

## FOREWORD

The Slavic Research Center (SRC) of Hokkaido University held an International Symposium, titled “Slavic Eurasia’s Integration into the World Economy and Community,” at Sapporo, Japan, on July 16-19, 2003 under a Grant for International Symposia from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). This volume presents revised and edited papers from the symposium.

This symposium was part of an ongoing research project named “Comprehensive Study on Integration of Russia into the World Economy” funded by a JSPS grant-in-aid (Scientific Research (A), No. 13303001, FY2001-2004, Project leader: TABATA Shinichiro). The core members of this project include KUBONIWA Masaaki, UEGAKI Akira and IWASHITA Akihiro. All of them presented their papers at this symposium. There are two overseas collaborators in this project, Vladimir Popov and Evgeny Gavrilentov, who also contributed to this symposium. This volume is one of the results of this project.

In addition, this symposium was prepared as the first conference of the 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) program “Making a Discipline of Slavic-Eurasian Studies: Meso-areas and Globalization” (FY2003-2007, Project leader: IEDA Osamu). This is a grant from the Ministry of Education and Science given to the SRC. The adoption of this program was officially announced just after the opening of the symposium.

Some sessions of this symposium were sponsored by two other projects, “Making of New Regions in Eastern Europe and the Impact of EU Enlargement” (Scientific Research (A), FY2002-2004, Project leader: IEDA Osamu) and “Russo-Chinese Cooperation and Its Implications for Eurasian Security in the Post-Cold War Period” (Scientific Research (B), FY2003-2005, Project leader: IWASHITA Akihiro).

While “integration into the world economy” or “globalization” might seem worn-out and obsolete concepts, we could propose at least four points that are unique to our project on integration. First, one of the most important contributions of our research to this topic is our statistical and numerical analysis. We have revealed one of the most important aspects of Russia’s integration into the world economy, i.e., the flow of oil and gas ex-

port revenues in Russia, by the use of input-output tables, and balance of payment and financial statistics. We have analyzed their implications for economic growth, changes in industrial structure and performance of the state budget of Russia. In Parts 1 and 2 we discuss the specificities of Russia's integration into the world economy with a special emphasis on oil and gas.

Second, we have adopted comparative approaches in our studies of integration. We are now establishing a new concept of meso-areas in connection with our COE project. We have in mind, in particular, three meso-areas in Slavic Eurasia: Eastern Europe, Central Eurasia and the Far East & Siberia. Our intention is to compare the dynamics of changes in these areas with each other. In relation to this, at the symposium we organized three panels corresponding to these three meso-areas (see Parts 3, 4 and 5).

Third, in our project on integration we have incorporated studies on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). We know that from the viewpoint of the so-called reformists, the effect of the CIS on Russia's integration into the world economy is negligible or even negative. But we are against this kind of simplified neoclassical, reformist approach. In our project, due attention has been paid to the CIS integration processes. In Part 4 we deal with the CIS security issues.

Lastly, but not least, a special emphasis has been placed on regional aspects of the integration processes. The SRC is proud of its studies on regions in Slavic Eurasia. In our project we have taken advantage of our accumulated experience of regional studies. In Part 5 the migration problems in the Russian Far East, and in Part 6 Russian regional politics are discussed.

We would like to thank OSUGA Mika, managing editor of the SRC, for her laborious work on editing these proceedings. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mark Hudson for editing the English of the submitted papers. In addition, we thank Seth Cervantes for correcting the English of some papers and Dmitry Krivtsov for translating one paper from Russian to English.

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Editors  
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