

## Forward

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## Foreword

In May 1988, the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) cosponsored with the Asian and Pacific Development Center (APDC) a fairly large international conference on "Global Adjustment and the Future of the Asian-Pacific Economy." Its success prompted the IDE to sponsor jointly with the Asian Club Foundation in July 1989 an international symposium on "The Present and Future of the Pacific Basin Economy: A Comparison of Asia and Latin America," the proceedings of which are compiled in this report. A total of 47 leading scholars and researchers from 15 countries/areas and international organizations participated in the symposium, engaging in lively debate on the present and future of the Pacific Basin economy.

The symposium had several distinctive features. With its broad geographical coverage encompassing countries of the pan-Pacific region, not simply of Asia, the symposium offered the participants from Asia and Latin America an invaluable chance to meet together and exchange opinions. As such, the symposium was perhaps the first of its kind ever held in Japan. Another important feature of the symposium was a methodological one. From the standpoint of comparative economic development, it paid attention to regional differences in macroeconomic performance that became very noticeable in the 1980s. As the host institution, the IDE presented a unified view of the Pacific Basin economy in a voluminous "IDE Paper," which was prepared through the concerted efforts of the staff members of the Development Studies Department under the guidance of Professor Takao Fukuchi of Kyoto University, who is the research advisor at the IDE. Furthermore, the symposium attested to the IDE's competence to organize an international conference of this sort, because unlike the 1988 conference in which the APDC took charge of liaison with the participants from abroad, all the organizing work for the 1989 symposium, including international communications, was undertaken by the IDE staff.

I cannot but feel that, having organized the symposium so successfully, thanks largely to the cooperation of the many participants from within Japan and elsewhere, the IDE has become all the more competent to serve as a center for international exchange among distinguished, bonafide scholars and researchers of development studies. The IDE will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of its founding in 1990 by sponsoring several international symposia and other commemorative events. We at the Institute would like to redouble our efforts to further enrich the IDE's activities for international exchange.

I mourn the sudden demise of Mr. Akira Kasuya, who had a significant contribution in successful completion of the symposium.

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