

● **SYMPOSIUM: Some Countries' Experience of Fiscal Sustainability in the Global Debt Risks**

Introduction

..... Jun Ma

Australian Government Budget Reforms and Fiscal Sustainability

..... Zaozao Zhao

**Abstract** After the 2008 Financial Crisis, the world witnessed the increase of fiscal risks, and in certain countries sovereign debt crises. This has led to a global realization of the importance of enforcing strict and effective fiscal discipline, particularly its implications for maintaining stability in financial markets. In the crisis, Australia achieved stability and soundness in both economic and financial performance, which has drawn wide attention. This research argues that Australia's recent economic and fiscal stability is the result of its efforts in budget reforms during the past thirty years. Especially important is the medium – term fiscal framework developed after the 1998 Charter of Budget Honesty Act which has made tremendous contributions to the Australian success in maintaining fiscal sustainability.

**Key words** Australia Commonwealth; Budget Reform; Fiscal Sustainability; Mid – Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook

From Fiscal Crisis to Fiscal Sustainability: How Has Chile Achieved This?

..... Jun Ma

**Abstract** In the 1980s, like other Latin American countries, constantly dealing with the deadly shocks of international debt crises, Chile's public finance was not only weak but also trapped in a severe fiscal crisis of its own. Since the late 1980s, Chile's government has started the painful journey of structural adjustment and reform of

budgetary institutions. Particularly, in 2001, Chile established the so – called structural balance rule and has continued to refine it since then. Due to these reform efforts, and especially due to the enforcement of the structural balance rule, when the 2008 global financial crisis broke out, Chile’s public finance was very strong and healthy. More than this, relying on its sound fiscal position, the Chilean government initiated a large size counter – cycle fiscal policy, which has helped not only reduce economic volatility but also smoothed the volatility of public expenditures which thereafter ensured public policy sustainability and thus social stability. The Chilean fiscal governance experience has earned a lot of international attention. It also holds great implications for the next steps in China’s fiscal and budgetary reforms.

**Key words** Structural Balance; Structural Surplus; Fiscal Sustainability; Chile

#### Fiscal Sustainability in Transition Country : A Story of Poland

..... Li Yu & Xuefei Yang

**Abstract** As the successful model of transitional countries in Europe, Poland withstood the severe test of the European sovereign debt crisis, becoming the only country maintaining economic growth in the EU. With its problems of fiscal deficit still lingering since the 1990’s and an increase in indebtedness in recent years while still producing impressive economic results, Poland seems to have a less than completely healthy financial position. Even more compelling is the fact that as one of the several countries in Europe and in the world with constitutional constraints on government debt, Poland hasn’t yet developed a complete system of fiscal rules, has taken the attitude of prudence to austerity policies and even begged the question. In addition, as a transitional country and a member of the European Union, Poland’s fiscal sustainability was inevitably affected by both domestic and international events. All of above made Poland become the indispensable interesting “story” in discussions of fiscal sustainability from the crisis.

**Key words** Fiscal Sustainability; Fiscal Rules; Transition Country; Poland

#### One Egg Stays Unbroken when the Nest Is Overturned: Luxembourg’s Fiscal

..... Yan Huang

**Abstract** The European debt crisis has put the EU countries into various degrees of financial difficulty, especially the fiscal sustainability in “PIIGS” countries has been much criticized. But Luxembourg, a small country occupying the fortress position in continental Europe, has always abided strictly by the deficit and public debt ceiling stipulated by the “stability and growth pact”, and became the “only one egg still unbroken when the nest was overturned”. This was achieved through a timely social welfare regime reform, a strict medium – term budget control framework, an efficient way of public spending quality management, and a long – term vision of budgeting philosophy. Thus, Luxembourg’s valuable experience in keeping public fiscal sustainability has important implications for the improvement of China’s future budget management system.

**Key words** Social Welfare Regime Reform; Medium – term Budget Control Framework; Public Spending Quality Management; Luxembourg.

## ●ARTICLE

A Study of the Occupational Safety and Health Supervision System in the Small and Medium – sized Enterprises in the Pearl River Delta—An Analysis Based on the ILO – OSH Framework

..... Xiaoyan Li Kinglun Ngok & Li Lin

**Abstract** Occupational safety and health supervision is an important instrument used to reduce occupational safety and health hazards and to protect the rights and interests of employees. Based on the framework of the ILO – OSH , this paper studies the occupational safety and health supervision system in small and medium enterprises in the Pearl River Delta region. Making use of literature research and empirical investigation, this paper examines the problems in the existing occupational safety and health supervision regime in terms of the role of the government, enterprises and workers. Furthermore, it proposes some suggestions to improve the occupational safety and health

management system in the Pearl River Delta area, including adopting the tripartite mechanisms and the involvement of social forces in occupational safety and health management.

**Key words** Occupational safety and health (OSH); International Labour Organization (ILO); supervision; the Pearl River Delta; the Small and Medium Enterprises

Power Allocation, Accountability and Local Government Food Safety Regulation:  
Debate and Empirical Test

..... Shipan Lai

**Abstract** There is an implicit theoretical hypothesis in food safety regulation research that accountability can't stimulate local governments to perform their duties actively in a fragmented regulatory system. This is believed to be a major cause of ineffective food safety regulation. Relying on this theory, reformation of the food safety regulatory system through centralization is currently proposed, and the reformation of practices at different levels of government have been launched. However, this hypothesis is still controversial, and has not been tested empirically. Firstly, this article teases out the hypothesis, its influence and the controversy surrounding it. Then, the hypothesis is tested with questionnaire data. By differentiating the governance structures of local governments' food safety regulation, this research finds that the implicit hypothesis is confirmed in day – to – day regulation but not as pertains to incident management. This finding has great implications for both theory and practice.

**Key words** Local Government; Food Safety Regulation; Power Allocation; Accountability; Governance structure

## ● THEORETICAL REVIEW

Theory Review of the Consolidation of Local Governments in the Unites States:  
motivation, process and performance

..... Ruichang Li & Jun Zhao

**Abstract** The change of jurisdictional boundaries of local governments is a common,

practical phenomenon in the United States, and is also an evergreen topic in theoretical studies. Consolidated government ( City – County Consolidation ) is also a hot topic when changing the jurisdictional boundaries of local governments, as well as studying the relationship between governments. From the perspective of motivation, process and performance of governmental consolidation, this paper has excavated the literature related to the relationships between consolidated governments and local residents. Based on the literature, this paper analyses the divergence and common view of different scholars on these three issues and points out the problems of present studies. At the end of this paper, it suggests that the distribution of power between local residents and local governments/ state governments in City – County Consolidation should be the starting point of constructing a theory of governmental consolidation.

**Key words** Governmental Consolidation; the Motivation of Consolidation; the Process of Consolidation; the Performance of Consolidation

## ● BOOK REVIEW

The Transformation from E – Government to Digital Governance: Politics, Administration, and Globalization

..... Yueping Zheng & Hindy L. Schachter