

Foreword

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Foreword

The IDE Statistical Data Series (SDS) published by the Institute of Developing Economies is the result of the formulation, improvement and evaluation of economic statistics for developing countries, and includes trade statistics, international input-output tables, and population statistics. The series is used as a basic resource for economic analysis. SDS No. 93, *Trade Indices and Change of Trade Structure*, concerns issues related to trade statistics, and focuses on the evaluation of the consistency of trade data using drawn from UN Comtrade data, the formulation and evaluation of trade indices, and international comparisons and analyses based on these indices.

World economic models are employed to conduct quantitative analyses of the growth and trends of national economies. Trade relations models make it possible to analyze the mutual links between countries and regions. World trade matrices form the foundation of these models. To enable international comparisons to be made, it is essential that world trade matrices utilize common standards for national, regional and product categories. However, the standards utilized in statistics formulated by different international organizations are not always consistent, and there are sometimes continuity problems caused by factors such as the revision of categories and the formation of new countries and regions, or the division or unification of previously existing countries and regions when these statistics are utilized in time series analyses. Despite these problems, world trade matrices remain essential to the ability to construct world economic models.

In addition to examining from the perspective of the basic data, the problems associated with formulating

trade relations models, which play such an important role in constructing world economic models, one of the current research project in IDE: Institute of Developing Economies “Compilation and Application of Trade Indices (IV)” evaluated international trade statistics, compiled trade indices and conducted international comparisons, comparisons between individual countries and regions, and comparisons between world trade indices and the trade indices of individual countries and regions. This research project has conducted practical research in addition to methodological studies, including studies of the use of trade statistics and trade indices in economic analyses of international competitiveness.

This research projects, was a two-year project focusing on the preparation and employment of world trade statistics which commenced its first fiscal year in April 2007. The focus of this project was the formulation of trade indices and their employment in international comparisons. This research project continued the research on the compilation, evaluation and analysis of trade statistics and indices conducted by the former IDE research projects “Compilation and Application of Trade Indices (III)” commenced in 2005.

This research project was comprised of organizer: **NODA Yosuke** (Macroeconomic Analysis Group in Development Studies Center, IDE), secretary: **KUROKO Masato** (Macroeconomic Analysis Group in Development Studies Center, IDE), co-researchers: **KINOSHITA Soshichi** (Professor emeritus of Nagoya University), **FUKAO Kyoji** (Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University), **KUMAKURA Masanaga** (Associate Professor of

International Economics, Graduate School of Economics, Osaka City University), **NAKAMURA Jun** (Specialist of Economic and Trade Data), **YOSHINO Hisao** (International Economics Studies Group, Development Studies Center, IDE), Observers: **UEMURA Jinichi** (Director, Macroeconomic Analysis Group in Development Studies Center, IDE).

The papers in this volume represent part of the outcome of this research project, and take up various issues associated with world trade statistics emerging from the compilation and evaluation of trade indices to enable analyses of the trade structures of East Asian countries and regions, USA and a part of the countries in East Europe.

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Department, IDE.

The investigation presented in this volume is focused on compilation and application of trade statistics and trade indices, however the results on this study in this volume offer suggestions on a number of fronts for analyses of trade structure and industrial structure employing more general trade statistics and industrial statistics

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