FOREWORD

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 compiled 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 compilation 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, the research group of IDE: Institute of Developing Economies 'Compilation and Application of Trade Indices （Ⅱ）' evaluated international trade statistics, compiled trade indexes and conducted international comparisons, comparisons between individual countries and regions, and comparisons between world trade indexes and the trade indexes of individual countries and re-

gions. The research group has conducted practical research in addition to methodological studies, including studies of the use of trade statistics and trade indexes in economic analyses of international competitiveness.

This research group was comprised of organizer:
NODA Yosuke (Senior Researcher in Development Studies Center, IDE),
secretary:
KUROKO Masato (Macroeconomic Analysis Group in Development Studies Center, IDE),
co-researchers:
KINOSHITA Soshichi (Professor, Department of School of modern management, Sugiyama Jogakuen University),
FUKAO Kyoji (Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University),
KAJIWARA Hirokazu (Professor, Faculty of International Development, Takushoku University),
ISHIDO Hikari (Development Strategies Studies Group in Development Studies Center, IDE),
Observers:
EBIHARA Etsuo (Director in charge of Computer System Planning and Coordination, Department, JETRO),
NAKAMURA Jun (Senior Researcher in Development Studies Center, IDE),
FUKUMOTO Mayumi (Macroeconomic Analysis Group in Development Studies Center, IDE).

The papers in this volume represent part of the outcome of the group's research, and take up

various issues associated with world trade statistics emerging from the compilation and evaluation of trade indexes to enable analyses of the trade structures of East Asian countries and regions. The authors wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous assistance provided by Ms. HIRAI Reiko in Development Studies Center, IDE on the compilation of this volume.

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

March 2005

TOIDA Mitsuru
Director-General
Development Studies Center, IDE, JETRO

NODA Yosuke
Senior Researcher
Development Studies Center, IDE, JETRO