

PREFACE

Here at the Japan Center for Economic Research (JCER), the fiscal year 2013 Asia Research Report “The ASEAN Economy and the Middle-Income Trap” has been published.

This report compiles the results of the Asia research efforts of JCER in fiscal year 2013. JCER produced a report titled “ASEAN Economy and Corporate Strategies” in fiscal year 2012, analyzing ASEAN, which is garnering attention as a destination for business expansion by Japanese companies, from the various viewpoints of the outlook for building an economic community, the progress of external economic partnerships, and the trends for developing countries in the region such as Myanmar. In this next 2013 study, the conditions and issues in each country’s economy are individually discussed based on the international increase in discussion of the “middle-income trap” with respect to the future of the ASEAN economy.

Chaired by Shujiro Urata (Research Fellow at JCER and Professor at the Waseda University Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies), this research group comprised a total of eight members including external experts knowledgeable about the ASEAN economy, and completed this research report through the accumulation of debate and discussion.

Specifically, the five ASEAN middle-income countries of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam were analyzed in detail. A chapter investigating the middle-income trap phenomenon based on historical data from a variety of countries as well as a chapter reflecting on the developmental process of the Asian NIE economies of South Korea, Taiwan, and the like and the implications for ASEAN are included.

It is hoped that this report will be useful to those with an interest in ASEAN and will serve as beneficial information to corporations aiming to engage in business in ASEAN.

The members of the fiscal year 2013 ASEAN research group, JCER