

I. RESEARCH PRINCIPLES, FY2015

MISSION STATEMENT

The Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) aims to make intellectual contributions to the world as a leading center of social science research on developing regions such as Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. IDE accumulates locally grounded knowledge on these areas, clarifies the conditions and issues they are facing, and disseminates a better understanding of these areas both domestically and abroad. These activities provide an intellectual foundation to facilitate cooperation between Japan and the international community to address developmental issues.

IDE creates high value-added research products and policy recommendations by making the most of (1) the assemblage of various researchers from a wide range of disciplines, including economics and political science, who are well-versed with the local situations and languages of developing regions and (2) the extensive research networks within Japan and abroad.

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

In practice, IDE will endeavor to maximize research outcome by attaining the following numerical targets: (1) the number of briefing sessions offered to policymakers, (2) the number of papers downloaded, (3) the peer-review score of research findings made by external academics, (4) the number of seminars, symposia, etc. sponsored by IDE, and (5) the number of international joint research projects. In addition, IDE will prioritize specific projects related to Africa, the IDE Geographic Simulation Model (IDE-GSM), and Global Value Chain (GVC). IDE will also endeavor to build a better research environment to secure highly competent research talent.

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

As the process of globalization continues to unfold, emerging countries are continuing to register rapid growth rates, which, on the one hand, hold out the promise of expanding the potential markets for Japanese companies; while, on the other hand, these rates introduce a set of difficult issues, such as wider inter-regional and intra-regional income 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, IDE will carry out in-depth analyses of the politics, economies, and societies of these countries by employing area and development studies in order to anticipate the challenges and problems that these countries will face in their efforts to realize sustainable growth and overall industrial advancement. More specifically, IDE will grapple with the “middle income trap” and other problems that the emerging countries will need to overcome through innovation, and it will prioritize its research on Africa, which is experiencing phenomenal growth fueled by expansions in trade, investment, and consumption. Africa is also identified as an important strategic target for Japan’s economic cooperation, which will be provided through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). Furthermore, by keeping in mind the sustainable development goals (SDGs) that are to be followed in 2015 and thereafter, IDE will undertake research that addresses issues such as gender, development, and reducing disparities from standpoints that attach importance to inclusive growth and equal opportunity.

(2) Production of Pioneering Research Results

IDE endeavors to produce research results that extend beyond universities and private companies.

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Specifically, IDE will expand its geographical coverage and the 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.

In keeping with the worldwide surge of interest in GVCs, IDE will also establish a network of research bases for the study of GVCs, so as to take the lead in cutting-edge research activities, including “trade in value-added analysis,” which IDE has developed and improved over a long period of time. IDE will also strengthen the collaboration among various research projects.

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

IDE aims to make an intellectual contribution to the world by promoting joint research with international organizations such as WTO, OECD, UNIDO, ADB, and ERIA, and with universities and research institutions abroad, including those in emerging and developing regions, and by engaging competent research talent in Japan and abroad.

ACTION PRINCIPLES

1. Research Projects

IDE carries out three different categories of research: Policy Recommendation Research, Analytical Research, and Basic Comprehensive Research.

(1) Policy Recommendation Research

Policy recommendation research means projects based on requests from ministries in the Government of Japan such as the Ministry of Trade, Economy and Industry. In some cases, this type of research involves staff in JETRO’s headquarters. In FY2015, the seven projects (research programs) which were completed are as follows:

- Failure of Nation-state Model in Middle East—A Possibility of the New Regional Order
- Trade and Value-added Analysis: An extension to Developing Economies (III)
- Economic, Industrial, and Trade Development Vision for Lao PDR
- Business and Human Rights in Emerging Markets: Designing Japan’s CSR Strategies
- China’s Pilot Free Trade Zone: Current Situation and Prospects
- Aid Policy of China, Aid Policy of Japan
- Contemporary Africa?

IDE-JETRO delivers immediate insights from its policy-issue research to policymakers through the Institute’s website, seminars, policy briefs, and face-to-face meetings with policymakers.

(2) Analytical Research

In carrying out its analytical research, IDE enhances collaborative research with international organizations, universities, and other research institutions within Japan and abroad. IDE also conducts permanent research projects that analyze political and economic trends in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America; disseminates its findings through its periodical publications and website, while also being engaged in the development and utilization of GSM; and addresses such issues as “food safety regulations and trade.” IDE is also flexible and performs research on an ad hoc basis by quickly responding to immediate issues of great concern to the international community, such as emergency situations in the developing regions or sudden, violent changes to the international status quo.

In FY2015, IDE-JETRO collaborated with research institutes overseas and in Japan for the following three joint projects:

- Tracing China’s Greenhouse Gas and Pollution Sources in Global Value Chains (GVCs): Regional and Firm Heterogeneity, conducted with the Institute of Contemporary China Studies (ICCS) at Tsinghua University, the Institute of Global Low-Carbon Economy (IGLCE) at Nagoya University, the Research

Institute of Euro-Asia Economic Forum (RIEAEF) at Xi'an Jiaotong University, and the Center for BRICS Studies (CBS) at Fudan University.

- Leveraging the Silicon Valley Connections: Taiwan's New Innovation Policies and Implications for Japan, conducted with the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research.

- Regional Vitalization, Internationalization and Innovation: Theory and Empirical Analysis for Invigorating the Hokuriku Economies, conducted with Fukui Prefectural University, Hokuriku AJEC, and the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry.

(3) Basic Comprehensive Research

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

2. Securing Competitive Funds and Promoting Their Effective Utilization

Capitalizing on its extensive research experience and sizeable pool of researchers, IDE makes considerable efforts to secure competitive research funds by undertaking research projects that are commissioned by international organizations and government offices, and by receiving Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), which are managed by the Japanese government. It also takes steps to use these research funds from external sources more effectively.

3. Research Partnerships and Networks, and Human Resources Development

As part of its intellectual contribution and activities to disseminate its research, IDE operates the IDE Advanced School (IDEAS) to train both Japanese development experts by equipping them with the necessary theoretical understanding and practical capabilities to work for international organizations, as well officials of administrative and public institutions in the developing countries in Asia and Africa. In particular, IDE is striving to enroll an increasing number of trainees from Africa in its New Strategy toward Africa training program.

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

By improving its joint research with international organizations and universities as well as with research institutions in Japan and abroad, by encouraging its researchers to present their research findings at international academic meetings, and by holding IDE sessions in international gatherings, IDE endeavors to keep track of the research needs, to expand its research networks, and to become better known throughout the world. IDE also endeavors to strengthen the collaboration among its research projects by taking steps to improve its research management and other managerial capabilities.

4. Publication and Dissemination of Research Findings

IDE disseminates its findings through publications, lectures, seminars, and its website so as to meet the needs of policy authorities, the business world, academics, and the public at large.

(1) Contribution to Policymaking

In order to have its research findings and resources duly reflected in policymaking and business planning, IDE will actively disseminate information to the people who have a great influence on policymaking, such as those in the top echelons of the government, major companies, and media. IDE will also prepare policy briefs for dissemination among these groups.

(2) Website

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IDE will upgrade 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 policymakers and business planners. As part of the effort to widely disseminate IDE's research findings, the Institute plans to make its website's contents more accessible to the public at large. Furthermore, in accordance with an information system optimization plan, it will commence work on building a common website platform with JETRO.

(3) Symposia and Seminars

IDE will actively sponsor and promote various events, such as symposia and seminars, both in Japan and abroad; present papers at academic meetings and symposia; publish papers in peer-reviewed journals; and publish research findings in book form. In a new project, IDE will sponsor seminars and lecture meetings in collaboration with universities in Japan. In organizing such seminars and lectures, including, in particular, the newly launched public summer lecture series in Osaka, IDE will ensure that these events will duly address the needs of various sectors and local regions in Japan and elsewhere. When planning lectures in Japan and abroad, we will do our best to strengthen our collaboration with JETRO and its domestic offices; for instance, by asking both IDE researchers and the research officers at JETRO to serve as lecturers, while, at the same time, being flexible while organizing these events by using JETRO's very extensive network.

5. 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 materials in multiple languages, including government publications, statistical documents, newspapers, and journals from various countries (both in print and digital media). In order to enhance its access for non-visiting users, the library provides information, valuable data, and useful materials and information via its website. It also aims to expand its academic information databases such as the Archive of IDE Publications (AIDE) and the Academic Research Repository at the Institute of the Developing Economies (ARRIDE). In addition to taking steps to promote its use, such as sponsoring special exhibitions of materials and documents, and improving the system for the mutual use of libraries, the IDE library sponsors book-talks at university libraries where IDE researchers present their latest publications. Beginning in the 2015 fiscal year, to make its management more efficient, the library started to commission private subcontractors for the work that could be outsourced on a competitive basis and it will integrate its library information system with JETRO's business libraries.

6. ERIA Support Project

Working in collaboration with organizations such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, IDE, the Overseas Research Department, and JETRO Bangkok and using a network covering a total of 16 research institutions, including IDE, the ERIA Support Office offers research support to the Economic Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). In this way, the Support Office aims to help the East Asian economic sphere, including Japan, to enjoy growth in the post-ASEAN Economic Community era. In addition to carrying out a joint research project with ERIA, the ERIA Support Office will disseminate the research findings of the project in Japan and abroad.