Changing Roles of Taiwanese Firms in Global Innovation Networks: The Case of the Electronics Industry

Dr. Momoko Kawakami
Institute of Developing Economies, Japan
Visiting scholar, Research on Labor and Employment, University of California, Berkeley

Thursday, February 13, 2014
12:30-2:00 PM
Orfalea Center Seminar Room, Robertson Gym 1005

“Industry platforms” are products or technologies that serve as foundations upon which other firms can build complementary products, services, and technologies. Providers of platforms, or platform leaders, can control the distribution of value-added among firms and determine the speed and direction of innovation in the industry. Traditionally, platform leaders have been powerful firms from developed countries, mostly the U.S. (ex. Intel, Microsoft, Google and Apple). East Asian latecomer firms have been competitive providers of complementary products based on the platforms. Recently, however, this landscape is experiencing a significant change. A few number of Taiwanese SoC (system-on-the-chip) firms have emerged into platform vendors and outcompeted powerful SoC firms from Silicon Valley. My talk will explore the underlying mechanism that made this emergence possible.