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EDITORIAL

TRANSFORMATION OF COMMUNITY/COMPLEMENTARY CURRENCY THROUGH DIGITIZATION

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Guest Editor

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At RAMCS2019ⁱ, various research reports were presented on the theme of digitization of community/complementary currencies and crypto currencies. Similar to the previous issue, a special issue has been compiled using these research reports. The special issue is published in two volumes. This is the second volume, consisting of the following ten papers.

1. Masayuki Yoshida, Shigeto Kobayashi, Yoshihisa Miyazaki/ Relationship between Community Currency Issuance Organization's Philosophy and its Issuance Form: A Japanese Case Study
2. Ricardo Orzi, Raphael Porcherot, Sebastián Valdecantos / Cryptocurrencies for Social Change: The Experience of MonedaPAR in Argentina
3. Christophe Place, Jem Bendell, Ian Chapman, Jamie McPhie, David Murphy/ Integral Research on the Lake District Pound: Six Mixed Methods for Assessing the Impact of a Currency
4. Nourhan Heysham, Hisham Elkadi, Sara Biscaya/ Exploring Social Capital Within Damietta's Furniture Industry Value Chain as a Mode of Community Currency
5. Thomas Coutrot, Bruno Théret/Tax-credit Instruments as Complementary Currencies: A Policy Proposal for Fighting Austerity while Saving the Eurozone
6. Christian Gelleri, James Stodder/ Chiemgauer Complementary Currency-Concept, Effects, and Econometric Analysis
7. Kiminori Hayashi/ Rethinking the Significance of Regional Currencies: The Case of the Chiemgauer
8. A.A. Panachev, D.B. Berg/ Prospects of Implementation of Complementary Currencies at the Municipal Level by Dataset of Economical Agents Banking Transactions
9. Alexander Zatko/ Merit Signal - The Éminence Grise of Monetary Systems
10. Mayumi Dan, Kayo Okabe/ Revitalizing Local Communities through Regional Currencies Using GIS: A Case Study in Kasama and Kesenuma in Japan

These ten papers cover a variety of topics, including an analysis of the relationship between the ideals emphasized by regional currency-issuing organizations and the form of issuance in Japan (Yoshida et. al.); case studies of community/complementary currencies using cryptocurrency and digital currency technologies (Orzi et. al., Place et. al., Heysham et.al.); policy recommendations using complementary currencies in the Eurozone (Coutrot and Théret); an econometric analysis and thought study of Chiemgauer (Gelleri and Stodder, Hayashi) ; network analysis to examine the prospects for the introduction of complementary currencies (Panachev and Berg); examining economic

systems that provide “merit” reward, separated from the exchange value reward (Zatko); case study of GIS-based education on local revitalization using local currency (Dan and Okabe).

In Japan, many digital community currencies have been planned since precedents such as the Sarubobo Coin in 2017. Additionally, we have seen some cases where local governments have signed agreements with local chambers of commerce and financial institutions and companies to issue digital community currencies. In Japan, a trend different from past community currency initiatives has emerged in response to this form of digitalization. It is for this reason that the title of this special issue is “Transformation of Community/Complementary Currency through Digitization.” These ten papers will provide some hints to help us understand this new trend.

I would like to thank the referees for their cooperation in this special issue. Without them, these special issues would not have been possible. In addition, I would like to thank Prof. Georgina Gomez, the president of RAMCIS, who gave me a great deal of advice for editing the special issue.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ RAMICS 2019 won the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) Award for Contribution to the Attraction and Hosting of International Conferences in the category of hosting international conferences (small-to-medium size).