

# Seminars and Lectures

---

The Institute organizes lectures on current issues and topics of special interest. The lectures are open to the public, although some are held for a limited audience consisting of Diet members, government officials, and members of private sector organizations (research organizations, the press, and universities). More than twenty-five lectures are held every year, among which seven or eight are organized in various regions of Japan with the collaboration of local economic and research organizations. The most popular themes for the last two or three years concerned the economy of China. This vividly reflects the growing importance of its economy to local business communities in Japan.

In addition, Summer Seminars are held every year to disseminate information about development issues. In FY2003, eight courses (twenty-four subjects) were organized. The themes in FY2003 included "Regional Integration and Development Issues in the CLMV Countries," "Development and Gender," and "Socioeconomic Development and Law in Asia."

Seminars on specific subjects were held for people particularly interested in issues of development and/or developing areas. One dealt with the "2004 General Election and Presidential Election in Indonesia."

---

# Commendation for Outstanding Publications

---

(Award for the Promotion of Studies on Developing Countries)

In order to promote studies on developing countries, and to encourage researchers in Japan who are engaged in such studies, the Institute grants awards each year for outstanding publications on economic and other issues concerning developing countries. In 2003, a total of fifty-eight books and papers published during the previous year were recommended for consideration by distinguished scholars in related fields. The selection committee, consisting of the members listed below, examined five reports and eventually selected one publication listed below. The award was presented to the author by the Institute on July 2, 2003.

## Members of the Selection Committee

Katsuji Nakagane (Chairman; Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University), Yonosuke Hara (Professor, University of Tokyo), Akira Kohsaka (Professor, Osaka University), Juro Teranishi (Professor, Hitotsubashi University), Takeshi Endo (Editorial Writer, Asahi Shimbun), Ippei Yamazawa (President, International University of Japan)

## Award-Winning Publication

Jin Sato, *Kishō shigen no portikusu: Tai nōson ni miru kaihatsu to kankyō no hazama* [The politics of scarce resources: Conservation and development in rural Thailand] (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 2002).

(Associate Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo)

# Office Information Systematization

---

In fiscal year 2003, the Management Information Systems Division of the Institute replaced its information systems with the latest and most powerful ones, in line with a basic concept for new information systems that was formulated in fiscal year 2002 along with a consulting firm. The new system not only improved the performance of servers and client computers but also strengthened the security of the networks against virus-related threats and widespread hacking activities on the Internet. In addition to replacing the information systems, we introduced new multifunctional digital copying machines with network printer functions. This has brought both speedy performance and high productivity to the Institute's printing environment. Another special feature of our systems is that they provide remote access to overseas research staff of the Institute. The staff can connect to the Institute's network systems from anywhere in the world.

- (1) Strengthening Statistic Solution Systems. The new systems also improved statistics processing systems. A new workstation system was put into use and a new server system was set up for statistics processing.
  - (2) Support for the Business Management System. (a) The Institute and JETRO headquarters each have their own personnel management database. To connect the two databases using the network, it was necessary to take some technical measures for protecting the data. (b) Technical support was also carried out to improve the Field Survey Management System.
  - (3) Support for Web-Site-Related Maintenance. It is necessary to update the web site contents quickly and to adequately provide various kinds of information. To accomplish this, enhancements were carried out including the introduction of new web site building software. In addition, a system for inventory and sales control of the Institute's publications was replaced to allow quick replies to orders.
  - (4) Conversion of Data on Magnetic Tapes to CDs. The Institute has a number of magnetic data tapes including, for example, world trade matrices. These magnetic storage media deteriorate in the long term and have to be duplicated. To keep and protect these data in the long term the Division converted the data on magnetic tapes to CDs.
  - (5) Staff Computer Training.
- 

## Supporting Members

---

Supporting members of the Institute endorse the objectives of the Institute and support its activities through contributions, donations, and other forms of financial assistance. Supporting members consist of two groups, regular supporting members and associate supporting members, depending on the membership fees paid. In order to bring the results of the Institute's research work to a greater number of people, the Institute has set up an "Individual Membership" as part of the associate supporting membership. The number of individual members is gradually but steadily increasing.

The benefits received by supporting members include: free subscription to publications from the Institute; information about and discount admission to seminars, lectures, and other public events sponsored by the Institute; dispatch of lecturers; and access to the IDE Library, copying and reference services.

---

# Budget

For Fiscal Year 2003

	(Million yen)
Administrative expenditures	3,266
Research expenditures	348
International research exchange expenditures	679
Statistics and library expenditures	257
Public relations expenditures	65
Expenditures for training courses on development studies	77
Expenditures for purchasing the building site	860
Expenditures for commissioned studies	155
Expenditures carried over to the administrative expenditures	31
Reserve fund	21
<hr/>	
Total	5,759