

## Invitation of Visiting Research Fellows (VRF)

In this program, academic or other specialists are invited exclusively from developing countries as VRFs for a period of three to ten months. This program offers VRFs opportunities to carry out research, exchange opinions and information on development issues with IDE researchers, and learn about the Japanese development experience through activities such as study tours and seminars about Japan. In FY2006, the IDE invited and financially supported eleven VRFs, one of whom participated in one of the IDE research projects. The IDE also invited five self-supporting VRFs from abroad within the same period.

## Dispatching of IDE Staff Abroad

The IDE dispatches researchers abroad on two-year assignment to have them build up experiences of conducting research in developing countries or regions. Through this program, researchers are expected to improve their ability to make in-depth analyses of economic, political, and social phenomena in those countries and to build overseas institutional networks. In FY2006, fourteen researchers were sent abroad to be affiliated with research institutes, universities and international organizations. Four senior research fellows organized research teams and conducted joint studies in Singapore, Beijing, Jakarta, and Makassar in collaboration with academics and experts in those areas.

## Networking Activities

The IDE has carried out various activities to serve as the center of excellence for development studies. Activities in FY2006 are summarized as follows:

- Receiving 86 overseas visitors
- Delivering presentations at international forum such as academic societies and international meetings

## Support for the Global Development Network (GDN)

The GDN was established in 1999 by the World Bank and has been a worldwide fora on development studies, in both developed and developing countries.

The Eighth Annual GDN Conference was held in Beijing, China from January 14-16, 2007. In this conference, the IDE jointly organized one of the parallel sessions, titled "Cluster Development for Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation: With a Focus on Case Studies from China and Africa" with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID).

In addition, the IDE jointly held a workshop by GDN-Japan titled "Industrial Development, Trade and Investment Promotion in Africa: Lessons from Asia." Its main theme was "Shaping a New Global Reality: The Rise of Asia and its Implications." About 600 researchers, policy makers, and politicians attended the workshop.