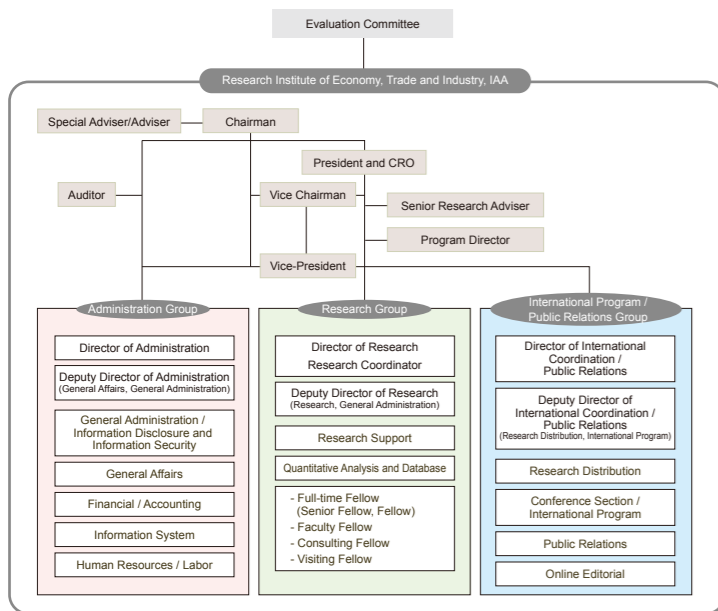


Overview of RIETI (As of the end of March, 2011)

Established: April 1, 2001

Number of fellows: 53

Primary source of funds: Management grants (from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)



Senior Research Advisors

ODAKA Konosuke (Hitotsubashi University & Hosei University)	NEZU Risaburo (Fujitsu Research Institute)
YOSHIKAWA Hiroshi (The University of Tokyo)	WAKASUGI Ryuhei (Kyoto University)

Program Directors

Research Programs	Directors	Research Programs	Directors
Trade and Investment	WAKASUGI Ryuhei (Kyoto University)	International Macroeconomics	ITO Takatoshi (The University of Tokyo)
Regional Economies	HAMAGUCHI Nobuaki (Kobe University)	Technology and Innovation	NAGAOKA Sadao (Hitotsubashi University)
Raising Industrial and Firm Productivity	FUKAO Kyoji (Hitotsubashi University)	New Industrial Policy	OHASHI Hiroshi (The University of Tokyo)
Human Capital	TSURU Kotaro (RIETI)	Social Security, Taxation, and Public Finance	FUKAO Mitsuhiro (Keio University)
Policy History and Policy Assessment	TAKEDA Teruhito (The University of Tokyo)		



Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, IAA

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As of July 2011

Purpose of RIETI

The Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), an incorporated administrative agency, was established on April 1, 2001 to conduct extensive policy research and formulate policy recommendations, leveraging its location in Kasumigaseki to take full advantage of the synergy among policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders.

RIETI promotes policy formulation backed with theoretical and analytical research from a global perspective that is not confined within the traditional framework of thinking, with the ultimate goal of building a mature and dynamic Japanese society. To this end, we have established a number of Research Programs that meet the needs of Japan's economic and industrial policies, within which the individual research projects interact in an organic manner. To effectively and efficiently disseminate the results of its research and promote policy recommendations, RIETI makes aggressive use of its website, publications and a variety of other tools. RIETI pledges to continue contributing to policy debate and policy making through an ever active delivery of policy recommendations.

RIETI was established in 2001 as Japan's first policy research institute with an incorporated administrative agency (IAA) status. Given its mission to conduct effective and efficient public policy research, RIETI has undertaken theoretical and empirical research, and has offered evidence-based policy recommendations, working in synergy with policy authorities. Through these efforts, RIETI has established an excellent reputation both in Japan and abroad.

Today, the Japanese economy faces a vast number of challenges. Japan's population is aging quickly due to an extremely low fertility rate, Japanese companies face fierce global competition, and Japan must incorporate the robust growth of other Asian economies in order to restore its economic dynamism. In the face of these challenges, it is essential that Japan continue its structural reform efforts in order to achieve sustainable and stable growth and further improve the quality of life for its people.

RIETI will continue to leverage its maximum capabilities built over the years in order to achieve high-quality research capable of providing insights and contributions to the formulation of economic, trade and industrial policies. With its second five-year medium-term plan period completed in March 2011, the fiscal year starting in April 2011 marks the beginning of a new medium-term plan. Over the next five-year period, we shall conduct research from the viewpoints of incorporating growth of the world economy, developing new growth areas, and responding to changes in society and creating new economic and social systems for sustainable growth. In addition to working closely with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and other relevant government institutions, we shall also deepen our collaboration with members of the business community and academia to pursue further in-depth research. We are determined to make every effort to ensure that findings from those research studies will be fully utilized for the benefit of Japan and the Japanese people.

Your encouragement and continuous support of RIETI is greatly appreciated.

NAKAJIMA Atsushi, Chairman

Under the third medium-term plan covering the five-year period commencing April 2011, RIETI makes it its mission to undertake theoretical and empirical research to create a grand design for putting the Japanese economy on a growth path and solidifying sustainable growth in the future. To this end, we will proceed with research activity by always keeping in mind the three Priority Viewpoints of: 1) incorporating growth of the world economy, 2) developing new growth areas, and 3) responding to changes in society and creating new economic and social systems for sustainable growth.

The first viewpoint reflects the importance of incorporating the growth of the world economy—particularly emerging Asia that has achieved remarkable economic growth in recent years—to promote trade, investment, and business activities by leveraging Japan's scientific and technological capabilities. The second viewpoint represents the importance of theoretically and empirically analyzing research and development (R&D) policy and productivity improvement as a way to help develop new growth industries, particularly in areas related to green innovation and life innovation, by taking advantage of Japan's strength and social conditions. And the third viewpoint exhibits the importance of overcoming a range of constraints we face today, such as an aging population, deteriorating fiscal health, the need to protect the environment, as well as building sound economic and social systems able to meet the changing needs of society so as to support the sustainable growth of our country.

Keeping these three Priority Viewpoints in mind, we will conduct, in a comprehensive manner, the kind of research that would be conducive to ensuring the sustainable growth of our country in this century in close collaboration with researchers outside RIETI and policymakers in Japan, as well as with overseas researchers including those from other Asian countries, the United States, and Europe.

On March 11, just as we were getting ready to embark on the first fiscal year under the third medium-term plan, Japan was hit by the catastrophic East Japan earthquake that has turned out to be one of the most devastating natural disasters ever experienced by our country. In order to enable Japan to overcome what we should consider to be the greatest crisis in our postwar history and to create a new Japan, RIETI is determined to make all-out efforts to undertake research not only for addressing the immediate needs but also from both medium- and long-term viewpoints.

FUJITA Masahisa, President

RIETI

Research Institute of Economy, Trade & Industry, IAA

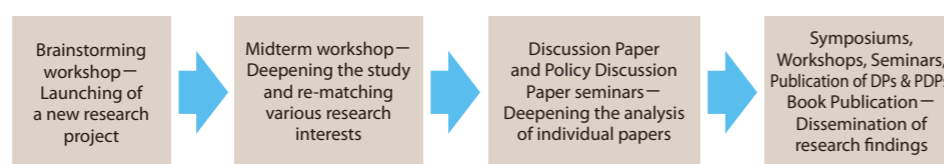
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Research Themes



Research Process

To further improve the quality of research, RIETI ensures that at least three discussion forums are organized for each research project through workshops and symposiums, where Japanese and foreign experts and policymakers participate to deepen the research.



Classification of Fellows

Senior Fellows and Fellows: Full-time resident fellows with previous affiliations to governmental organizations, research institutes, and universities both in Japan and abroad.

Consulting Fellows: Fellows who hold full-time positions in governmental as well as other organizations and participate in RIETI's research activities while off-duty.

Chief Research Officer

Faculty Fellows: Fellows who hold concurrent positions as university professors.

Visiting Fellows: Professors at foreign universities who undertake studies on a relatively short-term basis, with RIETI serving as their research base.

Symposiums and Seminars

Symposiums and seminars are organized to disseminate research findings. Additional efforts are made for simultaneous reporting and on-demand distribution as well as immediate publication of minutes and conference handouts on the Internet.

Policy Symposiums

To present, disseminate and deepen research results, RIETI organizes policy symposiums with a wide range of invited experts including policymakers, researchers, private sector experts, and journalists from Japan as well as from overseas. Summaries of debates at symposiums are distributed via press releases, our website, and other channels.

BBL (Brown Bag Lunch Seminars)

At universities and research institutes in the United States, brown-bag lunch meetings are often held among researchers, professors, and students. The name originates in the brown paper bags in which participants bring their lunches. RIETI's BBL seminars which are held during lunch hours, invite Japanese and foreign guest lecturers, and provide a venue for candid exchanges of opinions on a variety of policy issues, transcending industry-government-academia boundaries.

Website [<http://www.rieti.go.jp/en/>]

RIETI's Website is available in Japanese, English, and Chinese to introduce its activities and research fellows to a wide audience. The website focuses on discussion papers, which form the outcomes of our research, and fellow-authored columns that incorporate policy recommendations. Further in-depth information is available on the website in pages set up by individual fellows and study groups. We take pride in the website's valuable contents, many not offered elsewhere, such as the "Japan Industrial Productivity Database: JIP," fundamental material



for analyzing Japan's economic growth and structural changes in industry, and the results of the Asian Monetary Unit (AMU) and the AMU Deviation Indicators of East Asian Currencies, which will contribute to foreign exchange policy coordination in East Asia and help to improve the surveillance function of monetary authorities.

Discussion Papers & Policy Discussion Papers

Discussion Papers (DPs) are research results formed in the shape of treatises which have been through an internal review process. Keeping to the highest academic standards, DPs are disseminated with the aim of contributing to fruitful policymaking.

Policy Discussion Papers (PDPs) are written to disseminate RIETI's research. They present research results with a view toward stimulating active debate on contemporary policy issues in a timely manner.

These are downloadable from our website.



Publications

RIETI's publications cover a diverse array of themes and appear under the imprint of various publishers. The contents range from studies of a high academic standard that have undergone peer review in their respective disciplines to timely policy study topics for a wider audience.

From left:

- ◆ The Frontiers of Economic Policy Analysis Vol. 1 "Economic Vitality in the Face of Low Fertility and an Aging Population," written and edited by FUTJITA Masahisa and YOSHIKAWA Hiroshi, Nippon Hyoronsha, 2011
- ◆ History of Japan's Trade and Industry Policy Vol. 5 "Location, Environment and Safety Policy," written by TAKEDA Haruhito, Keizai Sangyo Chosakai, 2011
- ◆ "Non-regular Employment System Reform in Japan: Changing the way people work," written and edited by TSURU Kotaro, HIGUCHI Yoshio and MIZUMACHI Yuichiro, Nippon Hyoronsha, 2011



PR Magazine

RIETI Highlight is a quarterly public relations magazine that keeps readers up to date on the activities of RIETI, including brief reports on symposiums and seminars, reviews of new publications, and columns written by our fellows. A column titled "Research Digest," which introduces recently published discussion papers through interviews with their authors, explores the motivation underlying their research in an easy-to-understand manner that has been well-received by readers. We also look at timely topics chosen from among our research results and present them as "the feature" in each edition of the magazine.



Quarterly Issue (in JP)



Special Issue (in ENG)