

**Industrialization of
Developing Countries**
Analyses by Japanese Economists

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Industrialization of Developing Countries

Analyses by Japanese Economists

—The 21st Century COE Program Joint Report—

University of Tokyo

“Manufacturing Management Research Center” (MMRC)

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

“Asian Development Experience and Its Transferability”

This book is a report on presentations and discussions of the symposium which was held on the 13th of July 2006 at GRIPS.

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Preface

As the Japanese economy is finally getting out of the post-bubble recession, the time has come to charter a new course for Japan's renewed dynamism. How should Japan identify and position itself on the global stage in the twenty-first century, and what should it endeavor to achieve? Despite economic recovery and some progress in domestic reforms, Japan in recent years has not presented or followed a clear long-term vision in its external policy, especially in its dealings with economic matters regarding technology, trade, investment and aid. There are issues that have attracted our attention, such as the alleged threat posed by emerging China, official promotion of FTAs, global mega-completion and industrial reorganization, a declining trend in Japanese ODA, Japan's attempt to protect its intellectual property rights, and the return of some Japanese overseas investments to Japan. But these events do not collectively tell us where Japan is headed. In fact, Japan's diplomatic relations with neighboring East Asian countries, which should be strengthened, actually seem to have eroded recently. We need to stop drifting and begin to draft a new grand map which can lead us to a new voyage, beyond adjustment of interests and inertia of the past.

The mission of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) is to provide realistic and concrete policy analyses which can meet the requirements of our time. Our intellectual contribution is directed not only to Japan but also to developing countries where the majority of world population live. We want to continuously innovate the methodology of research and education. We aim to do that through building intellectual networks which are open and can promote interaction among exceptional talents and superior insights. Our Twenty-first Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program, *Asian Development Experience and its Transferability*, is an important means to realize this goal.

Although our COE program is in the intermediate stage, we already have some interesting results to report from intensive field works in developing countries. We have organized this symposium to share and discuss them with a broader circle of experts. We have invited the University of Tokyo's COE Program, *Manufacturing Management Research Center*, which studies industrial issues in developing countries and is highly acclaimed, as ours, to be a co-host. We anticipate, through our preliminary discussions, that our two COE programs will have common orientation and be able to produce, by mutual learning and complementarity, a concrete vision that can guide Japan's globalization and its contribution to the developing world. This vision still remains a rough sketch today, but we would like to present it to you before it is polished up to become a detailed blueprint.

We hope that our intellectual inputs will be a catalyst for a new round of productive policy discussions.

July 2006

Toru Yoshimura
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