

**O**ur role as a public policy institute does not end with research activities. We believe it is equally important to convey to the general public our research activities and achievements, thereby invoking active policy debates. To that end, we disseminate information on our Web site, in our publications and on occasions for political dialogue such as seminars and symposia. We hope that our research results and policy suggestions on theoretical and analytical grounds contribute to the policy debate and the policymaking process.

*<http://www.rieti.go.jp/en/>*

The Web site allows fellows to address current issues in a timely fashion through weekly columns. Readers then post their opinions on the columns, making the site a lively forum for information exchange in Japanese, English, and Chinese.

Some fellows and research groups have their own columns, whereas special features and discussion papers prepared by fellows are all published on the Web site where respective policy issues are explored in depth. The proceedings and minutes of seminars and symposia can be downloaded from the Web site, and we are implementing new technologies such as streaming audio-visual data, as well as live and on-demand web-cam broadcasting.

Information is provided in English and Chinese as well as in Japanese, and content is not limited merely to translation of Japanese-language material. On matters that seem to be of interest overseas, original articles are written and widely promulgated to contribute to policy debates and research concerning Japan. Until now, there has been little published in Chinese regarding Japan's domestic affairs and research, and our activities in this regard have been particularly well received in China. In addition to research activities and results, the Institute strives for greater transparency of its activities by publishing on its Web site evaluations of RIETI's activities conducted by the Independent Administrative Institution Evaluation Committee and the Institute's financial statement.

On the Web, RIETI operates its "Policy Platform" to quickly respond to increasingly diverse policy issues, and to efficiently ensure that the views of outside experts are reflected effectively in the policy formulation process. In support of this program, the Institute has implemented a computer system called the Policy Platform System (PPS), which allows online discussion on various policy issues in separate fora. Reasoned discussion among policy-makers and researchers on the Web, looking at all sides of the issues, gives rise to synergistic effects. Our plan for fiscal 2001 called for achieving 100,000 visits to the Web site. This was greatly exceeded, though, as over 180,000 visitors accessed the site during the year.



Web Page Traffic (As of August 31, 2002)

Top Page	
Japanese .....	350,000
English .....	9,000
Chinese .....	16,000

\*Data for the English Web page from January 2002, for the Japanese Web page from April 2001, and for the Chinese Web page from December 2001.