) be culturally and linguistically sensitive; (4) analyze data from the bottom up rather than top down; (5) analyze data on the basis of knowledge of the environments surrounding respondents; (6) formulate a questionnaire with maximum input from local experts; (7) analyze survey data jointly with local experts; and (8) seek truth with optimism and an open mind.

- (1) Unobtrusiveness – Survey research is inherently obtrusive. It attempts to penetrate the minds of people. It sometimes asks questions that many people do not like to be asked. Minimizing obtrusiveness should be a fundamental principle when doing cross-cultural survey research in such a diverse region as Asia where there is diversity both within and across nations.

- (2) Clarity and Concreteness – Social scientists tend to use jargon when discussing abstract and often vague concepts. This vocabulary should be used minimally. We must reach out to the minds of people. Therefore, we must be utterly plain and clear. One of the inherent difficulties of cross-national survey research is that in an effort to ask the same questions in as many nations as possible, some questions violate this principle. This is particularly true of a number of questions that originate from America and Europe and that are asked in widely diversified regions.
- (3) Cultural and Linguistic Sensitivity – In North America and Western Europe as well as in the Indo-European-language-speaking areas, this is not so much a problem as it is in Asia. Nor is it a critically difficult problem in Latin America and Africa thanks in part to the influence of colonial heritage. In Asia it is. We must appreciate this cultural and linguistic distinction. Out of the five largest religions, Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam have the largest number of believers – all of them in Asia. Linguistic diversity is immense, sometimes even in one nation. The problem is aggravated at times by the peculiarities of the English language. For instance, English allows the use of the double negative to express subtle nuances to discerning users. The following question is a very good example:
- “Generally, do you think people can be trusted or do you think that one cannot be too careful about dealing with other people (that it pays to be wary of people)?”
- Most people can be trusted
  - One can't be too careful in dealing with people
- (4) From the Bottom Up – One of the problems with mainstream American positivistic social science is that it tends to analyze from the top down. This means that with a fairly abstract general hypothesis, it tends to avoid what it regards as specific parochial realities. On this issue, given the expected and real diversities and peculiarities in Asia, we would do best to emphasize the from-the-bottom-up approach. Instead of focusing the whole effort of hypothesis-testing on cross-cultural generalization, we must pay attention to individual response patterns as if this were a case study. Even if we do not reach the bottom of the individual level data, it should be emphasized here that it is essential to obtain a good country profile based on the survey data that the AsiaBarometer produces regularly.
- (5) Attention to the Organic Whole – One can argue that the myth of the organic whole has forever disappeared with the advent of globalization. Globalization has been deepening its penetration. It has been

fragmenting the largely nationally demarcated organic whole while linking fragmented parts together globally and regionally so that deeper global and regional integration might emerge. Globalization does not necessarily wipe out the organic whole completely. Attention to reconfigured organic wholes in various places is most important to better understand the beliefs, values and practices that people hold onto amid the turmoil of fast and rapid moving globalization.

- (6) **Formulation of the Questionnaire with the Support of Local Experts** – The participation of local experts from each country is very important, for they can help to fine-tune questions that recognize local realities. Such exercises are carried out during annual workshops. Not only are country profile and cross-cultural analyses placed on the table each year, but also the questionnaire is meticulously revised as we eye the AsiaBarometer the following year. The thrust of a question may not be fully or accurately translated into local languages until culturally and linguistically proficient experts make significant inputs in this process.
- (7) **Data Analysis Conversations and Discussions with Local Experts** – Hints and hunches often come from conversations and discussions with local experts. More operationally, outliers, or odd cases, must be examined with the help of local academics who know the local scene. The AsiaBarometer workshop is held each year so that both local experts and cross-national generalized proposition testers may confront each other in order to generate more contextually-related and sounder knowledge in designing the research project, in forming and revising the questionnaire, and in analyzing data and discussing the research outcomes. The AsiaBarometer project seeks the most active participation of local experts from each country.
- (8) **Seek Truth with Optimism and an Open Mind** – When the idea of the AsiaBarometer was launched, many friends of Inoguchi gently opposed the project by stating that some Asian countries would not allow such surveys to be executed: Myanmar, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and China, to name but a few. The project was carried out regardless of this opposition. The 2003 survey volume has since received acclaim from world-renowned scholars like Professor Ronald Inglehart, Professor Lucian W. Pye and Professor Jean Blondel, foremost experts on cross-cultural survey research, comparative political cultures in Asia, and comparative political institutions respectively. The 2004 annual volume has received similar acclaim from Professor Peter Katzenstein, Professor Hans-Dieter Klingman, Professor Russell Dalton, Professor Doh Cull Shin, foremost experts on international studies, comparative politics, political behavior, and democratization respectively. It is very important



to be optimistic and open-minded when you launch an original idea and an innovative scheme. It is indeed the case with the AsiaBarometer. Pessimism, parochialism and protectionism of all kinds must be curtailed.

## Questionnaire

Questions in the survey are focused on “Daily lives of ordinary people in Asia.” In order to carry out any comparative and cross-national analysis in Asia, the questions must be able to be answered in the first place. Things like economic conditions, political institutions and public policy do not constitute the core of their life for ordinary people. Matters of daily life are more important and easier to answer than those secondary questions. Asia is the region of fast changing diversity. There is no other region in the world that is more diverse and fast changing (Inoguchi, 2004d). Building on the daily lives of ordinary people brings the perception and assessment of their concerns and relations to the larger social entities such as patriotism and confidence in government performance (Inoguchi, 2003).

The questionnaire has nine clusters: (1) *Living conditions*, (2) *Patterns of daily and economic life*, (3) *Value priorities*, (4) *Subjective quality of life*, (5) *Quality of society*, (6) *Identities*, (7) *Political consciousness*, (8) *Views on social issues*, and (9) *Demographics*. These questions require roughly 45–60 minutes for response and constitute the common core of the questionnaire. They do not vary very much across years or countries surveyed. Each year some questions are dropped whereas others are brought in. The common core questions are all in English. Some 37 local languages in total are used in interviews. The comparability of the questionnaires is assured although those numbers attached to questions sometimes differ from year to year.

In the following we attempt to classify questions according to the above clusters using the questionnaire of the 2006 survey. See Appendix 2 for the actual phrasing of the question.

- (1) *Living conditions*: This category consists of the questions about public utilities the respondents’ households have (Q1), the level of their living standard (Q8) and the types of residence the respondents reside in (Q42). The questions about family members also belong to this category (Q43 and F7).
- (2) *Patterns of daily and economic life*: The questions in this category are about how frequently the respondents use the Internet and mobile phones (Q2), view Internet web pages (Q2-1), read or write e-mails on computers (Q2-2), and read or write messages on mobile phones (Q2-3). Question 3 asks how internationally the respondents lead their lives.

Another question classified in this category is about one's source of income in case the main breadwinner becomes unable to work (Q16). Another question asks how often the respondents pray or meditate (Q23). Question 35 asks the respondents about what kind of media influences the way they form their opinions about social and political issues. Question 40 asks for the eating patterns of breakfast and evening meals, and Question 41 asks for favorite foods of the respondents.

- (3) *Value priorities*: Question 9 asks about the types of resources and activities the respondents value highly. Question 10 asks what the respondents wish their children to be in the future. Question 15 asks which the respondents value more, fairness or kinship. Question 27 asks the respondents to rate the importance of some kinds of inequality, and Question 28 asks them to rate various benefits of education. Question 32 asks about government spending policy in several areas. Question 44 asks the respondents about the qualities and virtues that children learn at home. Question 45 asks the respondents to rate the importance of some social issues.
- (4) *Subjective quality of life*: The questions that fall in this category ask the extent to which the respondents experience feelings of happiness (Q4), enjoyment (Q5) and achievement (Q6) and ask the extent to which the respondents feel satisfied or dissatisfied with specific aspects of life (Q7).
- (5) *Quality of society*: The kinds of question which belong to this category are about sense of trust in general (Q11, Q12) and sense of community (Q13). Question 14 asks whether the respondents would adopt a child in order to continue their family line. Another question which falls in this category is about how strongly respondents trust several institutions such as the central and local governments, the legal system, the political party, NGOs, the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations (Q29). Question 37 asks about the action the respondents take to speed up a government permission.
- (6) *Identities*: The questions belonging to this category ask about the national identity of the respondents (Q17), – how proud they are of their nationality (Q18), and whether they feel they belong to a transnational group such as Asia (Q19). Question 20 asks the respondents whether they can recite the national anthem by heart. Question 21 is about the identity of social circles or groups such as political parties and religions. A further question asks to which particular religion the respondents belong to (F9).
- (7) *Political consciousness*: A question which falls in this category asks about the respondents' perceptions regarding the influence of some

foreign countries on their own country (Q26). Question 30 asks whether the respondents think a particular policy such as peacekeeping should be decided by domestic governments, by regional organizations such as ASEAN or by the United Nations. Another question in this category asks the respondents about how well they think the national government is dealing with particular issues such as corruption, crime, the economy and the environment (Q31). Question 33 and 34 ask about the voting behavior and the political attitude of the respondents, respectively. Question 38 asks about the types of political system the respondents prefer. Question 39 is about the extent to which the respondents feel satisfied or dissatisfied with several rights. Question 47 asks about some political actions and asks whether the respondents would take them.

- (8) *Views on social issues*: A question in this category asks about gender inequality (Q22). Another question (Q24) asks about the involvement of a religious institution or a religious profession in particular social events. Question 25 asks whether the respondents worry about various issues such as terrorism, crime and economic recession. Question 36 is about normative aspects of economic policy. Question 46 asks how the respondents think about the development of technology and the respect for traditional authority. Question 48 asks whether the respondents think many things happen for no particular reason at all or whether everything happens for a reason. Question 49 asks whether the respondents believe in an unseen spiritual world that can influence events in the world. Question 50 is about corruption, homosexuality and abortion.
- (9) *Demographics*: The questions in this category are about the demographic profile of the respondents such as gender (F1), age (F2), educational attainment (F3), English fluency (F4), marital status (F5), occupation (F6), and household income (F8).

## Sampling Methodology

Speaking of the sampling methodology, the AsiaBarometer survey primarily employs the multistage stratified random sampling technique. The sample sizes are approximately 800 until the 2005 survey but 1,000 after the 2006 survey. The 2008 survey is planning to cover six major countries of, and adjacent to, Asia with a sample size of 1,000, i.e., Japan, China, India, the United States, the Russia Federation, and Australia. The sample size for China is 1,000 in 2004 and 2,000 in 2006. In 2005, the sample sizes of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan were over 1,000. Targeted population was all adults aged 20–59 in 2003 and 2004 and all adults aged 20–69 in 2005 and 2006. An exception is in Bangladesh where all aged from 20 to 59 in 2005

are covered. The survey method is the face-to-face interview except in Japan where the placement method was used in 2003. If interested in the sampling methodology of the AsiaBarometer, the reader is strongly recommended to refer to the field reports in the AsiaBarometer annual survey volumes or the website: <https://www.asiabarometer.org/> for more details.

The surveys are headquartered in Japan and operated by Japanese research companies, Nippon Research Center in 2003, 2006 and 2007 and Shin Joho Center in 2004 and 2005. Then the surveys are commissioned to the domestic research companies in each country, which know more about local languages, culture, custom, tradition and other circumstances in conducting opinion polls.<sup>3</sup> These domestic companies put in tremendous efforts to obtain randomness of sampling and mainly apply multistage (two-stage or more) stratified random sampling. This method can minimize the costs of survey and sampling errors compared to other methods. The method is typically carried out as follows:<sup>4</sup> In stage 1, all municipalities are stratified into several categories based on the size of population. Then, the primary sampling units are allocated proportionate to the population sizes of each category. In stage 2, within each category, the sampling units are randomly chosen with probabilities proportionate to size. In stage 3, a certain number of individuals are systematically chosen. For example, every tenth individual is selected from the resident registration ledger. In stage 4, when such a resident registration ledger is not available, quota sampling is applied. In this method, households are systematically selected, for example, every fifth house is chosen. After that, individuals are randomly or systematically chosen. For example, among the family members, the interviewee is picked up randomly using the Kish Grid or selected systematically using the birthday method in which the person whose birthday comes first after the day of the interview is chosen. The individuals' traits such as gender and age are controlled according to the demographics of the population.

However, some exceptions are inevitable due to limited information, political, time and budget constraints, developing academic research infrastructure and other conditions in some countries. In order to follow the procedure of the multistage stratified random sampling, census information on the population is necessary, but the information may sometimes be unavailable. Alternatively, in China in 2003, eight metropolises – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Xian, Nanjing, Dalian and Qingdao – were chosen in the first stage without stratification. In South Korea, seven metropolitan cities and five provinces were chosen out of sixteen administrative districts. Similarly, a certain number of major municipalities were chosen in the first stage in India, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Myanmar and Sri Lanka in the 2003 survey. In the 2004 survey in China the survey was conducted in the same way. In Vietnam in 2004 only urban samples were used. This is

because the TNS Vietnam applied simple multistage random sampling without stratification, and so the sample drawn may have consisted only of urban or rural areas, although the sampling is random. The same argument holds for Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos where the same company conducted the survey and Malaysia and Brunei where the TNS Malaysia used the same method.

Looking at the 2005 survey, the TNS India conducted the survey only in the capital Thimphu in Bhutan and the capital Kathmandu in Nepal. The TNS Lanka selected 20 districts out of 25 based on statistics and the availability of the urban population. Seven main cities of Uzbekistan were chosen by the RAI Consultants Services Ltd. The capital Male was only surveyed in the Maldives.

As to the 2006 survey, all areas in each country were covered except Korea and Taiwan with only minor exceptions and Vietnam. The sample is thus generally nationwide. The multistage stratified random sampling method was applied in all the countries surveyed except Vietnam.

## **Achievement and Development**

The AsiaBarometer has published research products primarily in academic books and journals in English. It also intends to produce books, articles and TV programs in such Asian languages as Russian (Kazakhstan), Sinhalese (Sri Lanka), Korean, Chinese and Malaysian as well as Japanese. Its first major academic product came out early in 2005. It contains not only country profiles and cross-cultural analyses using the 2003 AsiaBarometer survey data but also tabulated data tables and figures, field report and coding schemes and the raw individual data of all the respondents plus all the English and local language questionnaires contained in CD-ROM.

The idea of publishing the annual survey volume was first suggested in 2003 by Professor Ronald Inglehart of the University of Michigan in Nishinomiya, Japan, where Professor Kazufumi Manabe of Kwansei Gakuin University was leading a symposium on cross-national survey research methodology at that time. Inoguchi gladly picked up this idea and contacted Professor Miguel Basanez, Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico and former President of WAPOR (World Association of Public Opinion Research). A discussion was made about the feasibility of placing research products as well as individual and tabulated survey data into a single volume. Professor Basanez together with Siglo XXI Editores, a Mexican publisher, courageously undertook the task.<sup>5</sup>

The second 2004 AsiaBarometer survey volume has already been published. It focuses on East and Southeast Asia, including Myanmar, Laos,

Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, China, South Korea and Japan. The rich experiences of these first and second surveys successively done in 2003 and in 2004 indeed enabled us to conduct AsiaBarometer surveys in each sub-region, East, Southeast, South and Central, one by one, with larger sample sizes, with a broader nation-wide coverage and with a significantly improved questionnaire in subsequent years. The Japanese version of the 2004 annual volume was published in September, 2007.

An increasing number of country profiles and cross-national studies have been conducted referring to the AsiaBarometer surveys. Using the same classification as in Section “Questionnaire,” the journal articles and newspaper articles based on AsiaBarometer survey data and research products are presented in this section. The numbers of questions listed here are the ones used in the 2006 survey questionnaire.<sup>6</sup> Although the numbers may differ from survey to survey across years or across countries, the content is basically the same. See again Appendix 2 for the actual phrasing of the questions.

- (1) *Living conditions*: Newspaper articles (Asahi Shimbun and Yomiuri Shimbun) in 2003 and 2004 introduce the survey results of Question 8 about the respondents’ standard of living. About thirty percent of Japanese respondents think their living standard is low or relatively low, which is the highest percentage in the 2003 survey.<sup>7</sup> Inoguchi (2004c) and Sonoda (2004) look at the question which asks about the consumption plan of the respondents for durable goods such as cars and air conditioners in the 2003 survey.<sup>8</sup> Referring also to Question 9 in the third category of the 2006 survey and the question from the 2003 survey, which is about the usage plan of several services,<sup>9</sup> Sonoda (2004) discusses the different ways of thinking between the young Chinese and Japanese people.
- (2) *Patterns of daily and economic life*: Newspaper articles (Asahi Shimbun and Yomiuri Shimbun) in 2003 and 2004 report the survey results for Question 3 and state that the percentages of the respondents who have foreign friends are higher in Vietnam and Sri Lanka, which are about 20%, than Japan, which is about 10%.<sup>10</sup> In China and Vietnam, the respondents more frequently communicate with foreign people via the Internet or e-mail than in Japan which scores the ninth out of ten countries. Sonoda (2005a) states that the 2004 AsiaBarometer Survey data uncover two different images about urban new middle classes in East Asia.<sup>11</sup> Sonoda shows that the urban new middle classes tend to bond or connect, referring to questions 2 and 3. Urban new middle classes are more exposed and connected to international scenes than working

classes.<sup>12</sup> However, once looking into values each individual has, heterogeneity between countries or separation rather than homogeneity between classes immediately comes out. What he thinks of as important for the future of the AsiaBarometer project is to examine how these two different images of connection and separation change over time by accumulating time series data.

Inoguchi (2007a) analyzes the clash of values at the individual level across civilizations on such topics as religion, regional identity, social capital, globalization and happiness and cites the seminal work on religiosity using the AsiaBarometer survey data done by Reed in 2006.<sup>13</sup> Reed used Question 23 and Question 24 about religion.<sup>14</sup> What is important is that these questions are free from Western and Christian biases, which is an indispensable prerequisite for cross-cultural analysis for Asia. Reed found that traditions are not so different that they cannot be fruitfully compared, which makes these neutral questions even more attractive. Reed also found that religiosity is not a unidimensional phenomenon. Since Asia is diverse and contains many civilizations, the clash of values across civilizations may appear.

- (3) *Value priorities*: Dadabaev (2005) looks at Question 9 which asks about the types of resources and activities the respondents value highly and Question 21 which asks the respondents about what social circles and groups are important to them.<sup>15</sup> Generally speaking, there are some similarities about social units that people think are important and desire among Asian countries. Asian citizens seem to value health higher than job and family.

Inoguchi (2007d) introduces the survey results for Question 10 which asks the respondents what they wish their children to be. In Myanmar, India, China and Uzbekistan, parents would tend to wish their children to be a great scholar, very wealthy or a loving and charitable person, while the Japanese parents wish their children, especially their daughter, to be a person who cares about family. The parents of other Asian countries also wish their children to be a great scholar, while in Japan such parents would be rare. Inoguchi (2007d) states that Japanese parents seem not to care whether their children are ambitious or whether they have dreams to become a great figure.

- (4) *Subjective quality of life*: Newspaper articles (Yomiuri Shimbun) in 2003 report the 2003 survey results for Question 7 about satisfaction.<sup>16</sup> It seems that the Japanese people tend to be more dissatisfied with several aspects of life such as jobs, education and the democratic system than other countries. A chapter in the 2004 AsiaBarometer Survey annual volume about satisfaction from the perspective of social capital by



Inoguchi and Hotta shows that the higher the level of religiosity, the higher the satisfaction and that the higher the per capita income level, the lower the level of satisfaction. Inoguchi (2007a) states that it seems that the impact of income on happiness declines as gross national product per capita increases. Beyond a certain threshold of economic development, lifestyle seems to determine the degree of happiness.

Regarding the relationship between income and happiness, Dadabaev (2005) uses the AsiaBarometer 2003 Survey and states that the extent to which people feel happy is not congruent with modernization. That is, the extent to which people feel happy is not so high in modernized and post-modernized countries in Asia. On the contrary, the extent to which people feel satisfied and happy is high in developing countries in Asia. Saravanamuttu (2006) says overall personal satisfaction is clearly higher in the less developed democracies, referring to Question 7. Some argue that economic development improves people's standard of living in a society, which raises the level of happiness people feel and stabilizes their livelihood. However, Dadabaev (2005) states that the AsiaBarometer Survey 2003 proves such an argument does not hold. Economic development doesn't necessarily enrich human lives because economic development may cause inflation and increase the burden on citizens. As income increases along with the development of the economy, people may seek and desire for an even better life. A rapid development of the economy may change the human beliefs and values and even damage human relationships or morals.

The chapter in the 2004 Asiabarometer Survey volume by Manabe found that the notion that "satisfaction is cognitive" is not necessarily valid, while "intricacies of mind" in the form of "affect based on cognitive" or "cognition directed by mind" would rather hold. In this chapter he considers the methodological aspects of measuring the level of happiness and satisfaction. He showed some hypotheses developed in previous studies based on observations or surveys conducted primarily in Europe and the United States are also applicable in Asia, but others are not. "Socioeconomic factors" and "cultural factors" in each country may account for those cases in which hypotheses were not supported by the Asian data. In addition, various hypotheses have already been developed regarding the cultural differences in the meaning of happiness and satisfaction, and his analyses made several important suggestions based on those hypotheses. The greatest challenge for the future is how the mechanisms governing the involvement of those factors can be tested and how those various hypotheses can be tested (Manabe; Chapter 15 in the 2004 AsiaBarometer Survey volume).



- (5) *Quality of society*: Inoguchi (2004a) analyzes questions 11, 12 and 13 about trust, and questions 14, 15 and 16 that measure the width of trust, and Question 22 which measures the breadth of trust in terms of gender, applying principle component analysis and hierarchical cluster analysis.<sup>17</sup> Using the factor analysis of the pooled data, Inoguchi (2004a) found the three dimensions: (1) general trust in interpersonal relations, (2) trust in meritocracy and mutual utility, and (3) trust in the society/system. Asian countries are shown clustered along these three dimensions, which indicate that the three dimensions are highly flavored by cultural heritage. His findings are also consistent with other research papers. Inoguchi (2004a) then argues that these three dimensions would be proxy for the three major dimensions of social capital: fairness, utility and institutions.

Dadabaev (2005), on the other hand, points out that there is a relationship between mistrust of politics and distrust of society. When citizens do not trust each other, there is a high mistrust in politics in that society. And in most of the Asian societies, people tend not to trust each other and not to rely on social systems. As economic conditions improve, social relationships tend to become poorer in Asia. Dadabaev (2005) argues that a rapid process of development sometimes changes values and ways of thinking of citizens. It may ruin the traditional social structure and strengthen individualism. As a result, mutual trust in families and societies becomes weak, and belief and reliance on other members of the society, state, and politicians vanish. Economic development brings about the improvement of income level, but it does not enhance social stability and sense of security. The AsiaBarometer projects that reveal and uncover these points are necessary for creating policies to achieve both economic development and stability of society in order to improve peoples' lives (Dadabaev 2005).

A Korean newspaper in 2003 reports that 21% of Korean respondents and 15% of the Japanese respondents trust the central governments, while the figures are higher in China (91%), in Malaysia (88%), in Thailand (84%) and in India (75%). Hosono (2006) considers why the Japanese and Korean people tend not to trust their central and local governments. He argues that when regulation and system of law do not play sufficient roles as the market develops to a very sophisticated level, people tend to distrust the government. The fact that macroeconomic policies do not perform well in these two countries would be another reason.

Inoguchi (2007b) worries about the Japanese society causing such problems as violence in schools and assault in trains, looking at the

research findings of Question 13, which show that the percentage of the Japanese respondents who would stop to help if they saw somebody on the street looking lost is the lowest in the 2003 survey.<sup>18</sup> A newspaper article (Yomiuri Shimbun) in 2003 reports the same result. Inoguchi (2006a, b) argues that the Japanese people may be losing the law-abiding spirit, sense of morality, justice, and community, referring to the survey results of Question 13 and Question 37.

Newton (2006) examines political support in Finland, Sweden, New Zealand and Japan and cites the research outcome for Question 29, which is about the level of trust of citizens for such institutions as domestic governments, the legal system, the police and international organizations such as the United Nations and the WTO. Examining Question 29 about the degree of trust for the United Nations and IMF, Fukushima (2005a, b) argues that East Asian countries have some confidence in these international institutions, but it would not be high enough to lead to the East Asian Community.

Kawato (2005) points out that as industrialized societies, the four East Asian countries – Japan, South Korea, China and Vietnam – share some common features in lifestyles and mindsets of their citizens. However, it is also true that they are somewhat suspicious of each other and have a different outlook since they have experienced different paces of development. Kawato (2005) looks at the survey results of Question 8 (Q6 in 2003), Question 11 (Q9 in 2003), Question 19 (Q16 in 2003), Question 21 (Q17 in 2003), Question 26 (Q20 in 2003), and Question 29 (Q21 in 2003).<sup>19</sup>

- (6) *Identities*: Inoguchi (2004b) talks about the research outcomes of Question 17 and Question 19 and the identities of the Chinese and the Japanese people when he discusses the future roles the two countries can play in the world. An Australian newspaper in 2006 reports the survey results of Question 18 concerning the pride respondents take in their nationality and the fact that Japanese (26%) and South Koreans (15%) are least proud of their nationality, compared to the Thais (95%), Indonesians (85%) and Malaysians (72%).<sup>20</sup> Some other newspapers in Japan in 2003 cite the survey results of the same question from a different year's survey, which shows that 65% of the Japanese respondents are proud of being Japanese citizens, which is the lowest score of the surveyed countries in that year.

Speaking of the regional identity, a newspaper in 2003 reported the 2003 survey result for Question 19 that the Japanese (26.9%) and especially the Chinese (6%) tend not to see themselves as Asian.<sup>21</sup> Inoguchi (2007a) refers to the AsiaBarometer Survey results in 2003 and 2004

showing that some strong regional identity in Asia exists such as in Cambodia and the Philippines. Moderate regional identity appears in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Japanese tend to think of themselves first as an industrial democracy of the G8 and a good ally of the United States and only secondarily as a country of Asia, while the Chinese may envisage their traditional tributary system as restored. The Indians (15%) may think that regional governance is India's task along with some regional organizations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Yamamoto (2007) observes that while the Vietnamese have a strong national identity, they also have a regional/local identity and a transnational identity of being Asian.

- (7) *Political consciousness*: Saravanamuttu (2006) considers the paradox in which modernization comes much earlier than democratization in Asia, although historically speaking the two have developed concurrently as in Europe and North America. There is no necessary automatic correspondence between modernization and the development of a vibrant civil society. But he argues that democratization rests with developing a vibrant civil society and finds that a couple of survey research outcomes show an affective and lively appetite for democracy on the part of citizens in Asia, indicating that modernization may have become the midwife of democratization. The chapters by Saravanamuttu, Kumar and Abeyratne in the 2003 AsiaBarometer Survey annual volume argue that many of newly developing South and Southeast Asian countries show high affective orientation towards democratic norms, while the chapters written by T. Dadabaev and M. Shin argue that Japan and Korea reveal a level of lower affective orientation. In the latter countries, there seems to be a high level of belief that political actions are meaningful and a high trust in electoral mechanisms and procedural aspects of democracy.

A question Saravanamuttu (2006) cites is Question 38 about respondents' sentiments toward a political system.<sup>22</sup> The research outcome shows highest support for a democratic political system in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, China and Thailand in this order. The research findings for Question 33 about voting behavior reveal that the highest positive responses towards voting in national elections are found in Sri Lanka (82%), Thailand (78%), India (72%), Vietnam (65%) and Malaysia (62%). Japan (43%) scores lower than Korea (53%).<sup>23</sup> Another question he refers to is Question 29 about trust in institutions.<sup>24</sup> Respondents in the more developed countries (Japan and South Korea) tend to show a distinctly low level of trust in public institutions while in the more authoritarian states (Malaysia), trust levels are rather high. A higher preference for a powerful leader without restriction is found in South Korea

and Japan compared with other Asian countries in the AsiaBarometer survey. Saravanamuttu then states that the less mature democracies of Southeast Asia along with established political authoritarian structures have produced citizens who are less critical of established political institutions. Political awareness and political sophistication become less important with the rise of the middle class with its strong consumerist tendencies.

Using the survey result of Question 26, Inoguchi (2007c) considers how Japan, China and India think about the influences of the other countries and the United States upon their own country. India sees the influences of these countries most positively, while the percentages of the Japanese and the Chinese respondents who see a positive influence of the United States and the others are much smaller. A similar analysis done by Tanaka (2007a, b) argues that one of the major problems facing the Japanese foreign policy is how to improve the relationship with its immediate neighbors since the percentage of respondents who think that Japan has a good influence on their countries is the lowest in China and South Korea in that order. The difference between the percentages of respondents who think that Japan has a good influence and the respondents who think it has a bad influence is also low and sometimes negative in those countries. Within Japan, the rankings of China, South Korea, North Korea and Russia are low. On the other hand, he found that the percentages of the respondents who value Japan highly are larger in Southeast and South Asian countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Afghanistan and Nepal. Based on these findings, Kinoshita (2005) suggests that Japan can have more confidence and aim for a simultaneous pursuit of a Japan-US Security Treaty and the East Asian Community as the Japanese foreign policy.

Tanaka (2006b) also finds the Chinese people who live inland and with low income do not think that Japan has a good influence on them compared to the Chinese people who live on the coast and with high income and suggests that the Japanese government set foreign policy which appeals to the former group. Inoguchi (2007e) raises the issue about the difference between the view towards the US at the grassroots level and the government level. Anti-American sentiment among the Japanese people lies with a widespread perception of the negative effect of the United States on the Japanese economy. Japan is building on the independent view of avoiding the traditional hierarchical relations within the Asian region while Japan continues to nurture close relationships with the United States and Europe, which illustrates pursuing cooperation among Japan, China, India and other major players in Asia in an era of globalization.

Sonoda (2005b) claims that we should not think that the young Chinese people have more of an anti-Japan sentiment than the other groups in China due to education strengthening nationalism. The survey results of Question 26 show that 29.7% of the Chinese respondents think Japan has a good or a rather good influence on China, 38.9% of the respondents think Japan has a bad or a rather bad influence, and 30.4% replied don't know, which might mean many Chinese people are thinking Japan has a bad influence.<sup>25</sup> However, the results are based on the entire sample of the Chinese respondents, and by using only the sample of the young respondents, the results reverse. The percentages become 31.7%, 27.2% and 26.5% respectively. It would not follow that patriotism education forms the anti-Japan sentiment among the young. Sonoda argues that we should not easily generalize that China doesn't value Japan when we see an anti-Japan demonstration in China. Tanaka (2006a) confirms this point. Tanaka argues that age groups do not matter greatly when discussing the good or bad influence of Japan on China. The effect of age on the respondents' perception is not statistically significant.

Yamamoto (2007) states that the Vietnamese have good images of countries such as Russia, Japan, China, and South Korea, that they have a bad image of the United States, and that they have both good and bad images of China, reflecting probably the history between Vietnam and the other countries. Yamamoto also shows that the Vietnamese have remarkably higher concern about environmental pollution.

- (8) *Views on social issues*: Citing results for Question 22 in the same year as the 2003 survey, a newspaper reports that 78 percent of the Japanese respondents think men are treated more favorably than women, which is above the overall average (48%).<sup>26</sup>

Useful caveats in conducting the future AsiaBarometer surveys come from Sonoda's chapter in the 2003 AsiaBarometer annual volume, Kawato (2006a, b) and Dadabaev (2005). Sonoda states that questions which ask whether the respondent is functionary need to be included when the survey analyzes the problems of Socialism or single-party dictatorship. Kawato considers the situation in which the respondents may answer differently depending on whether they have political, economic and cultural aspects in mind when they reply to the question of the influence of other countries on their own country. While others suggest using the same questions from survey to survey, Kawato thinks it interesting to ask different questions from year to year because Asia is changing fast. Dadabaev points out the problem about the sampling for the 2003 survey, which covers sufficient urban areas but insufficient rural areas. Dadabaev also points out a difficulty associated with questions that ask if the respondents have friends or relatives in foreign countries. Since some people in Central Asia or the former Soviet Union

do not recognize others as foreigners, there needs to be clear definition of “foreigner,” which may variously refer to a person who lives outside the country or to a person who lives inside the country but belongs to a minor ethnic group.

Inoguchi (2007d) suggests that any social survey should keep in mind that the respondents are more likely to answer that they trust their own government in an authoritarian regime since the respondents simply cannot criticize the government in such a country. Analyzing the opinion survey data needs to take into account social and political circumstances, standards of living and level of education of the respondents. Inoguchi (2007a) states that the questions about happiness and satisfaction to indicate the respondents’ satisfaction with the regime must be played safe. It is important to note that the response of happiness and satisfaction has a lot to do with the degree of freedom the regime accords to the society. Sonoda (2006) suggests inviting questions from the public both domestically and internationally. Sonoda also points out that there seems to be a lack of capacity to analyze data such as the AsiaBarometer survey data using sophisticated techniques in Asia, and that some action is needed to remedy this problem.

Not only in an academic arena, but also in daily life ordinary Japanese people have talked about the AsiaBarometer survey results reported in newspapers. Several dialogues and comments on the survey results appear on electronic bulletin board systems and weblogs through the Internet.

In addition, the AsiaBarometer survey results are discussed in the legislature of Japan and used as a reference for the government decision making. The AsiaBarometer project has been conducting empirical analyses systematically based on the collected survey data on the daily lives of ordinary people in Asia, their dreams, their ambitions, their worries and their complaints. However, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Asia Development Bank and ODA donor countries have not designed development plans based on such analyses and left it completely to the recipient countries. As a result, the subsidy is spent in vain without paying any attention to what local citizens really need (Inoguchi, 2007f).

The annual publications of the AsiaBarometer project are as follows:

Inoguchi, Takashi, Miguel Basanez, Akihiko Tanaka and Timur Dadabaev, eds., *Values and Life Styles in Urban Asia: A Cross-Cultural Analysis and Sourcebook Based on the AsiaBarometer Survey of 2003*, with Foreword by Ronald Inglehart, Mexico City: Siglo XXI Editors, 2005.

Inoguchi, Takashi, Miguel Basanez, Akihiko Tanaka and Timur Dadabaev, eds., *Values and Life Styles in Urban Asia: A Cross-Cultural Analysis and Sourcebook Based on the AsiaBarometer Survey of*

2003, with Foreword by Ronald Inglehart, (Translated in Japanese), Tokyo: Akashi Shoten, 2005.

Inoguchi, Takashi, Akihiko Tanaka and Shigeto Sonoda and Timur Dadabaev, eds., *Human Beliefs and Values in Striding Asia: East Asia in Focus: Country Profiles, Thematic Analyses and Sourcebook based on the AsiaBarometer Survey of 2004*, with Foreword by Peter Katzenstein, Tokyo: Akashi Shoten, 2006.

The 2003 AsiaBarometer Survey Annual Volume consists of eleven country-profile chapters followed by a cross-cultural analysis and the source book (see Table 1).

**Table 1** Contents of the 2003 AsiaBarometer survey annual volume

Chapter	Author	Title
Introduction	Takashi Inoguchi	AsiaBarometer: Its Aim, Its Scope and Its Strength.
1	Takashi Inoguchi and Timur Dadabaev	Measuring Social Capital and Household Welfare in Asia: An Introduction to the Problems and Issues.
Regional Case Studies: East Asia		
2	Timur Dadabaev	<b>Japan:</b> Family, Values and Interest.
3	Dingping Guo	<b>China:</b> Rising Expectations, Incremental Reforms and Good Governance.
4	Myungsun Shin	<b>Korea:</b> Citizens' Trust in Public Institutions.
Regional Case Studies: Southeast Asia		
5	Chaiwat Khamchoo and Aaron Stern	<b>Thailand:</b> Primacy of Prosperity in Democracy.
6	Johan Saravanamuttu	<b>Malaysia:</b> The Middle Class Identity in a Multicultural Democracy.
7	Shigeto Sonoda	<b>Vietnam:</b> Social Life under Development and Globalization.
8	Myat Thein	<b>Myanmar:</b> Living Conditions Today.
Regional Case Studies: South Asia		
9	Sanjay Kumar	<b>India:</b> The Middle Class in Urban India.
10	Sirimal Abeyratne	<b>Sri Lanka:</b> Urban Life and Living Conditions.
11	Timur Dadabaev	<b>Uzbekistan:</b> Post-Soviet Realities.
Cross-Cultural Observations		
12	Takashi Inoguchi	Social Capital in Ten Asian Societies: Is Social Capital a Good Concept to Gauge Democratic, Developmental and Regionalizing Trends in Asia?

Source Book: Field report, Questionnaire, Tables and figures, Links, and Index of Questionnaire.



**Table 2** Contents of the 2004 AsiaBarometer survey annual volume

Chapter	Author	Title
	Peter Katzenstein Takashi Inoguchi	Foreword Preface
<b>PART I Country Profile Analysis</b>		
Introduction	Takashi Inoguchi	Human Beliefs and Values in Striding Asia: The AsiaBarometer Survey of 2004.
1	Timur Dadabaev and Akihiko Tanaka	<b>Japan:</b> Urban Values and Life Styles.
2	Daesong Hyun	<b>Korea:</b> Lives and Civic Virtue in Transition.
3	Dingping Guo	<b>China:</b> The Evaluation of the Material and Mental Foundations for a Harmonious Society.
4	Do Manh Hong	<b>Vietnam:</b> Economic Development and Improvement of Living Standard.
5	Myat Thein	<b>Myanmar:</b> Life and Well-Being from a Comparative Sociocultural Perspective.
6	Boulouance Douangeune	<b>Laos:</b> Lao Society As It Is.
7	Kheang Un	<b>Cambodia:</b> Beliefs and Perceptions in a Postconflict Society.
8	Chaiwat Khamchoo and Aaron Stern	<b>Thailand:</b> Democracy and the Power of a Popular Leader.
9	Johan Saravanamuttu	<b>Malaysia:</b> High Satisfaction and Political Conservatism.
10	Shigeto Sonoda	<b>Singapore:</b> A Globalized Social Life under Soft Authoritarian Rule.
11	Pratikno and I Ketut Putra Erawan	<b>Indonesia:</b> The Paradox of Change.
12	Lydia N. Yu-Jose	<b>Philippines:</b> Political Mood and Socioeconomic Timbre.
13	Hj Hamzah Sulaiman and Zen-U Lucian Hotta	<b>Brunei:</b> The Living Conditions, Preferences and Concerns.
<b>PART II Cross-Cultural Thematic Analysis</b>		
14	Takashi Inoguchi and Zen-U Lucian Hotta	Quantifying Satisfaction: The Case of Urban ASEAN+3 in AsiaBarometer 2004.
15	Kazufumi Manabe	The Culture of Happiness and Satisfaction in Asia.
16	Takashi Inoguchi and Kensuke Okada	How Would You Like to See Your Son and Daughter Grow Up?
17	Matthew Carlson	Citizens' Evaluations of Political Rights in Asia.
18	Akiko Fukushima and Misa Okabe	Finding a Path toward Regional Integration in East Asia.
<b>PART III AsiaBarometer Sourcebook</b>		
		Field Reports, Questionnaire, Tables and Figures, and Index of Questionnaire.



**Table 3** Contents of the forthcoming 2005 AsiaBarometer survey annual volume

Chapter	Country report on	Author	Title
1	Bangladesh	Takashi Inoguchi	Introduction
2	Bhutan	Imtiaz Ahmed Dorji Penjore	From "International Basket Case" to a Basketful of Hope and Desire. Swimming in the Tide of Globalization: Bhutan as Seen Through the Life of a Bhutanese in Thimphu.
3	India	Sanjay Kumar	Change and Continuity among Urban Indian Families.
4	Pakistan	Faisal Bari	Institutional Underdevelopment Underperformance and Reliance on Private Trust Networks: Pakistan Through the AsiaBarometer Survey.
5	Maldives	Purmendra Jain	Maldives at a Political and Economic Crossroad.
6	Nepal	Krishna Hachhethu	Nepali Society and Politics: Conflict and Change.
7	Sri Lanka	Sirimal Abeyratne	Regional Discontent of Development Disparities.
8	Afghanistan	Mohammad Jamshed Khan	The Lives of Ordinary Afghans.
9	Kazakhstan	Nargis Kassenova	Rich in Natural Resources, Poor in Social Capital.
10	Kyrgyzstan	Temirjan Moldogaziev	Making Difficult Choices: Nation-State Building or Democratization? Conflicting Logics in Kyrgyz's Transition.
11	Mongolia	Turtogtoth Janar	Daily Lifestyle and Political Attitudes of Ordinary Mongolians.
12	Tajikistan	Muzaffardjon Khudoikulov	Bridge Between North and South.
13	Turkmenistan	Timur Dadabaev	Trajectories and Public Choices of Political, Economic, and Social Development in Turkmenistan.
14	Uzbekistan	Timur Dadabaev	How Does Transition Work in Central Asia? Coping with Ideological, Economic and Value System Changes in Uzbekistan.

Chen (2006) states that this book makes an important contribution to the comparative scholarship on Asia. It would be the first time that scholars and students of individual Asian countries have access to a set of largely comparative statistical profiles of daily lives and values of ten societies in one volume, especially the less quantitatively studied societies like Myanmar and Uzbekistan. This book largely succeeds in bringing together a team of researchers, most of whom are indigenous to the countries studied, who have put together a wealth of information from a timely source on a diverse group of Asian countries.

The 2004 AsiaBarometer Survey Annual Volume consists of three parts: Country profile analysis is presented in chapters 1 through 13, cross-cultural thematic analysis in chapters 14 through 18, followed by the source book (see Table 2).

The forthcoming 2005 AsiaBarometer Survey Annual Volume will consist of fourteen chapters. The first eight chapters deal with South Asia. Further chapters report on Central Asia. The authors and titles of the various chapters are shown in Table 3.

This section has examined mainly published research papers and newspaper articles using the AsiaBarometer survey results and data. Section "Bibliography" below also lists journal articles, newspaper articles and the other types of publications based on the AsiaBarometer survey results and data or referring to the survey. As we saw, a large number of research papers concerning cross-national analysis discuss and analyze the questions of the survey thoroughly and substantially and suggest useful policy implications, although those studies tend to concentrate on the questions in the categories of values and norms associated with social behavior, identities, and views on social and political issues and institutions. Questions about sense of trust and perceptions of the influence of other countries are especially widely analyzed. Researchers also provide suggestions to improve the research methods of the AsiaBarometer survey. The AsiaBarometer research outcomes are also discussed in the daily lives by ordinary people and in the Japanese parliament by politicians.

## Conclusion

This paper describes the research design, aim, scope, rationale, development and achievement of the AsiaBarometer opinion survey project for the region of Asia from its birth in 2002 to date. Although analyses tend to center around some of the questions, deep and thoughtful analyses of Asia's developmental, democratizing and regionalizing potentials have emerged

using the AsiaBarometer's solid empirical multi-country data bases in Asia. Some of the research papers suggest fruitful policy implications, and the fact that the AsiaBarometer survey results are referred to in the legislature in Japan is noteworthy and makes the project even more promising. In addition, we have noticed that the ordinary Japanese people talk about the survey results reported in newspaper articles on the Internet. This is what Inoguchi and his colleagues had expected to see when further developing the AsiaBarometer project. With the significant amount of literature published on the AsiaBarometer and the usage and applications of its survey results and data, the authors are convinced that the AsiaBarometer is on a promising track to fulfill its aims.

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## Appendix 1: Societies and Year(s) in which the AsiaBarometer Survey was Conducted

	Society	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	Afghanistan			O		
2	Bangladesh			O		
3	Bhutan			O		
4	Brunei		O			
5	Cambodia		O			O
6	China	O	O		O	
7	Hong Kong				O	
8	India	O		O		
9	Indonesia		O			O
10	Japan	O	O		O	
11	Kazakhstan			O		
12	Kyrgyzstan			O		
13	Korea (South)	O	O		O	
14	Laos		O			O
15	Malaysia	O	O			O
16	Maldives			O		
17	Mongolia			O		
18	Myanmar	O	O			O

**Appendix 1:** (continued)

	Society	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
19	Nepal			O		
20	Pakistan			O		
21	The Philippines		O			O
22	Singapore		O		O	
23	Sri Lanka	O		O		
24	Taiwan				O	
25	Tajikistan			O		
26	Thailand	O	O			O
27	Turkmenistan			O		
28	Uzbekistan	O		O		
29	Vietnam	O	O		O	

## Appendix 2: Condensed Questionnaire from the 2006 AsiaBarometer Survey<sup>27</sup>

- Q1:** Which of the following public utilities does your household have?
- Q2:** Please indicate how frequently you use the Internet and mobile phones.
- Q2-1:** How often do you view Internet web pages by computer?
- Q2-2:** How often do you read or write e-mails by computer?
- Q2-3:** How often do you read or write messages by mobile phone?
- Q3:** Which, if any, of the following statements apply to you? Choices are: A member of my family or a relative lives in another country; I have traveled abroad at least three times in the past three years, on holiday or for business purposes; I have friends from another country who are in [YOUR COUNTRY]; I often watch foreign-produced programs on TV; I often communicate with people in other countries via the Internet or email; My job involves contact with organizations or people in other countries; None of the above.
- Q4:** All things considered, would you say that you are happy these days?
- Q5:** How often do you feel you are really enjoying life these days?
- Q6:** How much do you feel you are accomplishing what you want out of your life?
- Q7:** Please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following aspects of your life? Housing; Friendship; Marriage; Standard of living; Household income; Health; Education; Job; Neighbors; Public safety; The condition of the environment; Social welfare system; The democratic system; Family life; Leisure; Spiritual life.

- Q8:** How would you describe your standard of living?
- Q9:** Of the following lifestyle aspects or life circumstances, please select five that are important to you: Having enough to eat; Having a comfortable home; Being healthy; Having access to good medical care if required; Being able to live without fear of crime; Having a job; Having access to higher education (beyond compulsory education); Owning lots of nice things; Earning a high income; Spending time with your family; Being on good terms with others; Being successful at work; Being famous; Enjoying a pastime; Appreciating art and culture; Dressing up; Winning over others; Expressing your personality or using your talents; Contributing to your local community or to society; Being devout; Raising children; Freedom of expression and association; Living in a country with a good government; Pleasant community to live in; Safe and clean environment; None of the above.
- Q10:** How would you like to see your son(s) and daughter(s) grow up? Of the following accomplishments, please select what you would wish for a daughter, and what you would wish for a son: Become a great scholar; Become a powerful political leader; Become very wealthy; Become a loving and charitable person; Become a person respected by the masses; Become more proficient in a profession than I am; Follow in my footsteps; Become a person who cares about family; Find a good marriage partner; Become fulfilled spiritually; None of the above.
- Q11:** Generally, do you think people can be trusted or do you think that you can't be too careful in dealing with people (that it pays to be wary of people)?
- Q12:** Do you think that people generally try to be helpful or do you think that they mostly look out for themselves?
- Q13:** If you saw somebody on the street looking lost, would you stop to help?
- Q14:** If you had no descendants, would you think it desirable to adopt somebody in order to continue the family line, even if there were no blood relationship? Or do you think this would be unnecessary?
- Q15:** Suppose that you are the president of a company. In the company's employment examination, a relative of yours got the second highest grade, scoring only marginally less than the candidate with the highest grade. In such a case, which person would you employ?
- Q16:** If the main breadwinner of your household should die or become unable to work due to illness, how would your household maintain the household budget? The choices are: Another adult member of the family would become the main breadwinner; Would send one or

more of the children out to work; Would get support from relatives; Would get support from neighbors; Would get support from members of my religious group; Would get social welfare payments; Depend on retirement allowance; Have an insurance policy to cover such a situation; Other.

**Q17:** Throughout the world many people identify themselves by their nationality. For example, Korean, Indian, Chinese, etc. Do you think of yourself as being [YOUR COUNTRY'S PEOPLE], or do you not think of yourself in this way?

**Q18:** How proud are you of being [YOUR COUNTRY'S PEOPLE]?

**Q19:** Throughout the world, some people also see themselves as belonging to a transnational group (such as Asian, people of Chinese ethnicity, people who speak the same language or practise the same religion). Do you identify with any transnational group? The choices are: Asia; Ethnic group that has common genealogy or ancestry; Language group that I speak; Religious group that I believe in and practise; Other transnational identity (Please specify); No, I don't identify particularly with any transnational group.

**Q20:** Can you recite the national anthem by heart?

**Q21:** Which of the following social circles or groups are important to you? Of those, which one is the most important to you? The choices are: Family; Relatives; Place of work; Club, hobby circle, etc.; The school/university you attended; The area where you grew up; People who speak the same language or dialect as you; Neighbors; Agricultural cooperative, commercial cooperative or industry group; Labour union; Political party; Religion; Other (Please specify).

**Q22:** Do you think that on the whole men and women are treated equally in your country?

**Q23:** How often do you pray or meditate?

**Q24:** For each of the following events, please rate the importance of having a religious institution (such as mosque, church, temple, and shrine) or a religious professional (such as imam, priest, and monk) involved. The choices are: Births; Weddings; Festivals or holidays; Funerals.

**Q25:** Which, if any, of the following issues cause you great worry? The choices are: Poverty; Economic inequality in your society; Fair world trade; Terrorism; Environmental destruction/pollution/problems relating to natural resources; Wars and conflicts; Natural disasters; Nuclear disasters; Globalization of human economic activities; Health issues; Economic problems in your country; Global recession; Crime; Human rights; Corruption; Lack of democracy; Illegal drugs and drug

addiction; Refugee and asylum problems; Unemployment; Education; The socio-welfare system in your country; Ethics of scientists (ethics in science); The aging of society (growing relative weight of senior citizens); The decline in birthrate; The fast pace of change/technology is advancing too quickly; The threat of corporate power dominates human activities; Religious fundamentalism; Overpopulation; Moral decline/spiritual decadence; Other (Please specify).

**Q26:** Do you think the following countries – China, Japan, India, USA, UK, Russia, Pakistan, South Korea, North Korea, Iran, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Australia – have a good influence or a bad influence on your country?

**Q27:** Any society has some kinds of inequality. In which of the following areas do you think equality should be most eagerly promoted in your society. The choices are: Gender; Age; Education; Occupation; Income/Wealth; Religion; Descent; Ethnicity; Other (Please specify).

**Q28:** In your opinion, what are benefits of education? Develops your humanity; Enables you to obtain a job of your choice; Enables you to earn more money; Enables you to live in another country; Enables you to gain higher social status; Contributes to the development and prosperity of your country; Enables you to contribute to your society; Enables you to work internationally; Other (Please specify).

**Q29:** Please indicate to what extent you trust the following institutions to operate in the best interests of society: The central government; Your local government; The army; The legal system; The police; Parliament, Congress; The political party; The public education system; The public health system; Large domestic companies; Multinational companies operating in [YOUR COUNTRY]; Trade unions/labor unions; The media; Non-government organizations (e.g. environmental, social advocacy groups or other non-profit organizations); Religious organizations; The United Nations; The World Trade Organization; The World Bank; The International Monetary Fund.

**Q30:** Of the following issues – Peacekeeping, Protection of the environment, Aid to developing countries, Refugees and Human rights, would you tell me whether you think that policies in this area should be decided by the national governments, by regional organizations (such as ASEAN and APEC), or the United Nations?

**Q31:** How well do you think the [YOUR COUNTRY'S] government is dealing with the following issues? The economy; Political corruption; Human rights; Unemployment; Crime; The quality of public services; Increase of immigrants; Ethnic conflict; Religious conflict; Environmental problems.

- Q32:** Please indicate whether you would like to see more or less government spending in each of the following areas. Please bear in mind that more spending may require a tax increase. The environment; Health; Policing and law enforcement; Education; The military and defense; Old-age pensions; Unemployment benefits; Public transport, telecommunications infrastructure; Culture and the arts; Improvement of the social status of women.
- Q33:** How often do you vote in each of the national elections and local elections?
- Q34:** Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement: Citizens have a duty to vote in elections; There is widespread corruption among those who govern the country; Generally speaking, people like me don't have the power to influence government policy or actions; Politics and government are so complicated that sometimes I don't understand what's happening; Since so many people vote in elections, it really doesn't matter whether I vote or not; Generally speaking, the people who are elected to the [NATIONAL PARLIAMENT] stop thinking about the public once they're elected; Government officials pay little attention to what citizens like me think; [YOUR COUNTRY'S] traditional culture is superior to that of other countries; [YOUR COUNTRY'S] government should emphasize patriotic education to breed patriotism.
- Q35:** When you shape your opinions about social and political issues, which of the following media influence your opinions most? TV programs; TV advertisements; Radio programs; Radio advertisements; Newspaper articles; Newspaper advertisements; Magazine articles; Magazine advertisements; Books; Internet news; Internet bulletin boards/Mailing news; Internet advertisements; Leaflets/Brochures; Conversation with friends and neighbors; Conversation with campaigners; Meetings/Conferences; Other.
- Q36:** Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement: Central government should restrict the inflow of foreign workforce to protect domestic people's interests; Women's employment should be promoted to attain gender equality; It is desirable that the people are equal, even if the economy is stagnant, rather than unequal but developing; It is natural that those who work harder get more money.
- Q37:** What should a person who needs a government permit do if the response of the official handling the application is: "just be patient and wait"? Use connections to obtain permit; Nothing can be done; Wait and hope that things will work out; Write a letter; Act without a permit; Bribe an official; Don't know.



- Q38:** Please indicate for each system whether you think it would be very good, fairly good or bad for this country: Governance by a powerful leader without the restriction of parliament or elections; A system whereby decisions affecting the country are made by experts (such as bureaucrats with expertise in a particular field) according to what they think is best for the country; Military government; A domestic political system.
- Q39:** How satisfied are you with the current scope of the following rights in [YOUR COUNTRY]? The right to vote; The right to gather and demonstrate; The right to be informed about the work and functions of government; Freedom of speech; The right to criticize the government.
- Q40:** Please indicate your usual eating patterns for breakfast and the evening meal of the following eating styles: I eat food cooked at home; I buy ready meals in a shop, or food cooked in a restaurant or at an outdoor stall; I eat instant food at home; I eat out in restaurants; I eat out at food stalls and such like; Other; Usually do not eat this meal.
- Q41:** Which of the following foods do you like to eat? Beijing duck; Kimuchi; Sushi; Hamburger; Curry; Pizza; Tom-Yum-Goong; Dim Sum; Pho; Sandwich; Instant Noodle; None of the above.
- Q42:** Which category does your current residence fall in? Owner-occupied detached or semi-detached (duplex) house; Owner-occupied terraced house or unit in an apartment or condominium complex; Rented detached or semi-detached (duplex) house; Rented terraced house or unit in an apartment or condominium complex; Other (a room in a relative's home, etc).
- Q43-1:** How many members of your family, including yourself, live in your household?
- Q43-2:** Which of the following describes your family structure? Single-person household; Married couple only; A parent(s) and child(ren) who are not married (two-generation household); A parent(s) and child(ren) who is/are married (two-generation household)(Select this item even if only one child is married and the other unmarried children also live in the household.); Grandparent(s), parent(s), and child(ren) (three-generation household); Other.
- Q43-3:** How many, if any, members of your family who live with you are in need of special care due to illness, old age or handicap?
- Q44:** Here is a list of qualities that children can be encouraged to learn at home. Please select what you consider to be most important: Independence; Diligence; Honesty; Sincerity; Mindfulness; Humbleness; Religiosity; Patience; Competitiveness; Respect for senior persons; Deference for teachers; Don't know.

- Q45:** If you have to choose, which one of the following would you say is the most important and the second most important? Maintaining order in nation; Giving people more say in important government decisions; Fighting rising prices; Protecting freedom of speech; Don't know.
- Q46:** I'm going to read out a list of various changes in our way of life that might take place in the near future. Please tell me for each one, if it were to happen, whether you think it would be a good thing, a bad thing, or don't you mind? More emphasis on the development of technology; Greater respect for traditional authority.
- Q47:** I'm going to read out some different forms of political action that people can take, and I'd like you to tell me, for each one, whether you have actually done any of these things, whether you might do or would never, under any circumstances, do it. Signing a petition to improve conditions; Joining in boycotts; Attending lawful demonstrations.
- Q48:** There are two opinions about the role of chance in the world. In your opinion, which of the following two positions is more correct? Many things happen for no particular reason at all. It is just a matter of chance; Everything happens for a reason. Even events that look like accidents have a hidden purpose.
- Q49:** Do you believe in an unseen spiritual world that can influence events in the world we see around us?
- Q50:** Please tell me for each of the following statements whether you think it can always be justified, never justified, or something in between: Someone accepting a bribe in the course of their duties; Homosexuality; Abortion.

## Notes

1. For 2003 the AsiaBarometer was based on donations from some dozen business firms. For 2004 it was funded by the Policy Division in the Asia-Pacific Ocean Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is a multiyear funding project from April 2005 to March 2009 and is funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education and Science for a scientific research grant scheme. No conditions are attached to any one of these funds.
2. It takes approximately 18 months after field work. Only after those AsiaBarometer annual volumes are published, do we upload our survey data onto the above three schemes.
3. These companies are as follows: In 2003, Taylor Nelson Sofres Korea (South Korea), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Research Center (China), Taylor Nelson Sofres Malaysia (Malaysia), CNS & Associates Company Limited (Thailand), TNS Vietnam (Vietnam, Myanmar), TNS MODE (India, Sri Lanka), RAI Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan); In 2004, Gallup Korea (South Korea), Market Survey Research Corporation, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (China), TNS Vietnam (Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos), TNS Philippines (the Philippines), TNS Indonesia (Indonesia), TNS Malaysia

(Malaysia and Brunei), ACNielsen (Thailand), Media Research Consultants Pte Ltd. (Singapore); In 2005, ACSOR-Survey (Afghanistan), SIRIUS Marketing and Social Research Ltd. (Bangladesh), TNS India (Bhutan, India, Nepal and Maldives), BISAM Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan), SIAR-Bishkek (Mongolia), Gallup Pakistan (Pakistan), TNS Lanka (Sri Lanka), RAI Consultants Services Ltd. (Uzbekistan); In 2006, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Research Center, Marketing Decision Research (Pacific) Ltd. (Hong Kong), Gallup Korea (South Korea), Media Research Consultants Pte Ltd. (Singapore), Opinion Research Taiwan (Taiwan), TNS Vietnam (Vietnam).

4. Note that exact procedures of sampling do differ from country to country because of different structures.
5. Needless to say, special gratitude goes to President Professor Takeshi Sasaki, Director Professor Akihiko Tanaka and Professor Timur Dadabaev and Professor Ikuro Kabashima, as well as to all the participants of the AsiaBarometer workshop in January 2004, who invariably helped this project to move forward.
6. The authors have been conducting another project to present an overview of the content and features of all the questionnaires the AsiaBarometer uses year by year and to integrate the data obtained from all the AsiaBarometer surveys.
7. Q8 in the 2006 survey was Q6 in the 2003 survey.
8. This is Q35-2 in the 2003 survey which reads: "Which, if any, of these 26 products (such as car, boat, air conditioner, etc.) does your household (you or your family) plan to buy within the next 1-2 years?"
9. This is Q36-2: "Which of the following 16 services (such as domestic travel, foreign-language school, internet connection, etc.) would you personally like to use or continue to use over the next 1-2 years?"
10. Q 3 in the 2006 survey was Q2 in the 2003 annual survey volume.
11. By urban new middle class, Sonoda means the respondents belong to items 7 and 8 of Question F6. For the questions about background of the respondents from F1 to F9, see the AsiaBarometer survey annual volumes.
12. By working class, Sonoda means the respondents who belong to items 11, 12 and 13 in F6.
13. This is a conference report not available online and not included in the references in Section "References": Reed, Steven, "Religiosity in Asia: A Preliminary Analysis of the AsiaBarometer 2005," presentation at the annual AsiaBarometer Workshop, February 22, 23 and 24, 2006, Chuo University, Tokyo.
14. Q24 is in category 8.
15. Dadabaev talks about the 2003 survey results, and Q21 in the 2006 survey was Q17 in that survey. Q9 was Q7 in the 2003 survey.
16. Q7 in the 2006 Survey was Q5 in the 2003 Survey.
17. Q16 falls in the second category, and Q22 belongs to the eighth category. Inoguchi used the 2003 survey data, and the numbers of those questions differ, although the contents are the same.
18. Q13 in the 2006 survey appeared as Q11 in the 2003 survey volume.
19. The 2006 Survey doesn't have an equivalent question to Q16-2 in 2003.
20. Q18 in the 2006 survey appeared as Q16 in the 2004 survey, and these figures are from the 2004 survey.
21. Q19 was Q16-1 in the 2003 survey volume.
22. Q38 in the 2006 Survey appeared as Q27 in the 2003 Survey.
23. Q33 in the 2006 survey was Q24 in the 2003 survey and these figures are from the 2003 survey.

24. Q29 in the 2006 survey was Q21 in the 2003 survey volume.
25. Q26 in the 2006 survey was listed as Q20 in the 2003 survey annual volume.
26. This question appeared as Q18 in the 2003 survey volume.
27. Questions are somewhat altered and shortened due to the limited space. The reader is advised to refer to the AsiaBarometer annual survey volumes and the website: <https://www.asiabarometer.org/>

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“What is the AsiaBarometer?” on July 15, 2005.

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