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Date: 2024/6/6

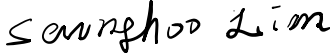
Report on the Final Exam

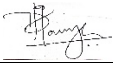
Name of the Chair: Kyohei Yamada

On behalf of the Dissertation Examining Committee, I would like to report the result of the Final Exam as follows.

1. Student ID	1C1D03
2. Name	Win Thiri Myaing
3. Cluster	Public Management
4. Dissertation Examining Committee	Supervisor: Prof. Seunghoo Lim
	External Examiner: Prof. Dayashankar Maurya
	Advisor: Prof. Maung Aung Myoe
	Advisor: Prof. Kyohei Yamada
5. Dissertation Title	Three Essays on Myanmar's Public Budgetary Dynamics
6. Submission Date	Draft: April 8, 2024
	Final: June 5, 2024
7. Final Exam Date	May 22, 2024
8. Faculty Meeting Date	June 17, 2024
9. Degree Title	PhD in Public Management
10. Result	Pass

Signatures of the Dissertation Examining committee:

Supervisor: Prof. Seunghoo Lim  Date: June 6, 2024

External Examiner: Prof. Dayashankar Maurya  Date: June 7, 2024

Advisor: Prof. Maung Aung Myoe  Date: June 7, 2024

Advisor: Prof. Kyohei Yamada  Date: June 6, 2024

I. Dissertation Overview and Summary of the Presentation

The dissertation focuses on Myanmar's budget reform that took place in 2011 and examines the following three questions: (1) how and why the budget reform happened, (2) whether and to what extent budget allocation patterns changed after the reform, and (3) whether changes in budget allocation patterns led to changes in public service performance. Each essay has a clear research question, rigorous arguments, and unique data to test the hypotheses. During the defense, the student delivered a clear presentation that covered all three essays and responded to the questions raised by the examination committee in a satisfactory way.

II. Notes from the Dissertation Examining Committee (including the changes required to the dissertation by the committee)

The dissertation is a rigorous academic research project that examines three important questions regarding the budget reforms in Myanmar. For each essay, the student clearly states her research question and discusses its academic contributions. The hypotheses build upon existing theories, indicating the student's good understanding of the literature and the ability to incorporate existing works into the specific contexts of her dissertation. Regarding data and methods, the three essays utilize different approaches (in-depth case studies with qualitative methods, analyses of budget data, and an original survey), demonstrating the student's familiarity with and competence in diverse methods. The examination committee also commended that the second and third essays have already been accepted by peer-reviewed journals.

To provide further assessment of each essay, the first essay seeks to understand why the reform happened, incorporating an existing theory (multiple streams theory) to explain the outcome. The hypothesis is tested using an in-depth investigation of the Myanmar's case through qualitative methods. In addition to finding evidence in favor of the hypothesis, the essay reveals that partial couplings occurred prior to the full convergence of the three streams.

The second essay investigates whether and to what extent budget allocation patterns changed after the reform. According to prior research, the allocation patterns can be categorized into two types: incrementalism and punctuated equilibrium. The student constructs hypotheses regarding how the allocation patterns would change following the political transition, which she tested by analyzing budget data from 2000 to 2019.

The third essay examines whether the budget reform led to changes in public service provision. Given the difficulty of obtaining readily available measures of service quality or levels, the student conducted a survey of civil servants who had been working for the Myanmar government since the pre-reform period. She then examined whether changes in the budget allocation patterns of respondents' ministries are associated with changes in service provision as perceived by the respondents.

Finally, while the dissertation draft submitted for the exam already meets expectations, the committee provided several suggestions for further improvement, which may be useful for future research as well. The suggestions include: (1) possible improvements in Essay 1 by referring to other theories that may explain the same outcome as well as providing more descriptions of data and methods; (2) more explanations and clarifications on data and methods for Essay 3; (3) referring to the fact that other major reforms were taking place at around the same time in Essay 3; (4) strengthening the introduction by providing a broader, overarching question that connects the three essays; and (5) discussing policy implications and limitations/future research more thoroughly in the concluding chapter.

III. Confirmation by the Chair that changes have been done to the satisfaction of the committee

The student incorporated all major suggestions raised during the exam and submitted the revised draft on June 1, 2024. The chair and the other committee members confirm that the revisions are satisfactory.

IV. Overall Evaluation

Given the high quality of the three essays, the acceptance of two of the essays by peer-reviewed journals, and the strong presentation, the examination committee unanimously agrees to give the grade of Pass.