

Acknowledgements

Over my two years stay in Japan, I have benefited greatly from many people through different ways.

First, I am deeply indebted to Prof. Hisahiro Naito who guided me during the initial stages of writing this masters dissertation and instilled in me the importance of conducting meaningful research. The discussions I had with him, the econometric techniques he taught me together with his online guidance helped me a lot in shaping and developing the ideas discussed in this paper.

Secondly, I would like to thank my main Adviser, Prof. Mari Minowa for consistently guiding me through the process of writing this dissertation. I am thankful for the invaluable comments and sit down discussions that went along way in improving my work. My sub advisers; Prof. Nobuyuki Hanaki and Prof. Neantro Saavedra Rivano were also exceptionally helpful with constructive comments that added value to my research. My gratitude also goes to Professors' Yoshito Takasaki and Ryo Nakajima for their insightful contribution during the weekly lunch seminars that considerably sharpened and broadened my understanding of economics.

Thirdly, I would like to thank the Joint Japan World Bank Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP) for the financial and administrative support that facilitated the successful completion of this program. I also thank my employer, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) for allowing me time off to pursue this graduate course.

Finally, I am mostly thankful to my mother for her encouragement and prayers that always kept me going even when the going got tough. To my wife Grace; thank you for being patient with me despite my long absence from home and more so for taking care of our little daughter, Lindsay.

To all my friends in Japan and in Kenya who I may not be able to mention by their names, your help of any kind is highly appreciated.

***Disclaimer:** The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of the author. The author will be solely responsible for any errors arising from this paper.*