



MISSION STATEMENT

To create a vibrant society in response

The Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (hereinafter referred to as RIETI), an incorporated administrative agency, was founded in April 2001, coinciding with the launch of the incorporated administrative agency system. RIETI was established on the foundations laid by its forerunner, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry/Research Institute (MITI/RI), established in April 1987), a component of the then Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Under the aegis of the ministry, MITI/RI primarily conducted basic research on trade policy as well as on the overall economic situations in Japan and abroad from both theoretical and empirical viewpoints.

With the 21st century comes an era of change. In order to ensure its future as a dynamic society amid the rapidly changing international environment, Japan must resolutely carry out bold reforms to change the conventional economic structure and administrative system. Against this backdrop, there have been growing calls for policy proposals formulated through a pluralistic approach that breaches the conventional administrative boundaries.

In response to such calls, RIETI was established as a research institute with a certain degree of independence from the administrative authorities to carry out study, analysis and research on various policy issues at an international level from a mid- to long-term perspective, thereby accumulating data to formulate and present policy proposals.

Pursuant to the Law Concerning the Establishment of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, a law established and implemented to provide for this organization, RIETI is obliged to carry out its objectives under a designated scope of activities, while maintaining organizational autonomy as an incorporated administrative agency and ensuring information transparency. By taking advantage of the discretion guaranteed it by law, RIETI not only recruits its researchers from government ministries and agencies but also appoints specialists of a great variety of profiles from outside the government—including university professors, researchers at



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private-sector research institutes, members of nonprofit and/or nongovernmental organizations (NPOs/NGOs) and those from media organizations in Japan and abroad—for engaging in research activities on fixed-term contracts. One of the unique features of RIETI is that each researcher sets the theme for their research and undertakes it of their own initiative and responsibility. Specifically, RIETI undertakes three types of activities as described below.

First, in executing our primary task of conducting “research and studies,” we strive to undertake basic research and studies at an international level on the economic and industrial conditions both in Japan and abroad, as well as on economic and industrial policies. Second, with regard to the task of “making policy recommendations and disseminating them,” we proactively disseminate research results and policy proposals in the form of printed publications and through our web site on the Internet. Furthermore, we also provide a space for discussing our research results and the contents of the proposals made thereof and developing policy by organizing symposia and seminars that can positively influence government policymaking. Third, under activities classified as “information gathering and management, statistical processing and statistical management,” we aim to establish a system for easy, reliable collection and viewing of information that both facilitates and ensures efficient policy research and proposals by creating a database for turning tacit knowledge into articulable knowledge by means of a knowledge management method that utilizes information systems.

As a platform for formulating economic and industrial policies, RIETI seeks to provide an efficient and effective theoretical foundation and knowledge network to the policymaking authorities. In achieving this end, we strive to fulfill our mission to help activate policy debate by strengthening our capacity to formulate policy and improve the quality of our policy proposals.