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Date: 2022/12/02

Report on the Final Exam

Name of the Chair: Maung Aung Myoe

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

1. Student ID	1B9D02
2. Name	Jalini Kaushalya Galabada
3. Cluster	International Relations Cluster
4. Dissertation Examining Committee	Supervisor: Nawalage S. Cooray
	External Examiner: Kaliappa Kalirajan
	Advisor: Maung Aung Myoe
	Advisor: Kyohei Yamada
5. Dissertation Title	Sustainable Development Goals of No Poverty and Zero Hunger, and Sustainable Agricultural Intensification: The Institutional Perspective
6. Submission Date	Draft: October 31, 2022
	Final: December 2, 2022
7. Final Exam Date	November 10, 2022
8. Faculty Meeting Date	December 7, 2022
9. Degree Title	Ph.D. in International Relations
10. Result	Pass

I. Dissertation Overview and Summary of the Presentation

The dissertation investigates the impact of institutions on attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of No Poverty (SDG1) and Zero Hunger (SDG2) as well as the Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI), which is considered as a practical solutions to challenges in global agriculture and achieving the above stated SDG goals. The dissertation applies a mixed research method to demonstrate the key findings in the analysis. As stated in the abstract, “the study combined panel data, time series data, and cross-sectional data to achieve its objectives and a range of robust analytical methods was employed to produce reliable estimates, and, when applicable, the direct, threshold, mediation, and moderating effects of institutions were investigated utilizing worldwide governance indices and political risk ratings as a measurement of institutions.” It is argued that the results reveal that institutions have a highly significant direct positive relationship with SDG1 performance - indirectly via mediating factors – state policy, agricultural productivity, economic growth, and SDG2 performance. Likewise, institutions have a positive and highly significant association with SDG2 performance via agricultural productivity, economic growth and SDG1 performance. The study also points out that SAI has no significant influence on SDG1, yet it has a significantly positive impact on SDG2 performance. Overall, the study clearly illustrates that there is empirical evidence that strengthening the existing institutional framework is integral for achieving the SDGs of no poverty and zero hunger.

The candidate has carefully constructed his arguments and solidly presented his analyses during the oral defence. Her presentation was satisfactory, the defence went well, and the committee decided to give her a PASS grade with minor revision under local supervision.

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

The dissertation is the result of good research work and it explains the impact of institutions on the attainment of SDG1 and SDG2 as well as the realization of SAI. The literature review is thoroughly written to highlight the importance of the research in the context its contribution to the body of knowledge. The study effectively demonstrates the empirical evidence of correlations between institutions and achievement of SDGs. The methodology, the data analysis, the key findings and the flow of the chapters are appropriated applied and neatly presented. However, the examination committee makes the following recommendations. First, the candidate needs to clarify some concepts as recommended in Professor Kalirajan's written report. Secondly, the candidate needs to reconsider the contribution of her research in a broader context of international relations. Overall, the dissertation defense went well and the examination committee unanimously decided to give a "Pass" grade.

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

The committee confirms that the revised version reflects the recommendations and questions during the oral examinations as listed in the previous section of this report.

IV. Overall Evaluation

The dissertation is the result of good research work and it explains the impact of institutions on the achievement of SDG1 and SDG2, and on the Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI), which is considered as a practical solutions to challenges in global agriculture and achieving the above stated SDGs. The research is carried by applying a mixed research method with a quantitative analysis. This empirical study is an important contribution to our understanding of institutions and development.