Japan’s Healthcare Reform in a Comparative Perspective

The purpose of my paper is to analyze future directions of Japan’s healthcare reform under the Abe government. The Japanese government is now carrying out various reforms in the now outdated and dysfunctional healthcare system established some fifty years ago. Whether or not the proposed healthcare reform will be successful depends on the success of “Abenomics” as well as effective policy-making. This paper will analyze and evaluate the policy directions of Japan’s healthcare reform as they become clearer and more specific. An attempt will be made to compare current healthcare problems and reform efforts in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific Rim. In conclusion, the author will attempt to point out major issues regarding the direction of future healthcare reform in Japan and in other countries.