
I . FY2011 Research Policy (Activity Policy) of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)

(1) Research Projects

For research projects, IDE implements 1) policy proposal research, 2) analytical research contributing to policy proposals, and 3) basic and comprehensive research that forms the basis of policy proposal research, and seeks to grasp a more complete picture of developing nations and regions by focusing not only on trade and investment, but also on many areas facing developing nations and regions, such as social issues.

1) Policy proposal research:

IDE deals with highly adaptive research issues based on the requests of policymakers.

While striving for cooperation with the relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and head office departments, IDE will, based on the requests of policymakers, provide support for the construction of an Asian research network (subsidized), and work on joint China-Japan-Korea FTA research, cooperative research between Japan and China (promoting industry in Guangdong province), Japan-China bilateral FTA research, APEC joint research, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) joint research, research on the rise of China and India and the transformation of East Asia, research on the construction of a peace system for the Middle East and South Asia regions, and investment promotion program for Africa, thus working to contribute to policy proposals serving Japan's national interest.

2) Analytical research contributing to policy proposals:

IDE deals with research issues anticipating the potential and medium-term policy needs and social needs of policymakers.

In order to contribute to "contributions aimed at strengthening Asian economic cooperation", which is the core of the third stage of the medium-term plan, IDE will establish the three issues of the "composition and issues of the East Asian economic bloc: economic integration and development strategies", "market and industry analysis of emerging nations", and "political and economic comparative analysis and international relations of developing nations", and will predominantly commit to resources for them. For example, IDE will build an overlapping-generations general equilibrium model for East Asia, and conduct a simulation analysis of the effects of trade and investment policies on trade and production in East Asia, where each country faces a steadily aging society.

As current analytical research that covers the period of the medium-term plan, IDE will start building a next-generation economic geographical simulation model (GSM) capable of analyzing by prefecture the effect of the international roads in the East Asian region, measures to streamline customs clearance and gateway designs, in addition to existing research projects that include International Input-output Analysis and analysis of current affairs in Asia. IDE will also conduct model analysis on long-term economic growth in Asia, allowing for market forecast of East Asia that incorporates household consumer behavior by generation.

In addition, IDE will continuously conduct cooperative research utilizing the knowledge of both international organizations and local governments, greatly responding to the needs of every level of government, industry and academia. For example, IDE will work with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to estimate valued-added content of international trade flows. For another example, IDE will conduct cooperative research with the Fukuoka prefectural government on the effect of the gateway design, which connects Fukuoka prefecture and Kyushu with East Asia and the world, on the prefecture and region, thus contributing to regional development.

IDE will also, where appropriate, begin mobile research that will respond swiftly to urgent situations of high interest domestically and internationally.

3) Basic and comprehensive research that forms the basis of policy proposal research:

IDE conducts research that highlights issues based on the understanding of the latest academic research trends

acquired through participation in and presentation at advisory committees and academic conferences, as well as through information exchange, and based on the understanding of the needs of academia, industry and government obtained through hosting seminars and symposiums, policy forums with relevant ministries and agencies, and external advisory committee discussions.

IDE will conduct investigative research, appointing the two priority themes for basic research, namely, “new strategies of the nation and business for sustainable development (economy and environment)” and “political stability and inclusion of the socially disadvantaged for balanced development (politics and society)”, based on the awareness of the present situation regarding developing nations and regions.

(2) Distribution and Dissemination of Research Findings

IDE will widely disseminate research findings through publications, lectures, seminars and websites. As a new measure for flexibly distributing perspectives, analytical framework and high value-added data that are useful not only for research and education but also for policymaking and businesses, IDE will further strengthen online distribution by such means as starting up the “IDE Web Forum (tentative name)” which will flexibly distribute analyses corresponding to political and economic changes in developing nations.

To respond to the needs of policymakers, in particular, IDE will compile the “Policy Brief” which concisely summarizes the implications of research findings and value-added analyses, and, through the “IDE Policy Forum”, will provide policymakers with briefs and research findings based on high value-added historical, structural and quantitative analyses that will serve as the basic data for policy decisions.

Through hosting symposiums, lectures, seminars and workshops in Japan and abroad, presenting research finding at advisory committees and academic conferences, publications, and externally peer-reviewed journals, IDE will also work to disseminate findings in response to the needs of every level of society, including policymakers, enterprises, businesspeople, academia and intellectuals. Specifically, in hosting domestic and international events like lectures, IDE will strengthen cooperation, using the wide network of the headquarters, to host events flexibly.

(3) IDE Library

As a specialist library that fills the role of a common facility for research on developing nations, the IDE Library will collect, organize and offer resources published in various countries in many languages, including academic resources, government publications, statistical books, newspapers and magazines, and promote the collection of electronic media resources and information. The library will distribute information on its library resources actively. It will also increase the convenience for visitors to the library, especially users from afar and users unable to visit the library, to improve access to the collection through the effective distribution of information on the resources at the library. Together with striving for the stable operation of the online library and further improvement of its content, the library will start introducing new resources, promote its new acquisition alert service (delivery of information on the arrival of the latest magazine issues and new resources), and develop services utilizing the inter-library loan system and the satellite set up at the JETRO Business Library.

(4) Research Network and Personnel Training

As part of its investigative research activities, IDE will comprehend the economic, social and political situations of developing nations, and learn trade and investment theories. IDE will dispatch researchers to research institutes and universities in developing countries and regions, as well as to developing nation research organizations in the West, to improve IDE’s research level, build and expand its research network and raise its profile. IDE will also invite experts in developing nation studies with internationally-recognized achievements as foreign visiting researchers and development experts.

Furthermore, as part of its intellectual contribution based on the latest research findings, IDE runs the IDE Advanced School (IDEAS), providing a high-quality curriculum and implementing training programs that foster development experts having both theoretical and practical capabilities.

(5) Acquisition of Competitive Funds

As new financial resources to improve its research, IDE will acquire competitive funds from international organizations and government agencies for funded research and grants in aid for scientific research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, using its accumulated research and pool of researchers, thus working on diversifying its sources of revenue.

(6) Strengthening Cooperation between the Research Sector and the Investigative and Business Sectors

IDE will strengthen cooperation with the investigative and business sectors and overseas offices, and take measures to improve/expand research activities and dissemination of research findings, as well as to enhance the synergy effect. IDE will also further promote measures for improving the efficiency of its administrative work.