

I. ACTIVITIES IN FY2017

1. Outline of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)

The Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) was founded in 1960 with special status under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (now the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry). The IDE conducts basic and comprehensive studies on economic, political, and social issues in developing countries and regions. In the years since then, the IDE has been conducting research on Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and Eastern Europe, mainly through field surveys and empirical studies. The IDE has also gathered materials and information on these countries and regions and made them available to the public both domestically and outside Japan, in addition to disseminating the findings of its surveys and research. Since 1990, the IDE has been taking part in the education of trainees in the areas of economic and social development in developing countries and regions.

In July 1998, the IDE merged with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). In the following year, the IDE relocated its offices from Shinjuku Ward in Tokyo to Mihama Ward in Chiba. In October 2003, JETRO was reorganized into an independent administrative agency. The IDE carries on all its activities within this newly organized body and works to strengthen its research activities.

In the Fourth Mid-Term Plan (2015–2018), the activities of the IDE will be evaluated in line with the evaluation guidelines set for Japanese national research and development agencies.

2. Operating Policies in 2017

Following the “Guidelines concerning Creating Goals for Independent Administrative Institutions” (announced by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, on September 2, 2014), the IDE will tackle the following issues: (1) securing and training human resources, (2) the appropriate allocation of resources, (3) cooperation and combination for research projects, (4) building and improving environments for research and development in ways that enable researchers to maximize their abilities, and (5) improving coordination and cooperation with other research institutions.

In practice, the IDE will endeavor to maximize research outcomes by attaining the following numerical targets: (1) the number of briefing sessions offered to policy-makers, (2) the number of papers downloaded, (3) peer-review scores given by external academics on research findings, (4) the number of seminars, symposia, etc., sponsored by the IDE, and (5) the number of international joint research projects. In addition, the IDE will prioritize specific projects related to Africa, the IDE Geographic Simulation Model (IDE-GSM), business and human rights, and the “One Belt One Road” initiative. The IDE will also endeavor to build better research environments to secure highly competent research talent.

(1) Contributions to Industry, the Economy, and Society

As the process of globalization continues to unfold, emerging countries are continuing to register rapid growth rates. These rates show promise for expanding potential markets for Japanese companies, but they also introduce a set of difficult issues, such as wider inter-regional and intra-regional income

I. ACTIVITIES IN FY2017

differences, and the emergence of resource and environmental constraints. The result is that the need for studies on emerging countries and developing regions is growing rapidly. In order to meet this need, as well as to anticipate the challenges and problems that these countries will face in their efforts to realize sustainable growth and overall industrial advancement, the IDE will carry out in-depth analyses of the politics, economies, and societies of these countries through area and development studies. Specifically, research at the IDE will focus on the activities of firms that accelerate rapid economic growth in developing and emerging countries. The research also analyzes the diversified characteristics of industrial organizations in the respective countries and the economic mechanisms that make firms participate in global value chains (GVCs) that connect firms in the global market as potential sources of economic growth. The IDE will also prioritize its research on Africa, which is experiencing phenomenal growth fueled by expansions in trade, investments, and consumption. Furthermore, by keeping in mind the sustainable development goals (SDGs) that are to be followed in 2015 and thereafter, the IDE will conduct research that addresses issues such as gender, development, and disabilities, and reducing income disparities in order to meet the agendas given in the context of inclusive growth and equal opportunity.

(2) Production of Pioneering Research Results

The IDE endeavors to produce research results that extend beyond universities and private companies. Specifically, the Institute will expand its geographical coverage and practical application of IDE-GSM, which was built on the basis of spatial economics, so as to provide the results of our IDE-GSM analysis at the request of international organizations and foreign governments. The IDE also engages in the further development of studies such as on Trade in Value-Added while working with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and specifically participating in the publication of the *Global Value Chain Development Report* in collaboration with the WTO, the OECD, the World Bank, and other research institutions.

(3) Intellectual Contributions to the World through International Joint Research

The IDE aims to make intellectual contributions to the world by promoting joint research with international organizations, institutes, and universities such as the WTO, the World Bank, the University of California at Berkeley, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and by engaging competent research talents in Japan and abroad.

3. Outline of Activities in 2017

The IDE carried out four different categories of research: (1) policy issue research, (2) analytical research contributing to policy recommendations, (3) basic and comprehensive research, and (4) funded research.

(1) Policy Issue Research

Based on the needs of the ministries, the IDE also conducts policy issue research projects by collaborating with relevant ministries, as well as with JETRO's headquarters.

(2) Analytical Research Contributing to Policy Recommendations

Analytical research consists of four categories: 1) prioritized thematic research; 2) regular analytical research on political and economic trends in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America; 3) ad hoc timely research that quickly responds to immediate events of great concern to the international community; and 4) collaborative research with international organizations, universities, and other research institutions.

(3) Basic and Comprehensive Research

By keeping track of the latest trends in academic research, as well as the current needs of industries, government, and academia, the IDE implements basic comprehensive research that can serve as the basis for policy recommendations.

(4) Funded Research

The IDE undertakes several funded research projects commissioned by international organizations, governments, and academic institutions. In FY2017, the IDE has conducted contract research projects with the National Institute for Environmental Studies and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in Japan. In addition, more than one-third of researchers in the IDE were awarded a total of about 96 million yen of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) in FY2017.

(5) Research Partnerships and Networks

In order to enhance its information-gathering activities and analytical capabilities, the IDE dispatched its researchers to research institutions and universities in developing countries, as well as to research institutions in the West that specialize in the study of developing countries. The IDE also invites outstanding researchers from Japan and abroad, and employs them as visiting research fellows and experts in their fields of study.

The IDE constructs networks with research institutes, universities, and international organizations in order to enhance research collaborations by signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs). In FY2017, the IDE signed MOUs with SOAS University of London, UK; the Research Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India; the National Institute for Economic Research (NIER), Laos; and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan. The IDE also renewed its MOUs with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan; and Kanda University of International Studies in FY2017.

(6) Publication and Dissemination of Research Findings

The IDE disseminated its findings through publications, lectures, seminars, and its website. Furthermore, the IDE sponsored and promoted various events, such as symposia and seminars, both in Japan and abroad, presented papers at academic meetings and symposia, published papers in peer-reviewed journals, and published research findings in book form. When planning lectures in Japan and abroad, we collaborated with JETRO headquarters and its domestic and overseas offices.

The IDE upgraded its website so that it focuses on timely topics and content, and incorporates viewpoints, analytical methods, and important value-added data, which are useful for policy-makers and business planners. As part of an effort to widely disseminate the IDE's research findings, the Institute is making its website content more accessible to the public. In FY2017, construction of a new website was carried out using the common content management system (CMS) with headquarters. This new

I. ACTIVITIES IN FY2017

website was launched in May 2017. A new site for general readers, “IDE Square,” which covers everything from current issues in developing countries to social circumstances and culture, was inaugurated in November 2017.

Furthermore, IDE started a monthly e-mail magazine in September 2017 to introduce events, reports, and newly released publications. There are about 1,300 subscribers as of the end of March 2018.

(7) The IDE Library

As a research library dedicated to the study of developing countries, the IDE Library collects, maintains, and offers academic documents as well as other materials in multiple languages, including government publications, statistical documents, newspapers, and journals from various countries (in both print and digital media). To improve access for non-visiting users, the library provides information, valuable data, and useful materials via its website. It also expanded its academic information databases, such as the Archive of IDE Publications (AIDE) and the Academic Research Repository at the Institute of Developing Economies (ARRIDE). The AIDE and ARRIDE have been integrated, together with the Asia Database, to create a new ARRIDE database that was released in May 2017. For the sake of public relations, the IDE Library has held several special exhibitions of materials and documents, exchanged memorandums of understanding with other university libraries for mutual use, and held book talks at university libraries.

(8) Human Resource Development

The IDE runs the IDE Advanced School (IDEAS) to nurture experts who are able to address challenges faced by developing countries today. The school has two training programs: one for overseas fellows and the other for Japanese fellows. Government officers working in the fields of economics, trade, investment, and cooperation with Africa and Asia are invited to the former program.