

**THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RADIOACTIVE CONVERGENCES
SURROUNDING FUKUSHIMA CITY: JAPAN IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

By

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vedat Yorucu
Department of Economics
Eastern Mediterranean University
Famagusta-North Cyprus**

ABSTRACT

There has been an extensive review in the literature on convergence debate (Islam, 2003). Some of the studies have been carried out on regional convergence by using cross sectional or panel techniques especially for the Caribbean, Latin American and Asian countries (Atkins and Boyd (1998), Dobson and Ramlogan (2010) and Masron and Yusop (2008). It is also possible to conduct similar convergence study on a specific country or a region which is implemented by Michelis, Papadoupoulos and Panikos (2004) for Greece.

The purpose of this study is to investigate whether there is any radioactive convergences spreading from Japan's nuclear plants and affecting sixty kilometers radius of the Fukushima City which might be facing the threat of a nuclear disaster following an already devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The research aim here is to investigate whether the other nearby cities located around Fukushima city shared a significant convergence experience following the first two weeks of the March 2011 explosion, which all might be affected by this tragic chain of events. Two kinds of

convergence are examined: beta and sigma convergences. The results demonstrate empirical evidence of both beta convergence and the sigma radiation convergences for an entire period of 15-27 March on hourly bases. However for some cities divergences have been realized for some specific periods.

The data used in this study covers the period 15-27 March 2011 on hourly bases gathered from the Green Peace Organization (2011) in order to analyse the catching-up process among six main cities around Fukushima which are affected from the tsunami disaster.

REFERENCES:

Islam, N. (2003), 'What Have We Learnt From The Convergence Debate?', *Journal of Economic Surveys*, **17**(3), 309-62.

Michelis, Papadoupoulos and Panikos (2004), 'Regional convergence in Greece in the 1980s: an econometric investigation', *Applied Economics*, **36**(8), 881-88.

Atkins and Boyd (1998), 'Convergence and the Caribbean', *International Review of Applied Economics*, **12**(3), 381-96.

Dobson and Ramlogan (2010), 'Economic Growth and Convergence in Latin America', *Journal of Development Studies*, **38**(6), 83-104.

Masron and Yusop (2008), 'AFTA, Income Growth and Income Convergence in ASEAN', *The International Trade Journal*, **22**(3), 290-314.

Rapacki and Prochniak (2009), 'Real beta and sigma convergence in 27 transition countries, 1990-2005', *Post-Communist Economies*, **21**(3), 307-26.