

FOREWORD

The Institute of Asian Economic Affairs was established on a very modest scale, in December 1958, as an economic research institute. It has received the encouragement and support from many interested individuals in governmental, academic, and financial circles. It has since gradually expanded the scope of its activities, and has recently changed its status and organization by becoming an institute incorporated by an *ad hoc* legislation. With the increasing interrelationship between Japan and the developing countries of the world, there will be more and more need for scientific knowledge of the existing economic conditions within these countries. The responsibility of the Institute will accordingly increase. In fulfilling this obligation, the Institute will further expand its operations and intensify its studies. Thus, in spite of its title, the Institute today is expected to cover all developing countries not only in Asia but throughout the world.

The Institute's Japanese-language monthly journal, *Ajia Keizai* (The Asian Economy), is now in its third year. Now we are carrying our programme a step further by initiating an English-language journal, *The Developing Economies*, with a view to bringing the results of our research and studies to the attention of the public outside Japan. For the time being, we shall have to publish "preliminary issues", but we hope to see the journal grow into a periodical in the near future. It is our hope also that those who may read these preliminary issues will provide us with sincere and constructive criticisms and suggestions in order to enable our journal to improve continuously in quality.

In establishing our editorial policy, we should like to uphold the following principles :

- (1) We will publish solely the results of strictly scientific research. As scientists, we wish to render totally disinterested service.
- (2) We will stand aloof from all political ideologies. We wish only to publish ascertainable facts and to let these facts speak for themselves.
- (3) We will lay emphasis upon the economic aspects of developing countries. The economies of these countries, unlike those of the industrially advanced nations, have not yet matured to the stage where they can be treated for themselves. They have not gone through the

economic process of industrialization, nor through the preceding intellectual revolution of a Reformation or Renaissance, as experienced in the West. The heritages of the ancient and colonial past, together with traditional religion and communal institutions (such as hierarchic status and caste) often constitute a serious impediment to all economic activities in modern sense. Further the importance of economic activities in the system of cultural values of the people in these areas is different from that in the West. In the light of these situations, the economies of developing countries, though far from "modern", are yet all the more "complex". Thus, for instance, the U.S. Steel Company, with its vast and intricate organization, is by no means a "complex" economic body in the sense that its structural principle is simple and clear. On the other hand, an Asian rural community, comprising a small population and consisting of a few farm households, can often be very "complex" in the sense that it is not governed by any single principle and thus resists any purely "rational" or simplified attempt at understanding by outsiders.

It is with a full understanding of this that the study of the economies of developing countries must be approached. Here the interdisciplinary cooperation among various fields of social science such as economics, economic sociology, politics, social anthropology, history, religion, etc. is as fruitful as it is necessary. On this basis, we expect this publication to be not merely a journal of economics, but one drawing upon all the sciences with economics as their core.

(4) This journal will emphasize such articles and sources as will throw light on the mutual relations, especially economic, between Japan and the developing countries.

(5) Contributors to this journal will not be limited to Japanese writers; it will be open to all those who may share our interests.

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Seiichi Tōbata

President

The Institute of Asian Economic Affairs