

## **Editorial Introduction**

This issue of TRESP contains a well-diversified combination of quality research findings that have important policy implications, particularly for developing and emerging countries. In the first paper, Meihua Zhu and Chayanee Chawanote aim to empirically quantify the impact of financial literacy on family wealth in China. In recent years, various financial education activities have been carried out as part of poverty alleviation programs. The government expected that these efforts would improve the family income and assets. While the success of such programs is well documented in developed countries, evidence from developing countries remains sparse.

Utilizing the survey data from the China Household Finance Survey (CHFS) with panel model and instrumental variable method, Meihua Zhu and Chayanee Chawanote were able to show that financial literacy has a positive and statistically significant impact on Chinese family wealth. In addition, results from quantile regression indicate that the impact is stronger on poorer families. This suggests financial literacy is effective in poverty reduction and narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

The second article of this issue is ‘Willingness to Pay of Rice Farmers in Lao PDR on Agriculture Insurance’, by Piya Wongpit and Viriyasack Sisouphanthong, which evaluates the willingness to pay for agricultural insurance. Agricultural insurance is a pressing issue for Lao PDR; agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, and the country is under constant threat of numerous disasters every year. Yet, the market for agricultural insurance, which could provide risk-mitigating instruments for farmers, has not fully developed.

The authors use interview data and employ a discrete choice experiment analysis to measure the willingness to pay

for agricultural insurance. The results indicate that rice farmers would pay premiums 17% of indemnity and those affected by disasters in the past are willing to pay more.

The third article ‘Thailand and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT): An Economic Point of View’, by Chanin Mephokee, studies the structure of Thailand’s film and music industries and carefully evaluates the costs and benefits of joining WPTT to industries’ stakeholders.

The paper argues that technological improvement has changed audience behaviors and the ways entertainment businesses operate. New business models have been changed to be, so-called “divide and grow”, “celebrity factory”, the content provider”, and “Performers Manager”. The entertainment industry has become more concentrated which creates unfair contracts for performers.

It is suggested that, at the macro level, joining the treaty would encourage investment as the result of a higher incentive to creators from better intellectual property protection. This would, in turn, boost economic growth by 0.07 percent. At the micro level, joining WPPT would grant performers and producers more bargaining power over entertainment firms when negotiating contracts.

Concerns have also been raised as Thailand is a net importer of performances which would see the benefits of extending rights flow overseas. Also, the extension of performers’ rights would not necessarily result in increased or better performances.

Thammasat Review of Economic and Social Policy (TRESP) is a young biannual double-blind peer reviewed international journal published in June and December. Its first publication was in December 2015. The Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University and the Editorial Team of TRESP seek to provide an effective platform for reflecting

practical and policy-oriented perspectives that links the academic and policymaking community. Having devoted to our ‘knowledge-for-all’ philosophy so as to drive our society forward, the Faculty decided that TRESP shall be published in an open access model. Authors are responsible for the published articles. The views and opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors and the Editorial Board. For further information and updates on this journal, or to submit an article, please visit our website at [www.tresp.econ.tu.ac.th](http://www.tresp.econ.tu.ac.th).

Pornthep Benyaapikul  
Editor-in-Chief