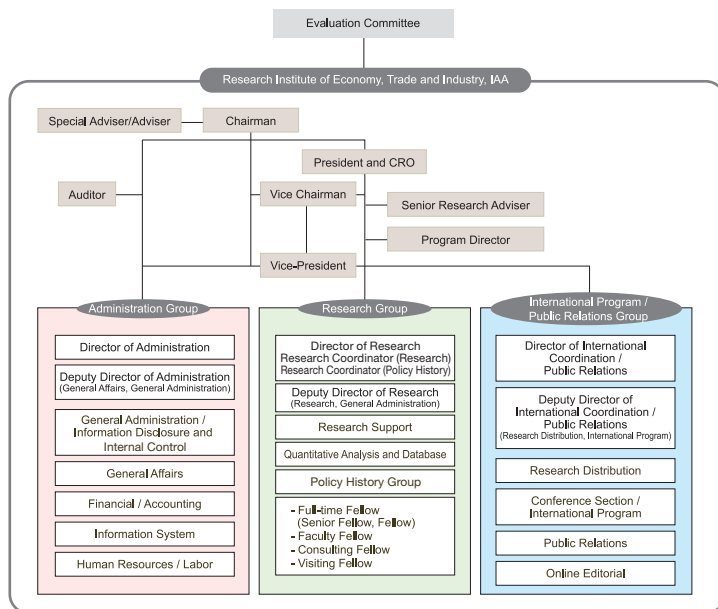


Overview of RIETI (As of the end of March, 2014)

Established: April 1, 2001

Number of fellows: 73

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



RIETI

Research Institute of Economy, Trade & Industry, IAA

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.

In FY 2013, the Japanese economy followed a recovery path as the yen weakened and the stock market performed strongly, with Abenomics delivering on some of its promises. In Japan, where the deflationary trend persisted for more than a decade, the inflationary trend in prices is finally beginning to take root. As the business performance of Japanese companies improved, the overall trend in wages turned upward, putting an end to the long-term downward trend.

Yet, the Japanese economy is still fraught with a number of challenges. Japan's snowballing fiscal deficits continue to pose a serious threat. A host of structural problems—topped by the demographic challenges of low fertility and a rapidly aging population—remain unaddressed. The recovery of the economy is giving some boost to the vitality of the private sector. However, in order to turn this momentum into a full-blown revitalization, it is crucial for companies to tackle its organizational and management structural problems. During FY 2013, we conducted a broad scope of research activities, which culminated in the publication of nearly 200 discussion papers on economy and finance, social security, labor, energy and the environment, international trade policies, and so forth. In a bid to disseminate our research findings to the public, we hosted or cohosted a series of symposiums and seminars, including those held under the themes of human capital, the revitalization of Japan's economy, and natural resources and energy.

We are seeking to enhance collaboration and partnership with overseas research institutes. We are also dedicating efforts to develop and make available databases relevant to our research areas, collecting economic and industrial data as well as those on people's livelihoods. In FY 2013, in addition to updating the existing databases, we released a new database of nominal and real effective exchange rates by industry of the Chinese yuan and the Korean won and another one providing industrial productivity data of Japan's 47 prefectures. The new industrial productivity database, called the Regional-Level Japan Industrial Productivity Database (R-JIP), serves as a useful reference in analyzing the inter-regional productivity gaps and industrial structure in Japan.

We will continue to focus on the key challenges facing the Japanese and global economies, conducting research conducive to policymaking and delivering our research findings in a timely manner as mandated by our mission. I appreciate your encouragement and continuous support for RIETI.

NAKAJIMA Atsushi, Chairman

Under the third medium-term plan covering the five-year period starting in April 2011, RIETI has established its mission to undertake theoretical and empirical research to create a grand design of putting the Japanese economy on a growth path and solidifying sustainable growth in the future. To this end, we have been conducting research activity by invariably keeping in mind our three Priority Viewpoints: 1) incorporating the 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 development 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. Finally, 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 in an effort to support the sustainable growth of our country.

Cognizant of these three Priority Viewpoints, we have been comprehensively conducting research that is conducive to ensuring our country's sustainable growth this century in close collaboration with researchers from outside RIETI, policymakers in Japan, as well as with overseas researchers including those from other Asian countries, the United States, and Europe.

Amid the development of globalization and an increase in the aging population, RIETI will dedicate itself to advancing research from the mid- and long-term points of view on the grounds that Japan will be able to strive for a new goal of economic development, accompanied by recovery from damage due to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

FUJITA Masahisa, President

Senior Research Advisors

NEZU Risaburo (Fujitsu Research Institute)	YOSHIKAWA Hiroshi (The University of Tokyo)	WAKASUGI Ryuhei (Gakushuin University)
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Program Directors

Research Programs	Directors	Research Programs	Directors
International Trade and Investment	WAKASUGI Ryuhei (Gakushuin 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 (Keio University)	Social Security, Taxation, and Public Finance	FUKAO Mitsuhiro (Keio University)
Policy History and Policy Assessment	TAKEDA Teruhito (The University of Tokyo)		



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/en.RIETI>

email: info@rieti.go.jp



As of May 2014

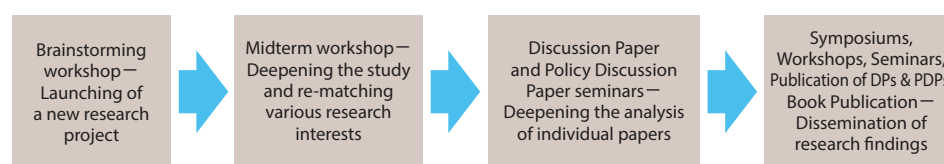
Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, IAA

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:

- ◆ *Keizai Rejiriensu Sengen [Declaration of Economic Resilience]*
Written and edited by FUJII Satoshi
Nippon Hyoron Sha Co., Ltd., 2013
- ◆ *Saitei Chingin Kaikaku [Reform of the Minimum Wage]*
Written and edited by OTAKE Fumio, KAWAGUCHI Daiji and TSURU Kotaro
Nippon Hyoron Sha Co., Ltd., 2013
- ◆ *Internationalization of Japanese Firms: Evidence from Firm-level Data*
Written and edited by WAKASUGI Ryuhei
Springer, 2014



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)