

第3回パソコン入カスピード認定試験 練習問題 (21.2.7)
【英語部門】

By mid-2008, commodity prices plummeted as the financial crisis spread globally and the world economy entered an acute slowdown. Latin America was no exception, and was hit by this "perfect storm." The region's stock markets joined the global selloff; currencies depreciated dramatically; households, companies, and governments began feeling the credit crunch; remittances weakened; and a process of downward revisions to 2009 growth prospects was set in motion. All of this is happening amid great uncertainty about the future of global economic and financial dynamics.

The region is better prepared to prevent the inevitable problem of flows (falling fiscal revenue, lower GDP growth, reduced credit) from turning into a devastating run on Latin American assets, thanks to sound policies developed during the past decade that reduced macro-economic vulnerability to external shocks. Managing the flow problem, however, will be difficult. It will severely test economic policies, particularly monetary and fiscal policy.

The central challenge for monetary policy will be whether, when and how much to ease. Theoretically, countries with exchange rate flexibility and mature local currency debt markets should be able to more easily use countercyclical monetary policy. In practice, however, the room for monetary policy maneuvering will depend not only on inflation pressures but also on how much stress the domestic currencies and financial systems are facing. Overall, countries with autonomous central banks and solid fiscal processes are better positioned to face this challenge.

The main challenge for fiscal policy in Latin America will be to manage the inevitable fall in tax revenues so as to protect expenditures that are necessary to prevent a rise in poverty and lay the foundations for future growth.

練習問題