

PREFACE

The Asian Financial Crisis of 1997 prompted the recognition of strong interdependence in the Asia-Pacific region, where the impact of one economy is effectively transmitted to others through the nexus of external trade and financial transactions. Furthermore, in recent years, much research has focused on trade liberalization in this region, especially through the increasing number of free trade agreement (FTA) and economic partnership agreement (EPA), and hence the Asian International Input-Output Tables, the principal tool for the quantitative analyses of industrial linkages and spatial configuration in the Asia-Pacific region, is earning increasing attention. Although the latest version of the Table for 1995 has been serving the above purposes, rapidly changing economic structure in this region requires more up-to-date international input-output tables.

On this account, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization and collaborating institutions: State Information Center of China, Badan Pusat Statistik-Statistics Indonesia, The Bank of Korea, Department of Statistics of Malaysia, National Statistics Office of the Philippines, Business Research Consultants of Singapore, Taiwan Research Institute, The National Economic and Social Development Board of Thailand and Applied Research Institute of Japan, launched in 2001 a joint research project on the compilation of the 2000 Asian International Input-Output Table. Since the Table has almost the same sector classification and format as its predecessors does, it is possible to capture the dynamic changes in the technology, industrial structure, and interdependencies in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is our pleasure here to release *the 2000 Asian International Input-Output Table*, to be widely used as a powerful analytical tool serving the public interest. Also in this occasion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to collaborating institutions for their laborious and precious cooperation to the completion of the joint project.

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