

PREFACE

The fourth conference on Global Development Network (GDN) was held in Cairo on January 19-22, 2003. GDN was organized by the World Bank in 1999 in order to strengthen the cooperation among researchers in developing economies and to promote studies in development and poverty reduction. It has got independent from the World Bank and its main office will move to New Delhi this year. Of course, development study institutes and researchers in developed economies participate as well as World Bank, IMF, and regional development banks.

Institute of Developing Economies/, JETRO in Japan is one of the biggest research institutions specializing in development studies. It started in 1960 and has now 160 research staffs covering all developing economies in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Middle East. At this forth GDN conference, for the first time, the IDE sponsored one of the parallel sessions.

Its title, Globalization Carried on Human Feet, conveys our message. The benefits of globalization, such as superior technology and better life style, can be delivered only by means of deliberate efforts, in our case studies by human feet of extension service workers. Two concrete examples were picked up; new agricultural technology and rural life improvement, in the diffusion of which, extension services workers provided by central and local governments played indispensable roles. Studies of the past Japanese experiences were compared with contemporary application in West Africa and Yemen. Japanese experiences were introduced by IDE researchers and the current application in West Africa and Yemen was reported by local development practitioners.

We often say globalization must have a human face. We would like to add that globalization need human feet as well in order to

deliver its benefits to as many people as possible. This is the message we wished to convey to the GDN participants. It is based on a socio-economic area studies, different from econometric analyses in Global Research Project, but, we believe, nevertheless contributes to the GDN's common theme, Growth and Equity.

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