

## Appendix The global Development Network(GDN)and Japan

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# Appendix

## The Global Development Network (GDN) and Japan

The main text of this book is a set of papers presented at a session entitled "Globalization Carried on Human Feet," at the 4th GDN Annual Meeting in Cairo, January 19-21, 2003. For readers who are not familiar with GDN, this note briefly provides what it is, what it is for, how it is related to the Government of Japan, and how the IDE has been involved in its activities so far.

### ***What is GDN?***

GDN is a network of people and research institutes working to facilitate development in developing countries. Since its inception in 1999, it has attempted to promote research on development undertaken by researchers from developing countries.<sup>1</sup>

It carries out its mission through five activities.

#### (1) Funding for Local Development Research

There are seven regional networks under GDN that link research institutes throughout the developing world in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Former Soviet Union, respectively. GDN raises funds from donor governments and public and private institutions, and provides grants to research institutes in developing countries through its regional network.

#### (2) Global Awards

GDN grants awards to researchers and development practitioners in developing countries.

#### (3) Global Research Project

GDN organizes collective research projects with research institutes around the world. The title of the first global research project is

"Explaining Growth." More than a hundred research institutes are involved in this project through the regional research network. The project was initiated in 2000, and results of the research have started being published, region by region. There are two other ongoing global research projects, entitled "Bridging Research and Policy" and "Understanding Reform."

#### (4) Data Initiative

In cooperation with the World Bank, GDN attempts to make useful data available, through the Internet, to anyone working for development. In addition, capacity building for people using the data is considered.

#### (5) Electric Tools

News on events and resources concerning development is provided through GDNNet (<http://www.gdnet.org/>).

### ***What has the Government of Japan done for GDN?***

The second GDN Annual Conference took place in Tokyo in December 2000. On this opportunity, the Government of Japan sponsored the Global Awards in cooperation with the World Bank. Since then, the Government of Japan has been one of the most generous sponsors of the awards.

As for institutional commitments, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) serves as the hub of GDN-Japan (Hayashi [2002]). GDN-Japan is regarded as a developed-country-version of a regional network. A network with the same function was recently established for North America in Washington, D.C., and is called the North American Network. The Center for Global Development is the hub of the network.

GDN-Japan is a network of development-oriented institutions in Japan. JBIC organizes meetings from time to time with the following institutions in order to share knowledge and information:

Asian Development Bank Institute  
 Development Bank of Japan  
 Economic and Social Research Institute, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan  
 Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development  
 Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan  
 Institute of Development Economies, JETRO  
 Japan Bank for International Cooperation  
 Japan External Trade Organization  
 Japan Institute For Overseas Investment  
 Japan International Cooperation Agency  
 The Japan Society for International Development  
 National Institute for Research Advance  
 Norinchukin Research Institute Co., Ltd  
 Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance, Japan  
 Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry  
 United Nations University

In addition, JBIC maintains the web site of GDN-Japan (<http://www.gdn-japan.jbic.go.jp/index.html>).

### ***How has the IDE been involved?***

The IDE attended the second GDN Annual Conference in Tokyo for the first time. Publications and on-going research projects of the IDE were introduced at the conference.

Since 2001, the IDE has been involved in the activities of the East Asian Development Network (EADN), which is the East Asian regional network of GDN. Since EADN consists of research institutes in social science in developing countries throughout the region, the IDE has played the role of a third

party in the region. IDE researchers served as external resource persons, chairpersons, discussants and referees for conferences, presentations and awards organized by the EADN.

For the third annual conference in Rio de Janeiro entitled "Blending Local and Global Knowledge" in December 2001, IDE researchers worked as chairpersons and discussants.

At the fourth annual conference held in Cairo, the IDE sponsored a session for the first time. This report was compiled from papers presented at the session. More intimate and mutually beneficial cooperation between the GDN and IDE is expected in the near future.

(Tatsufumi YAMAGATA)

#### **Note:**

1. For more information, please see GDN's web site (<http://www.gdnet.org/>).

#### **Reference:**

Hayashi, Kaoru [2002], "GDN-Japan no yakuwari to kadai (in Japanese: Roles and Prospects of GDN-Japan)," *Ajiken World Trend*, No. 81, June, pp. 16-19.