

About RIETI

What is RIETI?

The Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), an incorporated administrative agency, was founded in April 2001, as a government-affiliated policy research institute with a certain degree of independence from the administrative authorities to carry out study, analysis and research on various policy issues from a medium- to long-term perspective, thereby accumulating the necessary knowledge to formulate and recommend policy options.

Research themes and fellows

RIETI has set up an overall framework of research themes to respond to policy-making needs. Within this overall framework, research fellows undertake their own research in an unfettered atmosphere, building organic linkages with other current research. For the realization of a flexible and interdisciplinary research environment, fellows with diverse backgrounds are engaged in research at RIETI. In addition to fulltime fellows, RIETI also appoints part-time fellows consisting of Faculty Fellows who concurrently hold positions at universities, and Consulting Fellows who concurrently hold positions at government agencies and other organizations.

Framework of research themes for FY2006 to FY2010

Major Policy Research Domains

- I. Maintaining economic dynamism under the adverse demographic conditions of low fertility and aging population
- II. Promoting innovation and strengthening international competitiveness
- III. Formulating Japan's strategy in response to globalization and deepening economic interdependence in Asia
- IV. Compilation of the history of Japan's trade and industry policy

Adjacent Basic Research Areas

- A. Institutions related to financial and labor markets, and new corporate law and governance
- B. Regulatory reforms and evaluation frameworks for deregulation
- C. Compilation of micro panel data on firm activities, trade, energy, and the elderly; and model building and operation

RIETI's mission and strength

RIETI seeks to provide an efficient and effective theoretical foundation and knowledge network to the policy-making authorities. Addressing a broad array of domestic and international issues as an institute where researchers can simultaneously pursue academic studies and policy research, RIETI is capitalizing on its strength of enabling studies based on valuable empirical data. Operating in this dynamic environment, RIETI aspires to become a platform for creating and exchanging wisdom.

On the cover: Masahisa Fujita (President & CRO, RIETI / Professor, Konan University)

Dr. Fujita's expertise includes urban and regional economics, regional development, spatial economics and international economics. He obtained his Ph.D. in regional science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1972. Prior to his current position, he was a professor at the Regional Science Department, University of Pennsylvania (1986–94) and a professor at the Department of Economics, University of Pennsylvania (1994–95). He is a member of the American Economic Association, the Japanese Association of Theoretical Economics, the Econometric Society, and the Regional Science Association. Selected publications include *Economics of Agglomeration* (written with J F Thisse, Cambridge University Press, 2002) and *The Spatial Economy* (written with P Krugman and A Venables, MIT Press, 1999).

