

Seminars and Lectures

The Institute organizes lectures on current issues and topics of special interest. Since the lectures are basically open to the public, the audience is varied, including government officials, members of research organizations, the press, university professors, graduate students, and others. Approximately thirty lectures are held every year, among which eight or nine are organized in various regions of Japan with the collaboration of local economic and research organizations. The most popular themes for the last three or four years have been those regarding the Chinese economy. This vividly reflects the growing importance of its economy to local business communities in Japan. India has not received as much attention so far. However, topics regarding the Indian economy and industries have been gaining popularity, especially among urban businesspeople in recent years.

Seminars on specific subjects were held for audiences with a particular interest in issues of development and/or developing areas. One of these dealt with "International Recycling in Asia."

In addition, Summer Seminars are held every year to disseminate information about development issues. In FY2004, five courses (fifteen subjects) were organized. The themes in FY2004 included "Current Trends in FTAs in East Asia," "The overheating Chinese Economy and the Outlook for a Soft Landing," and "Saudi Arabia: Democratization and the Future of the Royalty."

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 2004, a total of 46 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 four reports and eventually selected one publication listed below. The award was presented to the author by the Institute on July 1, 2004.

► Members of the Selection Committee

Katsuji Nakagane (Chairman; Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University)

Yonosuke Hara (Professor, University of Tokyo)

Akira Kosaka (Professor, Osaka University)

Juro Teranishi (Professor, Hitotsubashi University)

Takeshi Endo (Editorial Writer, Asahi Shimbun)

Masahisa Fujita (President, Institute of Developing Economies)

► Award-Winning Publication

(1) Author, title, publisher

Hiroshi Sato (Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Hitotsubashi University),
Shotoku-kakusa to hinkon [Income inequality and poverty] (Nagoya: The University of Nagoya Press, 2003).

(2) Theme

Who is enjoying the fruits of the rapid economic development in China? This book analyzes modern Chinese economy and society since the acceleration of the transition toward a market economy from the point of view of income distribution based on a large-scale household survey.

(3) Contents

Preface

Chapter 1 – Marketization and income distribution: an analytical framework

Chapter 2 – Structure and change of income inequality and poverty: an overview

Chapter 3 – Workplace and income: from “unit” socialism to a stratified labor market

Chapter 4 – Unemployment, migrant laborers and poverty: being poor and awareness of being poor

Chapter 5 – Housing: haves and have-nots

Chapter 6 – City-dwellers and farmers: settlement, segregation, discrimination

Concluding remarks