

## Foreword

BEGINNING IN APRIL 1996, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) launched its Global ThinkNet scheme, a multipronged cluster of policy research and dialogue activities designed to contribute to strengthening the Asia Pacific as well as the global intellectual network among research institutions. That same year, the China-Japan-U.S. Research and Dialogue Project started as one of the activities under the Global ThinkNet umbrella.

Awareness had been growing since the end of the cold war that the continuing security and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region, widely regarded as the most dynamic region of the world in the twenty-first century, will be largely contingent upon enhanced cooperation between the region's three dominant economies: China, Japan, and the United States. The joint research and dialogue project on the China-Japan-U.S. trilateral relationship was conceived by several individuals in the three countries who believed that promoting analysis and dialogue among them would be critical and essential in managing the future trilateral relationship. The project consisted of two major elements: a parent group of senior leading policy thinkers from the three countries and three study groups of emerging intellectual leaders from each country. The project was sponsored by JCIE on the Japan side in collaboration with the Institute of American Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Reform Forum on the Chinese side and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on the U.S. side. The leaders of the parent group were Wang Jisi, director of the Institute of American Studies; Funabashi Yoichi, chief diplomatic correspondent and columnist for the *Asahi Shimbun*, a prestigious Japanese daily newspaper; and Morton I. Abramowitz, a former diplomat and recently retired president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who is now a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. JCIE published the volume of essays by these three international relations experts, titled *China-Japan-U.S.: Managing the Trilateral Relationship*, in January 1998 (the book is distributed worldwide outside Japan by the Brookings Institution).

This volume is the collection of papers written by young Japanese scholars and researchers participating in the Japanese study group project, "Enhancing the Trilateral Relationship between China, Japan, and the United States," under the direction of Kokubun Ryosei, a leading China scholar in Japan. The study group worked for almost a year in monthly workshops with the participation of influential figures in government, politics, business, and other professional fields. Group members also made a trip to Beijing, Hong Kong, and

Shanghai for a series of dialogue seminars at several research institutions and universities. Their papers in Japanese were published in 1997 as *Nihon Amerika Chugoku—kyocho e no shinario* (Japan-U.S.-China: scenarios for cooperation) by TBS Britannica, Tokyo, Japan.

It is our belief that the building of dialogue among China, Japan, and the United States is a long-term process with many challenges of working together and gaining mutual confidence. It is appropriate and critical, therefore, to involve emerging intellectual and professional leaders in the dialogue process. Following up on the Japanese study group, a study group of emerging Chinese leaders has been organized. The group made a study trip to Japan in June 1997, meeting with leaders in various fields and having a joint workshop with the Japanese study group. The results of their research will be published in 1998. The U.S. study group will begin activities this year.

JCIE is grateful to the members of the parent project for their encouragement to the scholars in the Japanese study group. JCIE also wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Nippon Foundation for its generous financial support and encouragement.

Yamamoto Tadashi  
Japan Center for International Exchange