

Preface

This report summarizes the research results of the “Trends in Regionalism and Future Foreign Policy Approaches for Japan” project implemented by this institute in FY2003.

Relations between developed and developing countries have traditionally been pursued on a bilateral basis or within such international frameworks as the United Nations or the WTO. With worldwide endeavors to establish free trade agreements and other regional integration schemes accelerating since the 1990s, however, the framework of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the creation of the European Union (EU; including its eastward expansion) in developed regions have been joined by active efforts toward integration in developing regions as exemplified by the Southern African Development Community, the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and Mercosur (common market in southern South America).

Furthermore, with regional integration linking developed countries and developing countries over a broader scope in recent years, schemes have been envisioned or concluded in the Americas (Free Trade Agreement of the Americas [FTAA]), East Asia (ASEAN + 3), and Europe (the Cotonou Convention between the EU and African-Caribbean-Pacific [ACP] countries).

In examining the changing relations between North and South and the correlation between globalization of the world economy and multilateral trade regimes, this research project made a comparative analysis of the above three regional integration efforts from the perspective of developing countries/regions and examined the outlook for the international political and economic order. Foreign policy recommendations for Japan were then extracted from this analysis.

The views expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Japan Institute of International Affairs. Nevertheless, we anticipate that this report will prove a valuable reference for studying the enormous international changes that have taken place over recent years and the prospects for the future.

In closing, we would like once again to express our deepest gratitude to the authors for their active involvement from start to finish in this project and their dedicated efforts in preparing this

report, and to everyone else who cooperated in that process.

March 2004

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