

<p>13. FY 2007 Study on APEC Education Cooperation International Research and Cooperation Forum Leader: WATANABE Ryo (Director, Department for International Research and Co-operation)</p>

(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

The purpose of this study was to survey key issues and urgent tasks for education and human resource development policy within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region. With this information we can contribute to the formulation of related policy planning, as well as evaluation and improvements in this field. We especially wanted to investigate the achievements of the APEC Education Network (EDNET), suggest new activities based on the knowledge and experience of Japan, and gather information by participating in the educational projects of member countries and regions. We investigated how Japan can more effectively participate and contribute internationally through EDNET, and how these results can in turn contribute to Japan's policies.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- Research team members attended the 29th APEC Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) meeting held in April 2007 in Brisbane, Australia, as well as the 23rd APEC Education Network (EDNET) meeting. They gathered and analyzed information about key goals of APEC projects and movements, as well as educational initiatives of member countries and regions.
- Researchers also attended the 4th APEC Pre-Ministerial Symposium held in January 2008, in Xian, China. At the request and facilitation of MEXT, they played a central role with our American counterparts in the mathematics and science education subcommittee. Researchers participated in subcommittees in language learning, career and technical education, and ICT and crossover-themed reforms, analyzing conditions in member countries and regions and working collaboratively to develop solutions to key issues. This work was done in preparation for the Education Minister's Meeting to be held in Lima, Peru in June 2008.

- Researchers searched for and selected international joint research projects being carried out by Japanese universities and institutions that could be advanced within APEC's framework, and assisted in bringing them forward as potential projects at the HRDWG and EDNET meetings.
- APEC and EDNET, which has a relationship with MEXT, do not have permanent elected officials, and instead rotate coordinators who manage the network for two to three years each. As a result, activity goals or unified initiatives are not readily apparent, and this hampers Japan's efforts to contribute actively to APEC. Seen in this light, our project's success in providing MEXT officials with scholarly insights and information concerning international trends, as well as in collating materials and information gathered on an ongoing basis from meetings, has surely played a significant role prompting consideration of MEXT's long-term international strategy and effective deployment of international relations programs.
- Through the activities detailed above, a report was drafted summarizing the major trends of HRDWG and EDNET for fiscal 2007, as well as the EDNET-related activities and international education cooperation activities of member countries and regions. Also, basic materials collected at the Pre-Ministerial Symposium, including its various subcommittees, were translated and presented as reference materials. Lastly, the report included APEC accomplishments and declarations as summed up in their yearly leader's summit meeting, which encompasses APEC activities as a whole.