

their backward counterparts.

Determinants of Progress	Characteristics of Progress-resistant cultures	Characteristics of Progress-prone cultures
<i>time focus</i>	dwell on their (often glorified) past	look to the future (optimistically)
<i>agency</i>	fatalism accompanied by resignation is wide-spread	individuals believe they can influence their destiny
<i>approach to work</i>	work is not highly valued	work is highly valued
<i>value of education</i>	perceived relatively less important	perceived crucial
<i>perceptions about career/success</i>	reliance on nepotism is wide-spread	merit is the key to success
<i>frugality</i>	often perceived as a threat to equality	highly valued
<i>view of competition</i>	often perceived as aggression	perceived as source of excellence
<i>trust</i>	family or clan-based	extends beyond a family to encompass democratic institutions and "political" community
<i>notion of justice</i>	reliance on cult and religious beliefs	reliance on rigorous (and institutionalised) ethical codes
<i>authority</i>	centralised and vertical	dispersed and horizontal
<i>relationship between the state and religion</i>	theocracy	secular state

2. Discussion

Some points made by the participants during the discussion included:

- Errol Mendes (University of Ottawa) pointed out that there exists a myriad of exceptions to the generalisations put forward by the cultural determinism theories. The diversity of attitudes and beliefs within each society discredits their validity as well. He drew attention to India, where characteristics Harrison associates with progress-prone cultures (i.e., frugality, understanding of the value of education, etc.) exist, yet India remains "undeveloped." In a similar vein, Japan is known to dwell on its glorified past – a characteristic Harrison assigns to the progress-resistant cultures, yet it is a member of the G-7. Culture, therefore, is an inadequate tool in evaluating the lack of "progress." Other, more universal theories, have to be called upon to explain the uneven development around the world. John McDowell (DFAIT) pointed to the economic (and, to some extent, cultural) differences within Canadian regions settled by the British, adding further