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## Low Fertility and Policy Responses in Asian NIEs: An Introduction Focusing on the Review of Possible Policy Effects

Hiroshi KOJIMA

This article is an introduction to the special feature, together with two other articles on Korea and Taiwan, of the research project on "Comparative Study of Low Fertility and Policy Responses in Asian NIEs (PI: Hiroshi KOJIMA)" which has been conducted by a FY2002-2004 Policy-Science Research Grant from the Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. It first describes the trends in fertility and family policies in Asian NIEs including the Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, Singapore and Hong Kong SAR, China. Secondly, it reviews studies assessing the possible pronatalist effects of family policies in Asian NIEs and presents an empirical analysis on the possible pronatalist effects of "New Economic Policy (NEP)" and "New Population Policy (NPP)" in Malaysia. Thirdly, it reviews multivariate analyses on possible pronatal effects of family policies in developed societies. Finally, it attempts to obtain policy implications for Japan and Asian NIEs.