

Outline of Projects Implemented in Fiscal Year 2003

Research activities undertaken by the Institute are grouped into four categories based on themes and methods of analyses. They are: "Area Studies," "Development Studies," "Inter-disciplinary Studies," and "Standby Research for Specific Development Issues." In FY2003, approximately fifty research topics were studied within Japan. With the additional activities of the Institute's overseas researchers, the total number of research topics undertaken during the year amounted to as many as eighty.

Area Studies

Area Studies aims to grasp the structures and current situations of developing regions through analyses of their economies, politics, and societies, and to clarify current issues and prospects in the medium- and long-term perspective. In FY2003, six studies were conducted under priority projects entitled: "Prospects for Economic Relationships among Asian Countries" and "Studies on Development Perspectives of CLMV Countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam)."

Other area studies conducted during the fiscal year included analyses of current affairs in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and other areas, as well as ongoing studies on basic issues involving the economic and political structures of developing countries.

Development Studies

The purpose of Development Studies research projects is to elucidate the development mechanisms of developing countries and regions, and to analyze their development processes, thereby contributing to the formulation of their devel-

opment strategies from the viewpoint of globalization.

In FY2003, econometric research continued, mainly on the Asian region, including international input-output studies on Asia and projections for the Asian industrializing region. Other Development Studies projects covered fundamental research on financing, enterprises, education, legal system, and the economies in transition, and other important topics concerning the economies of developing countries.

Inter-disciplinary Studies

Under these studies theoretical and corroborative research is conducted on various problems concerning Area Studies and Development Studies. This category also includes investigating regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific area.

In FY2003, the Institute carried out studies relating to gender, development aid, environment, economic cooperation, technology innovation, international relation, etc.

Standby Research for Specific Development Issues

Standby research projects are designed to deal, in a rapid and competent manner, with events that emerge suddenly. These projects involve the analysis and investigation, on an ad hoc basis, of current topics and urgent issues that are a focus of attention both within Japan and abroad. In FY2003, the following projects were organized: "ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership: Vision and Tasks Ahead," and "Taiwan's Presidential Election in 2004 and the Challenges for the Next Administration."

Major Priority Research Topics

Prospects for Economic Relationships among Asian Countries

At present, many Asian countries are carrying out negotiations toward the conclusions of treaties of free trade agreements. Meanwhile, China's economic position has increased, and other Asian countries feel threatened. This priority research is designed to investigate economic relationships between China and other Asian countries in the near future. Organized in FY2003 under this priority research were two studies entitled: "Trade, Investment, and Economic Cooperation between China and South Asia," and "Trade, Investment, and Economic Cooperation between China and Southeast Asia."

Studies on Development Perspectives of CLMV Countries

Studies are made on the issues that the four CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam) will face in their efforts to create an AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area), proposing development strategies as well as helping to promote trade and investment, and providing research to help in the design of economic cooperation policies. ASEAN's membership has been expanded with the participation of the four countries. Organized in FY2003 under this priority research were four studies entitled: "Regional Economic Integration and Vietnam: A New Stage of Development," "Socioeconomic Transformation in Cambodia after Joining ASEAN," "Transition to a Market Economy in Myanmar: Issues and Prospects under Fifteen Years of Military Rule," and "Transition to a Market Economy in Laos: Present State and Issues."