

Foreword

We are delighted to publish here the ASC–TUFS Working Papers 2019. This volume includes 15 papers written by researchers engaged in activities of the African Studies Center (ASC) at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS).

The most important activity—the basis of this volume—is the joint seminar organised by the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) and TUFS. It will be held on 18–19 February 2020 on the Huye Campus, PIASS, in Rwanda. Seven out of 15 papers in this volume, namely those of K. Demachi, H. Chitonge, P. Narh, M. Tunzine, M. Kabinga, G. Umuziranenge and E. Ntiranyibagira, and D. J. Sonwa et al., were originally submitted to the PIASS-TUFS Joint Seminar on Resource Management and Development.

The joint seminar, which is the main pillar for this volume, receives financial support from the following two Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS): 1) ‘Resource management and political power in rural Africa’ (Project Number: 18H03439; Principal Investigator: Shinichi Takeuchi) and 2) ‘Rural resource management and the state in Africa: A comparative analysis of Ghana and Rwanda’ (Project number: 19KK003; Principal Investigator: Shinichi Takeuchi). Both of the JSPS research projects have as objectives illuminating the realities and challenges associated with rural resource management in African countries and searching for appropriate policies. Many papers in this volume share the same goals.

In addition to this main pillar, this volume includes other types of contributors. Dr Denis J. Sonwa, formerly a visiting professor at ASC–TUFS and a contributor and participant of the PIASS-TUFS Joint Seminar, invited members of his research team to submit papers for publication in this volume. The five papers on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon are contributions from members of his research team.

The last group of contributors is composed of young African researchers studying in Japan. The group includes three PhD candidates at TUFS and Dr K. L. Kithinji, a post-doctoral researcher at Hosei University. These individuals have been actively engaged in various events held by the ASC (especially academic seminars). We organised the ASC Seminars with the anticipation that they would be forums for young scholars engaged in African studies. It is a great pleasure for us to see that the results of their engagement are included in this volume.

The 15 papers in this volume are classified into three groups. Four papers in part I examine development and governance in general. All four papers in part II focus on land issues, which are critical for rural resource management in Africa. Seven papers in part III deal with a wide range of rural resource management issues. All papers in this volume are works in progress; therefore, any comments or suggestions are most welcome.

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