

Foreword

AS THE COUNTRIES hardest hit by the Asian financial crisis begin to recover, the temptation to ignore the lessons learned and, worse still, return to the habits of the past will undoubtedly grow stronger. As a consequence, Asia risks seeing fall by the wayside many of the social, political, and economic reforms that have been identified as essential for making future economic development more sustainable and equitable. If this happens, an important—and potentially critical—opportunity to build a better Asia for the new century will have been lost.

In an effort to inject further momentum into the process of reflection and reform, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) jointly sponsored a two-day conference of leading intellectuals in the region to consider the underlying human security requirements for generating sustainable development in Asia Pacific. The conference was the follow-up to the first JCIE-ISEAS intellectual dialogue on building Asia's tomorrow, held in Tokyo in December 1998, which resulted in the jointly published report *The Asian Crisis and Human Security*.

Both meetings, it should be acknowledged, owe a great deal to the inspiration and active support provided by Japanese Prime Minister Obuchi Keizo, who first called for a regionwide intellectual dialogue on the human security challenges facing Asia in the wake of the crisis during a May 1998 speech in Singapore. He reiterated this call later that year at the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Hanoi, Vietnam.

In this report, a summary of the principal points made in discussions during the conference precedes a more detailed synopsis of the presentations and discussion that took place in each of the main sessions. Topics examined included how to promote "good governance," the desirability and feasibility of social safety nets, where to invest in human resource development, and how to balance the need for continued economic

development with environmental imperatives. Additional topics addressed were how to generate cross-sectoral cooperation among local, national, regional, and global institutions and the role of civil society organizations in responding to the challenges of sustainable development and human security.

We were particularly privileged and honored to welcome Professor Amartya K. Sen, master of Trinity College, Cambridge University, and the 1998 Nobel laureate in economics, as the keynote speaker at the conference. His speech, which was also the Second Asia and Pacific Lecture, is reproduced herein.

In response to the very positive reaction to the annotated resource guide to the Asian financial crisis included in the Tokyo 1998 conference report, we include in this report an updated annotated bibliography of materials pertaining to efforts to respond to the crisis. Our intent is to assist researchers in conducting further, more detailed studies of the key issues.

We are thankful to the many people who helped make the second intellectual dialogue a success. In particular, Diana Helweg, visiting Hitachi Fellow to JCIE from the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, prepared the synopsis of presentations and discussions. She was ably assisted by Shamira Bhanu, Sukhvinder Singh, and Eugene K. B. Tan, all of ISEAS. Paul B. Stares, director of studies at JCIE, provided guidance in the preparation of the conference and helped draft the summary of discussion. The annotated bibliography was compiled by Shamira Bhanu and Eugene K. B. Tan, with input from Ozawa Sachiko of JCIE.

We also gratefully acknowledge the generous financial assistance of the Japan ASEAN Exchange Projects and the Japan Foundation Asia Center, without which the conference would not have been possible.

In closing, we once again would like to thank the participants of both conferences for reconfirming our faith in the value of intellectual dialogue. Our intent is to take the process begun in Tokyo and continued in Singapore to a higher, more policy-relevant level by commissioning several in-depth case studies on key issues relating to sustainable development and human security in the Asia Pacific region. The results and recommendations of these studies will be discussed at the third intellectual dialogue to be held in 2000.

Yamamoto Tadashi
President, JCIE
Tokyo

Chia Siow Yue
Director, ISEAS
Singapore