

# Outline of Projects Implemented in Fiscal Year 2005

Research activities are the core activities of the Institute, and every year we are endeavoring to improve these activities. In FY2005 (April 2005–March 2006), approximately 50 research projects were implemented. Most projects are carried out jointly by IDE research staff and outside specialists. The research outcomes are not only disseminated in the form of publications, research papers, and reports, but are also presented at lectures, symposiums, and workshops, posted on the website, and used in lectures in the IDE Advanced School (IDEAS) as well as in research cooperation with other institutions.

At present, the Institute has 153 research staff (as of April 1, 2006). By field of specialization, the majority is in the field of economics, and about 17 percent are engaged in political science. By region of study, one-third of the researchers concentrates on ASEAN countries as their field of study, and the next largest group specializes in the countries and regions of East Asia. In addition, as the IDE is expanding the focuses of its research activities on developing countries throughout the world, there are also staff researchers specializing in regions such as the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America (see the table below).

## Number of Researchers by Region and Field

As of April 1, 2006

	Economy	Politics	Society	Law	Statistics	Environment	Others	Total
<b>East Asia</b>	18	5	2	1	3	2	1	32
<b>Southeast Asia</b>	26	7	4	5	7	1	0	50
<b>South Asia</b>	12	1	1	1	0	0	1	16
<b>Middle East</b>	5	5	3	0	0	0	1	14
<b>Africa</b>	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	10
<b>Latin America</b>	7	2	2	0	0	0	1	12
<b>CIS / Central Asia / Eastern Europe</b>	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	4
<b>Oceania</b>	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Others</b>	9	1	2	0	1	0	0	13
<b>Total</b>	83	26	18	7	12	3	4	153

The Institute carries out a variety of research activities in response to both academic and social needs. We present here research activities carried out in FY2005 in the categories of Priority Projects, Major Projects, Standby Research for Specific Development Issues, Basic and Comprehensive Studies, All-JETRO Projects, Collaborative Research, Overseas Joint Studies on Economic Development Issues, and Commissioned Research.

### *Priority Projects*

The Priority Projects, in view of the importance of their themes, are taken up by the entire Institute. First among these is the three-year project entitled "Studies on East Asian Economic Integration" that started in FY2004. In this project, we completed a study on the institutionalization of regional cooperation, structural reform of each economy, the effects of economic partnership, and the prospects of FTAs in East Asia. Meanwhile, we have also set up research groups to study Asian regional economic integration from the viewpoint of spatial economics as well as to examine the impact of regional integration on each economy.

Second, a project entitled "Prospects for Economic Relationships among Asian Countries" began in FY2003. It consisted of a study on economic cooperation in the area of trade and investment between China and South Asia and between China and ASEAN as well as a study on the international division of labor and local industries in the motorcycle industry and IT industry in the Asian region. The latter study ended this fiscal year, marking the end of the project.

Finally, in the project on "Studies on the Development Perspectives of CLMV Countries," country studies were concluded last year on Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. A research group examined the prospects for industrialization of those countries this fiscal year, finalizing all the activities of this project.

- Studies on East Asian Economic Integration (4 themes)
- Prospects for Economic Relationships among Asian Countries (2 themes)
- Studies on the Development Perspectives of CLMV Countries (1 theme)

### ***Major Projects***

The Major Projects are long-term projects carried out by the Institute on an ongoing basis. In FY2005, we continued to work on a project to analyze current affairs in Asia, which is being conducted as a means to grasp the political and economic situations in the various countries. Also, to quantitatively grasp the economic situation of Asian countries and other developing countries, we continued to update data for economic projections on industrial structures and on trade. We also carried out research projects intended to contribute to Japan's economic cooperation.

- Analysis of Current Affairs in Asia
- Projections for the Asian Industrializing Region (PAIR) (IX)
- The Industrial Structure of the Asia-Pacific Region (V)
- Compilation and Application of Trade Indices (III)
- Research Projects Contributing to Japan's Economic Cooperation (3 themes)

### ***Standby Research for Specific Development Issues***

Projects in Standby Research for Specific Development Issues are implemented in order to make prompt and adequate responses to fluid international situations or urgent matters that cannot be incorporated into other research categories, which are set up at the beginning of each fiscal year. In FY2005, analyses were carried out on issues such as "The New Bush Administration and the Middle East: Terrorism and Democratization" and "Challenges for China's New Leadership: With Special Reference to the 11th Five-Year Plan." The ongoing research on "Vietnam's New Socioeconomic Development Strategies toward 2010," which started in February 2006, will publish its report in 2006.

### ***Basic and Comprehensive Studies***

Basic and Comprehensive Studies are research projects delving deeply into a variety of themes being faced by the developing countries and regions in a wide area, ranging from Asia to the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America as well as other regions. In FY2005, we conducted basic and comprehensive studies on 31 themes.

## ***All-JETRO Projects***

The JETRO Headquarters and the IDE set up a system for collaborative projects that take advantage of the human resources and knowledge of both institutions, in order to quickly respond to broad social needs faced by the Japanese government and industries, etc., and to supply information actively. JETRO as a whole is strengthening its functions of information analysis and supply.

## ***Collaborative Research***

The Institute implements collaborative research with other organizations in Japan, such as universities, research institutions, and local governments, capitalizing on the knowledge resources of the respective institutions. In FY2005, we carried out research on “Japanese Experiences in Local Industrial Development: Lessons for Developing Countries” in collaboration with Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and also set up a research group on “Regional Development Strategy in Southwestern China” in collaboration with Yamaguchi University.

## ***Overseas Joint Studies on Economic Development Issues***

The Institute carries out Overseas Joint Studies on Economic Development Issues, in which IDE’s senior research fellows sent abroad organize joint research groups with local researchers and disseminate the outcomes locally and elsewhere. In FY2005, overseas joint studies were implemented in Vietnam and Malawi.

## ***Commissioned Research***

The Institute conducts commissioned research at the request of governmental departments/organizations, private companies, and international organizations. In FY2005, five research projects were organized at the request of UNIDO, ECLAC, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).

## ***Evaluation***

In order to ensure that these research activities are evaluated from the third-party perspective, in FY2003 the IDE’s Achievement Evaluation Committee, which is composed of external experts, was established. The target of the committee’s evaluation encompasses all of the research activities of the Institute, including the systems of research implementation, research outcomes, and social contribution, and its evaluations are conducted based on the project categories. Specifically, the final manuscripts submitted by each research group are assessed by two professionals from outside institutions. The results of the evaluations, together with the evaluations of other projects, was published in the “FY2005 IDE Achievement Evaluation Committee Report” (in Japanese).