

## Foreword

Today, Japan is moving toward becoming a more pluralistic society, and transformation at the local level is particularly evident. Local governments are confronting many new challenges of governance, such as how to overcome the tight fiscal situation, how to formulate policies related to foreign residents that integrate them into society, and how to interact with a newly vocal civil society in the form of nonprofit organizations. The transformation toward pluralism is pervading political, administrative, societal, and business arenas where dominant actors are no longer present.

This volume is the product of a project held under the Global ThinkNet and CivilNet clusters of activities of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE). These two clusters aim to promote, respectively, international networks of policy research institutions and individuals, and collaborative networks of civil society organizations and individuals. The project—"Transformation of Japanese Communities and the Emerging Local Agenda"—studied the impact of globalization on local governance. Under the guidance of Furukawa Shun'ichi, professor of policy and planning sciences at the University of Tsukuba, and Menju Toshihiro, senior program officer of JCIE, five young Japanese scholars and think tank researchers spent a year working toward completion of their papers through attending seminars and workshops and making research trips.

From March 13 to 22, 2001, the study group held a workshop and study tour in San Francisco under the auspices of the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Workshop discussions focused on globalization and the local government, and were based on presentations given by both Japanese participants and the PPIC researchers. The Japanese participants visited Silicon Valley to study the activities of nonprofit organizations and local government and had a series of meetings with the Silicon Valley Network, the San Mateo County Government, and others.

I would like to express sincere gratitude to the authors who participated in this project for the serious effort that they put into their analyses and for contributing their expertise. Special thanks are due to Furukawa Shun'ichi and Menju Toshihiro for their insightful leadership throughout the project. The project and this publication would not have been possible without the generous financial support provided by the Nippon Foundation, to which JCIE extends its special thanks. I would also like to recognize the invaluable assistance of JCIE staff who worked on this project at different phases, especially Hayashi Rika, program associate. Finally, I wish to thank Pamela J. Noda and Kawaguchi Chie of JCIE for their tireless efforts to ensure that this publication came to fruition.

Yamamoto Tadashi

PRESIDENT

JAPAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE