

Aid, growth, and welfare in an interdependent world economy

Takumi Naito* Ryoji Ohdoi†
Tokyo Institute of Technology Osaka City University

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Abstract

We examine growth and welfare effects of foreign aid in a two-country, two-good endogenous growth model with learning by doing and intersectoral knowledge spillovers. We obtain two main results. First, a permanent increase in untied aid raises the common growth rate if and only if the propensity to consume the capital-intensive good in the recipient country is larger than in the donor country. Second, the growth-enhancing aid is also Pareto-improving if and only if the propensities to consume are sufficiently different between countries, with the required difference being smaller for the lower subjective discount rate.

JEL classification: F35; F43; O41

Keywords: Aid and growth; Intersectoral knowledge spillovers; Factor price equalization theorem; Stolper-Samuelson theorem; Pareto-improving untied aid

* Corresponding author. Takumi Naito. Department of Social Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2-12-1 O-okayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-8552, Japan. Tel.: +81-3-5734-3194; fax: +81-3-5734-3613; e-mail: tnaito@soc.titech.ac.jp.

† Ryoji Ohdoi. Graduate School of Economics, Osaka City University, 3-3-138 Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka 558-8585, Japan. Tel.: +81-6-6605-2270; e-mail: ohdoi@econ.osaka-cu.ac.jp.