

Research Policy of The Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) FY2011

1. Basic Principles

The basic principle of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), a national think tank that conducts basic and comprehensive investigative research that contributes to the promotion of trade expansion and economic cooperation in developing nations and regions in places such as Asia, is to conduct research that serves as the foundation for policymaking in line with the "Independent Administrative Institution Consolidation and Rationalization Plan", approved by Cabinet in December 2007.

IDE's research methods include conducting regional research that continually analyzes the economic, political and social trends devoting attention to developing nations and regions such as Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, as well as world-class research by development research methods based on quantitative verification analysis using the most advanced theories. From a medium- to long-term perspective, this provides policymakers with research findings based on high value-added historical and structural analysis and quantitative analysis, which becomes fundamental data for policymaking and business.

Investigative research that is conducted is divided into three categories: (1) "policy proposal research", which deals with highly adaptive research issues based on the requests of policymakers, (2) "analytical research contributing to policy proposals", which deals with research issues anticipating the potential and medium-term policy needs and social needs of policymakers, and (3) "basic and comprehensive research that forms the basis of policy proposal research". Further, IDE shares its research findings, dealing with international joint research between research organizations in various countries and international organizations with the view that it leads to international discussion.

In order to provide governments with fundamental data for policy proposals and policy decisions, facilitate industry and the public's understanding of developing nations and maintain and improve the academic standard of academia, IDE distributes information on research findings and high value-added knowledge, information, statistical data and perspective from the above research initiatives through (1) compiling policy briefs and hosting policy forums, (2) enhancing online distribution, (3) hosting symposiums, lectures, seminars and workshops both nationally and internationally and releasing papers at advisory committees and conferences, and (4) publishing

and externally peer-reviewed journals.

The IDE Library, as a specialist library for research on developing nations, also continually collects, organizes and provides resources in a range of languages, including academic resources, government publications from various countries, statistical books, newspapers and magazines, and is striving to expand its services for users.

IDE utilizes its accumulated research, pool of researchers and well-developed research network, and together with leading discussion aimed at strengthening Asian economic cooperation, provides local and foreign researchers with a space to deliberate over policies as an exchange platform for research on developing nations worldwide. Further, IDE has implemented a training program for personnel development that contributes to development experts by utilizing the latest findings on the research of developing nations and providing an exceptional curriculum, thus training development experts that have both theoretical and practical capabilities.

Moreover, IDE will endeavor to strengthen cooperation between the research sector and the investigative and business sectors, actively carrying out measures to further improve the synergy effect.

2. Action Principles

(1) Research Projects

Research projects include policy proposal research, analytical research contributing to policy proposals, and basic and comprehensive research that forms the basis of policy proposal research. These help IDE to form 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.

Policy proposal research:

To deal with highly adaptive research issues based on the requests of policymakers.

While striving for cooperation between the relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and head office departments, IDE will, based on the requests of policymakers, deal with the construction of an Asian research network (subsidized), joint China-Japan-Korea (CJK) FTA work, 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 into the construction of a peace system for the Middle East and South Asia regions, and an investment promotion program for Africa, thus working to contribute to policy proposals serving Japan's national interest.

Research contributing to policy proposals:

To deal 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 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 resources to them. For example, the Institute will build an overlapping generations general equilibrium model for East Asia, conducting a simulation analysis on the effects trade and investment policies have on trade and production in East Asia, where each country faces a steadily ageing society.

As current analytical research that covers the period of the medium-term plan, IDE will also start building a next-generation economic geographical simulation model (GSM) capable of analyzing by prefecture the effect of 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, the Institute will also 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 value-added content of international trade flows. Another example is the Fukuoka prefectural government will conduct cooperative research on the effect the gateway design linking Fukuoka prefecture and Kyushu to East Asia and the world has on the prefecture and the 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.

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

To deal with research that highlights issues based on understanding the latest academic research trends through the participation in and announcement of advisory committees and conferences and information exchange, and understanding the needs of academia, industry and government through hosting seminars and symposiums, policy forums with relevant ministries and agencies and external advisory committee discussions.

IDE will conduct investigative research, appointing the fundamental research priority themes of "new strategies of the nation and business (economic and environmental) for sustainable development" and "political stability and inclusion (politically and socially) of the socially disadvantaged for balanced development", based on the awareness of the present situation regarding developing nations and regions.

(2) Distribution and spread of research findings

IDE will widely spread research findings through publications, lectures, seminars and websites. As a new measure for flexibly transmitting the analytical framework and high value-added data with the view that it is not only useful for research and education but also policymaking and business, IDE will further enhance online distribution, including starting up the tentatively named IDE Web Forum, which will flexibly transmit analysis correlating to political and economic changes in developing nations.

To respond to the needs of policymakers in particular, IDE will compile "policy briefs" concisely summarizing the implications of research findings and value-added analyses, as well as at the same time providing policymakers with briefs and research findings based on high value-added historical and structural analysis and quantitative analysis that will become the fundamental data in policy decisions through the IDE policy forum.

Through hosting symposiums, lectures, seminars and workshops domestically and internationally; releasing papers at advisory committees and conferences; publications; and externally peer-reviewed journals, IDE will also work to distribute findings in response to the needs of every level of society, including policymakers, the corporate world and businesspeople, academia and experts. Specifically, in hosting domestic and international events like lectures, the vast network at IDE headquarters can be utilized, strengthening cooperation and enabling events to be flexibly hosted.

(3) The IDE Library

As a specialist library that fills the role of a common facility for research on developing nations, the IDE Library will also promote its electronic media collection of resources and information, thus actively dispatching information on its library resources, in addition to collecting, organizing and providing resources in a range of languages from various countries, including academic resources, government publications, statistical books, newspapers and magazines. This will increase convenience for visitors to the library, especially users from afar and users unable to visit the library, and will 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 and more enriched contents for its online library, the library will start introducing new resources as well as 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 networks and personnel training

As part of the Institute's investigative research initiative, IDE will comprehend the economic, social and political situations of developing nations and conduct training on the theory of trade investment in those areas. In an effort to improve research standards, build and expand research networks and raise the profile of the Institute, it will dispatch researchers as foreign researchers to research organizations and universities in developing nations and regions as well as to developing nation research organizations in the West. IDE will also invite experts in developing nation research with outstanding achievements internationally as foreign visiting researchers and development experts.

Further, as part of the Institute's intellectual contribution based on the latest research findings, IDE runs the IDE Advanced School (IDEAS), providing an exceptional curriculum and implementing a training program that fosters development experts that have both theoretical and practical capabilities.

(5) Acquisition of competitive funds

As new financial resources to enrich the Institute's research, IDE will use its accumulated research and its pool of researchers and will acquire competitive funds from international organizations and government organizations for funded research and grants-in-aid for scientific research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, 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 between the Institute, the investigative and business sector and offices overseas, implementing measures to enhance the synergy effect that strives to expand operations, including the spread of research and findings. IDE will also further promote measures for improving the efficiency of its administrative work.