

## Preface

Ten years have passed since the USSR collapsed in late December 1991. We have witnessed tremendous changes both inside and outside the territory of the former Soviet Union (FSU) since then. The Slavic Research Center (SRC) organized its winter international symposium in January 2002 as an opportunity to reconsider the significance of the collapse of the USSR. The topics discussed included activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and transformations of political and socio-economic life in the FSU and the former East-European countries. The program of the symposium is attached at the end of this booklet.

A part of the funding of the symposium was covered by the four-year project "Comprehensive Study on Integration of Russia into the World Economy" (Project leader: TABATA Shinichiro). This project aims to consider various aspects of Russia's integration into the world economy, including financial flows between Russia and the rest of the world (flows of oil and gas export earnings, foreign direct investment, international borrowing, foreign debt payments, capital flight, and so on), its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its relations with the CIS.

This booklet includes only those papers presented at the symposium which are most closely related to the topic of the project described above. Most of the other papers submitted to the symposium will be published in different occasional papers of the SRC or *Acta Slavica Iaponica*.

The first chapter of this proceeding is written by Ivan KOROTCHENYA, Executive Secretary of the CIS in 1993-1998, who is really a walking dictionary on the CIS. We believe that his participation in our symposium greatly deepened our understanding of the CIS, as an institution. He summarizes the activities of the CIS in the past decade. Basically the same topic is discussed in the second chapter by a Japanese top expert on this problem, SUEZAWA Megumi. She pays well-balanced attention to the decentralization factors in the CIS.

In the third chapter SUZUKI Yuji, a noted specialist in international relations in Asia, analyzes changes in East and South-east Asian countries during these ten years, mainly focusing his attention on the globalization and localization that characterized the transformation in that region. In the fourth chapter, Evgeniy ABDULLAEV, a young and spirited scholar from Uzbekistan, discusses the problems of regional integration in the Central Asia, comparing it with integration trends in other regions.

A slightly different type of paper, dealing with the economic transformation in Central-Eastern Europe written by WATANABE Hiroshi, an acknowledged expert on this topic in Japan, is included in the fifth chapter. We can learn from his analysis of the exchange rate policy in Central-Eastern Europe the critical role of this policy in the transformation process from the socialist economy. The final chapter is devoted to a truly important theme for Russia, the problem of fiscal federalism with its socio-political implications. Its author is Sergei CHUGROV, an eminent specialist of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations

(IMEMO) in Moscow.

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