

Incorporated administrative agencies are by law required to be evaluated by a third-party organization (as stipulated by Article 12 of the law concerning the General Rules of the Incorporated Administrative Agencies). The Incorporated Administrative Agency Evaluation Committee, under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, evaluated RIETI's performance for fiscal 2002. For our second year since being established, we were rated A (on a scale from AA to D) having shown both quality and quantity in the short period of time in which we have been carrying out our mission. This indicates a steady and satisfactory progression toward the achievement of our midterm goals.

With regard, especially, to the quality of service, which should be considered the most important objective, although we were told to work harder in having an impact on current policies, we received high evaluation overall.

Evaluation Item 1: Improvement in the quality of services offered to the public (A)

We were lauded for having grasped the needs of policymakers when defining our research clusters, using methods such as surveys, and employing an awareness of issues to guide our research themes. In terms of research activities, we were recognized for our achievements in reaching quantity indicators and a high academic level. However, these were the achievements of both full-time and part-time researchers, and the need to distinguish the institute's original research results was suggested for future examination. As to activities regarding promulgation of our achievements, there were many clear cases found of RIETI research having affected the policymaking process and we were praised for the various effective methods employed in disseminating our research to the public at large.

Evaluation Item 2: Improvement in efficiency of project management (B+)

Regarding the application of information systems, we were positively evaluated for policy research which utilized electronic conferencing and, moreover, our use of computerization in data and information manage-

ment. On the human resource development front, we have just introduced a personnel evaluation system to assess the performance of researchers and staff, with the results yet to follow.

Evaluation Item 3: Budget, income-expenditure plan and funding plan (B+)

Adequate budget management is being carried out and we received a high rating for cost-effectiveness compared to similar domestic organizations (policy research institutes). However, the fact that there are no similar agencies of an incorporated administrative nature was noted. On the subject of realized revenues, the unused 25% of budget was highlighted as a point for improvement in the future.

Evaluation Item 4: Other operational management matters and personnel planning (A)

In terms of personnel management, adequate deployment of human resources is being carried out, and a positive evaluation was given of our achievement of an 87% flexible employment system (with the provision of appointments with tenure, part-time positions, and concurrent posts) exceeding our goal of 50%.

<Evaluation process>

Dec. 2, 2002: The Sixth Subcommittee Meeting of the Incorporated Administrative Agency Evaluation Committee for the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry

Jan.–Feb. 2003: Conducting of the survey to evaluate the operational affairs of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry. (The goal is to pursue the causal relationship between policy proposition and actual policy application.)

Mar. 11, 2003: The first informal gathering for discussions by the subcommittee of the Evaluation Committee for the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry

May 26, 2003: The Seventh Subcommittee Meeting of the Incorporated Administrative Agency Evaluation Committee for the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry

June 12, 2003: The 11th Convening of the Incorporated Administrative Agency Evaluation Committee of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
