

〈Abstract〉

The Process to Symbiosis in The Recuperated Enterprises Movement in Argentina : The Study on Paradigm Shift to The Symbiosis from The Struggle

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Argentina had experienced into the economic crisis by the failure of the neo-liberalism economic policy in December 2001. The unemployment rate have been over 20 percents, and the family poverty rate have been over 40 percents in Argentina. Many workers and unemployed people were forced to survive with poverty under the very inferior social environment. However, they took action to struggle against political and economical authorities with arms as anger and solidarity. At that time, their slogan had been “¡Que se vayan todos!” (it means that “They all must go out!”). The large-scale social protest of Argentine people have inspired various social movements around the world. As the part of social movements, the Recuperated Enterprises Movement (Movimiento de Empresas Recuperadas or MER), in which workers recover bankrupted companies or abandoned its by employers occurred and developed.

By the way, The MER is the practice of the symbiosis economy in production departments. I believe symbiosis economy is the economic network which is based on the idea of “solidarity, participation, and cooperation”. It is alternative to the economic idea of neo-liberalism. The MER was

rebuilding companies as the workers' collective, and change to symbiosis and democratic management from autocratic and competitive it. This change involved the experience of severe struggles between authorities such as owners, judges and police over the rights of private property. It is preferable to fighting than falling extreme poverty for workers and jobless people even if they have risk to be arrested or be injured in its process.

However, since Nestor Kircher who take a leftist line among Peronist party was inaugurated as President in May 2003, the struggles against authority remarkably decreased. He have taken approval attitude toward the MER, and then "The Program for Self-Managed Work" (Programa de Trabajo Autogestionado or PTA) that is administrative aid program for the MER and other workers' collectives launched by Department of Employment, Labor and Social security. Moreover, the reconstructed and managed firm by workers been legalized by the law of expropriation and amended bankruptcy law. The expropriation is a system that the State expropriate collapsed firm and paid its debt to the owner and creditors in order to avoid bankruptcy of the socially useful company: It is interpreted that all companies which employ workers have social utility. The workers become possible running the corporation when the application of expropriation passed. Thus, the system of expropriation greatly influenced creation of the reconstructing scheme by the workers.

In process of the MER, the noteworthy phenomenon is paradigm shift to the moderate cooperative movement from the radical social movement. The latter is period in which illegally developed in quest of autonomy as opposed to neo-liberalism between 2001 and 2002. The former is period in which legally establish workers' collectives within capitalism rules after 2003. In the one side, what the MER returned to "normal capitalism" from

radicalism that aim at change of social system means compromise of the movement, but in the other side, the return means that symbiotic and democratic management started. While recovered enterprises is difficult to survive in the market economy, they make an effort to cooperate with traditional workers' collective organizations, and to receive various formal support from the State such as the PTA, it is possible for them to continue to manage a business.