



# EMERGING CIVIL SOCIETY

IN THE ASIA PACIFIC COMMUNITY

*edited by*  
TADASHI YAMAMOTO

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Revised Edition

# EMERGING CIVIL SOCIETY

IN THE ASIA PACIFIC COMMUNITY

*Nongovernmental Underpinnings of the  
Emerging Asia Pacific Regional Community*

*A 25th Anniversary Project of JCIE*



JCIE  
25

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Tadashi Yamamoto

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Heng Mui Keng Terrace	4-9-17 Minami Azabu
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Internet e-mail: [publish@merlion.iseas.ac.sg](mailto:publish@merlion.iseas.ac.sg)

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## **PREFACE**

### **Background**

It has been some time since the concept of a “Pacific Economic Community” or “Pacific Community” started receiving serious attention among some governmental, business, and intellectual leaders within the Asia Pacific region. While this concept became fashionable in the early 1980s, it was also pointed out that the task of some type of community building would be extremely difficult given the fact that the nations bordering the Pacific Ocean show great diversity in size, culture, religion, levels of economic development, modes of political organization, and historical experience. The concept of an Asia Pacific regional community, however, has been attracting renewed and much more serious interest in recent years. One major factor behind this is the remarkable economic development in the Asia Pacific region which has come to be regarded as a center of dynamic economic growth which, in turn, has enhanced an increasingly high degree of economic interdependence among nations in the region, warranting some kind of economic regionalism. For another, the impending formation of regional economic arrangements in other parts of the world, namely, the European Community in Europe and NAFTA in North America, have encouraged the formation of similar regional economic arrangements in this part of the world, either for economic self-protection of the region or for the further strengthening of a free-trade oriented regional economic order.

One of the major characteristics of this emerging “Asia Pacific regional community” is that it has been largely economic-driven, particularly through the dynamic corporate interactions of trade and investment within the region. While this trend is likely to progress given the continued growth of the so-called Asian Newly Industrialized Economies (NIEs) and other emerging economies in East and Southeast Asia, the economic interdependence that has served as an engine of growth among these nations is also a potential source of friction in the region. It is argued in some circles that mere economic interdependence, therefore, is not sufficient as a basis for the regional “community” and that it is hard to bring about such a “community” without some viable shared values or interests or without more stable human and institutional interactions among the nations within this region. It is also pointed out that the European integration could not have been carried out, even to the present stage of development only through governmental negotiations. Instead, the process of integration has been underpinned by multiple layers of nongovernmen-

tal interactions including collaborative efforts of research and academic institutions, NGOs, business organizations, and other diverse nongovernmental organizations. It is widely accepted that the human dimension of these nongovernmental interactions is extremely important in generating a “sense of community” and a “community of interest.”

Despite the fact that economic interdependence has been an underlining force behind the emerging Asia Pacific regional community, there has been a distinct development of civil society, i.e. non-economic and nongovernmental interactions, in the region in recent years. This trend seems to reflect the growing recognition of the importance of non-economic factors at an advanced stage of economic interdependence, as evidenced, for example, by the increasing importance Japanese corporations attach to stakeholders’ interest or by their efforts to become “good corporate citizens” in the East and Southeast countries in which they operate. There is also a noticeable growth of NGOs in Asia Pacific nations in recent years reflecting a significant advancement of the democratization and pluralization process among nations in the region, accompanying a phenomenal economic growth, and a tendency among these NGOs to form collaborative arrangements beyond their own national borders. Such regional cooperation of NGOs has been greatly enhanced by the growing prominence of global issues such as the environment, rural poverty, AIDS, and drug addiction which have become more pronounced since the end of the cold war confrontation which has had regional implications over the past half century. Thirdly, there has been significant growth of a network of policy-oriented scholars and researchers as well as that of research and academic institutions in the region which are becoming more active in jointly addressing themselves to regional economic issues as well as political-security issues.

## Objectives

This survey of “Nongovernmental Underpinnings of the Emerging Asia Pacific Regional Community” was proposed in the fall of 1993 in order to assess the state of indigenous development of civil society in each nation in Asia Pacific; to study the present state of development of regional interactions among nongovernmental efforts through the identification of existing networks or collaborative arrangements; to identify major actors for such regional cooperative endeavors; and to explore ways and means of further developing such nongovernmental regional underpinnings in the future. The survey covered three areas, namely, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), policy-oriented intellectual activities, and organized philanthropy

and corporate philanthropy, all of which are involved in international cooperation. There have been some surveys and networking efforts in these three areas of endeavors in the past, and the current survey was designed to build on such past efforts, and, hopefully further enhance them. A central objective of the survey was to provide a basis for accelerating the efforts of enhancing nongovernmental underpinnings of regional community building efforts. It was felt that a more objective assessment and analysis of the degree of the current state of nongovernmental collaborative efforts would make it possible to identify major constraints against and future opportunities for further enhancement of such regional cooperation. It was also expected that the survey would provide a basis for future efforts to build a database on these regional activities.

From the point of view of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), which was to commemorate its 25th anniversary in 1995, this survey would enable it to bring itself to a new level of efforts in encouraging philanthropic development in Japan. JCIE was fortunate to find close collaborators in the region who had started an initiative to launch the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium. JCIE has been involved in such efforts since 1973 through a series of activities under its International Philanthropy Project. It is felt that, while needs and rationale for philanthropic activities both corporate and organized had been vigorously promoted by a growing number of organizations in Japan through several studies and a multitude of seminars and workshops in recent years, a more action-oriented approach and professionalization of philanthropic activities were desperately needed in order for Japanese foundations and corporations to put into action what they had been learning in the past. This survey project has provided JCIE with an excellent base on which it can launch an ambitious Asia Pacific Agenda Project, also in commemoration of its 25th anniversary, involving multi-pronged research and dialogue activities. This new project is JCIE's modest response to a challenge of strengthening and broadening networks among policy research institutions and intellectual leaders involved in Asia Pacific community building, and it is an effort to enhance the longer term capacity of Japanese and Asian societies to conduct and contribute to quality, objective research and policy dialogue activities relevant to key regional issues.

## Methodology

In the first phase of the survey, searches were made on existing materials covering regional networks, collaborative efforts of institutions, and organized efforts being

made within each nation within the region. Through the initial phase of the survey attempts were made to identify key players in the region who are involved in non-governmental regional cooperation. An initial survey involved the scanning of data bases available such as one at the Foundation Center in the United States and interviews with officials of major foundations, NGOs, and research institutions in the United States, Japan, and other Asian nations. As to the countries to be included in the survey, we decided to cover fifteen countries including the United States, Canada, China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, ASEAN countries, Vietnam, Australia, and New Zealand.

At the end of the first phase, further exploration of existing or potential regional networking and cooperation was made at a series of workshops JCIE organized on behalf of the Center for Global Partnership (CGP) which was seeking at that time to find its role in enhancing Asia Pacific regional cooperation through support for intellectual exchange and NGO grassroots activities. On 9 and 10 April 1993 a workshop was organized in Singapore to discuss the role of intellectual exchange in enhancing regional cooperation, and another workshop was organized in Jakarta on 11 and 12 April to discuss a similar role for NGOs in the Asia Pacific region.

In the next phase, actual research activities took place. Researchers with expertise in one of the three areas in their respective countries were identified and commissioned with the research. At the same time several JCIE staff members were sent for a series of field trips. Each researcher was provided with the guidelines for the research which was expected to be the basic structure of each country paper, including the history and evolution of NGOs/research institutions/philanthropy in each country, the Asia Pacific orientation of each respective society, major actors, and the status and prospects of Asia Pacific networks. It was truly unfortunate that we were unable to identify a researcher on Malaysia's organized philanthropy in time for this publication. We are aware that drastic changes have been witnessed in Malaysia's philanthropic sector, and we very much wish to include a country paper on this topic when we revise the current volume.

In the final stage, an international symposium was held in Osaka, Japan, on 11–13 December 1994 on the theme of Nongovernmental Underpinnings of the Emerging Asia Pacific Regional Community to discuss and disseminate the results of the survey. Country papers submitted by project researchers were compiled to provide background reading for the conference participants together with the integrative report of the survey project. It was at this conference that the launching of an Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC) was officially announced in order to strengthen indigenous philanthropies in each Asia Pacific nation and enhance phil-



anthropic cooperation in the region, a need repeatedly emphasized in most of the country reports for the further development of the civil society. We are pleased that APPC agreed to extend its cooperation toward the publication of the current volume. Both the integrative report as well as the summary of discussion at the above Osaka Symposium are attached in this volume.

It is our hope that this publication will be a useful addition to the already vigorous discussions and dialogues on the civil society in Asia Pacific. Ultimately, we wish to contribute, through this publication, to the development of civil society in each of the Asia Pacific countries as well as the enhancement of a genuine regional community in the region.

## Acknowledgements

First and foremost I wish to thank all the researchers who contributed original and insightful country papers. Without their contributions, the current volume literally would never have materialized. The survey project as well as the publication have been supported by generous funding from various foundations in Japan, the United States, and Taiwan including, in alphabetical order, The Asia Foundation, the East-West Seminar, Ford Foundation, Himalaya Foundation, The Hitachi Foundation, the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Suntory Foundation, Ushiba Memorial Foundation, and Weyerhaeuser Foundation. Special thanks are in order to Professor Chan Heng Chee and her associates at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, most notably Dr. Diana Wong and Mrs. Triena Ong, who wholeheartedly endorsed the objectives of this project and agreed to copublish this report on extremely short notice.

Last but by no means the least, I wish to thank my competent and hardworking staff, most notably Makito Noda and Susan Hubbard who deserve to be listed as co-editors of this volume. Hiroshi Peter Kamura, Karin Wilcox, and Noriko Ogawa contributed to the survey project by coordinating among North American and Southeast Asian researchers. Hitomi Komatsu helped me prepare the integrative report by collecting and processing relevant data. Sue Henny and Hazlyn Fortune both read manuscripts and helped us edit the country papers, and Patrick Ishiyama was responsible for formatting the entire manuscript.

Tadashi Yamamoto

Tokyo, July 1995



## **PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION**

I am honored to be able to report that this book was awarded the Masayoshi Ohira Award for Outstanding Contribution to Asia Pacific Community Building, by the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Foundation. It is due to the dedication of the authors of the reports contained within these pages that we received this honor, and I would like to thank all of them for the invaluable contribution they have made.

As I mentioned in the preface to the first edition of this book, we were unable to identify a researcher on Malaysia's organized philanthropy in time for the first publication, but we have since located a very knowledgeable scholar on this subject, Edmund Terence Gomez, of the University of Malaya. Mr. Gomez's paper, "Philanthropy in a Multiethnic Society: The Case of Malaysia," appears in the appendices of this edition. I am pleased to be able to include a report on Malaysian philanthropy, thus making our survey of fifteen Asia Pacific countries complete.

Besides the addition of the report on Malaysian philanthropy, only slight changes were made to the text of this book. I hope that this volume will encourage further development of civil society in each of the Asia Pacific countries and contribute to the formation of a genuine regional community in the Asia Pacific region.

Tadashi Yamamoto

Tokyo, April 1996



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# Integrative Report

Tadashi Yamamoto

*President*

*Japan Center for International Exchange*

## I. Introduction

This report provides an integrative summary of papers prepared by a number of researchers, as listed in appendix 1, who have participated in the survey project on "Nongovernmental Underpinnings of the Emerging Asia Pacific Regional Community." The survey was initiated in the spring of 1993, covering fifteen countries in Asia Pacific to assess the development of (a) organized and corporate philanthropies, (b) nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and (c) independent policy research institutions in these countries, and to identify emerging regional cooperative arrangements and networks among these organizations. It should be noted that the term NGOs, in a broader sense, covers both private philanthropies and independent policy research institutions. In this report, however, the term NGOs refers to those nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations that are active in the field of development issues in third world countries, such as rural development, alleviation of poverty, nutrition and health, reproductive biology, and education; and global issues such as the environment, human rights, refugees, and the population crisis. It should also be noted that "independent policy research institutions" covered in this survey are mostly in the international economic, political, and security fields, and this project focuses primarily on regional networks and collaboration among these research institutions.

This report was initially prepared as background material for discussion at the Osaka Symposium on "Developing Nongovernmental Underpinnings of the Emerging Asia Pacific Regional Community" held 11–13 December 1994. It summarizes the major findings of these country papers as well as key issues that have been raised in connection with efforts for further developing "regional nongovernmental un-

derpinnings.” The present form in which this report now appears has been revised and updated since the Symposium.

In the first phase of the survey project—January through April 1993—a preliminary search was made on existing printed materials covering private and corporate philanthropies, NGOs, and research institutions in the Asia Pacific nations as well as on regional networks or collaborative efforts among these organizations. On the basis of the preliminary findings, methodology and design of the survey project were explored at two workshops with the participation of experts in the Asia Pacific region who had already been involved in the regional collaborative schemes. On 8–9 April 1993, the first workshop was organized in Singapore to discuss regional cooperation among policy research institutions as well as intellectual exchange activities in general, with twenty experts from eight countries. The other workshop was organized in Jakarta on 12 April 1993, to discuss NGO cooperation in the Asia Pacific region with nineteen experts from six nations. The plans of the survey project were then discussed at the International Symposium on Private Philanthropy in East Asia, held in Seoul, Korea on 19–22 August 1993. In addition to advice and suggestions on the methodology and design of the survey project, participants of the Symposium strongly endorsed the major objectives of the survey, indicating that the survey is consistent with the goals of the Seoul Symposium. The Symposium was a follow-up to an earlier symposium in Bangkok held in August 1989, under the title, “International Symposium on Organized Private Philanthropy in East and Southeast Asia.” The key participants of the Bangkok and Seoul Symposia began exploring the possibility of establishing an Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium to facilitate philanthropic development and cooperation in Asia Pacific.

Many of the participants of the workshops in Singapore and Jakarta as well as those of the Bangkok and Seoul symposia agreed to participate directly in the survey activities, and others volunteered to facilitate the identification of country researchers, or to assist the researchers with their reports. Therefore, the survey project has truly been undertaken as a regional and multinational collaborative project, though the initiative was taken by the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE). In this spirit, it is assumed that the reports received from the researchers on the basis of interviews and data collection along with voluminous reference materials including directories and reports on a number of nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations in the Asia Pacific countries, are considered to be the common property of those interested in future development and cooperation among research institutions, NGOs, and philanthropies in this region. It is hoped, therefore, that these materials will provide a basis for the clearinghouse activities to be