

International Research Exchanges Promotion Program

during Fiscal Year 2002

ASEAN-Japan Research Institute Meeting (AJRIM)

In January 2002, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Singapore and signed the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement. He stressed the need for strengthening a sincere and open partnership between Japan and ASEAN and proposed an Initiative for ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP). In September 2002, AEM-METI (ASEAN Economic Ministers and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Consultations) was held in Brunei and jointly recommended that their national leaders commence consideration of a framework that would provide a basis for concrete plans and elements towards realizing the AJCEP in accordance with guiding principles, such as the comprehensiveness of countries and sectors. The framework should be developed and presented to the national leaders in 2003 for their consideration. The implementation of measures for the realization of the partnership, including elements of a possible FTA, should be completed as soon as possible, and no later than ten years, with due consideration for the economic levels and sensitive sectors of each country.

In support of this AJCEP initiative at the governmental level, the Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO and research institutes of five ASEAN member countries (the Center for Strategic and International Studies of Indonesia, the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and the Thailand Development Research Institute) started a new joint study program on the current state of their industrial upgrading and strategy for enhancing international competitiveness. This also meets Prime Minister Koizumi's suggestion for "strengthening the network that links research institutions in Japan and ASEAN countries." The ASEAN-Japan Research Institute Meeting (AJRIM) seeks to work out the vision of AJCEP and elaborate its tasks ahead. AJRIM met for the first time in Bangkok in October 2002. In July 2003, ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year, an expanded meeting will be held in Tokyo inviting Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. The results of the joint study will be input for AEM-METI in September 2003 and will be published later for wider dissemination.

Global Development Network

The Global Development Network (GDN), established in 1999 by the World Bank, is a worldwide forum of development studies both in developed countries and in developing countries. It currently has twelve regional hubs and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation maintains GDN-Japan website. GDN became independent in 2001 and will open its new headquarters in New Delhi.

IDE held a session at the GDN Fourth Annual Conference in Cairo, January 18–21, 2003. We also selected six candidates connected with trade and FDI matters among the papers entered for the Global Development Award, which was presented to the finalist in that conference.

More than five hundred participants attended the conference from around the world, and fifteen including three from IDE came from Japan. The conference was composed of six plenary sessions and twenty-six parallel sessions. In the IDE session titled

“Globalization Carried on Human Feet,” four presentations elaborated on the importance of extensionism as conveyer of developmental technologies. Under the chairmanship of our president Yamazawa, two IDE researchers reported on the expected role of agricultural extensionism and livelihood extensionism mainly from the Japanese experience. We also invited another two speakers from Senegal and Yemen, who reported on their own activities as agricultural extensionism in West Africa and in the life improvement movement in Yemen. All papers were published as an IDE Spot Survey titled *Globalization Carried on Human Feet*, which is available on the IDE website.