

## ANNUAL REPORT 2000

The beginning of a new millennium is an appropriate time for self reflection and renewal. This report therefore focuses on a retrospective and a prospective view of the Toda Institute's research program.

### Looking Back

Since its establishment in 1996, the Toda Institute has been primarily focused on building a network of global peace and policy scholars through a series of international conferences on Human Security and Global Governance. Out of conferences, ten scholarly volumes have already emerged or are in process:

1. *Worlds Apart: Human Security and Global Governance*
2. *Asian Peace: Security and Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region*
3. *Nuclear Disarmament: Obstacles to Banishing the Bomb*
4. *Not by Bread Alone: Food Security and Governance in Africa*
5. *Reimagining the Future: Toward Democratic Governance*
6. *Managing the Global: Globalization, Employment, and Quality of Life*
7. *Dialogue of Civilizations: A New Peace Agenda for a New Millennium*
8. *Democratizing Global Governance*
9. *Bridging a Gulf: Peacebuilding in West Asia*
10. *Worlds on the Move: Globalization, Migration, and Cultural Security.*

This record of achievement owes itself to the contributions of our growing number of collaborating scholars around the world. Toda Institute is a new kind of institute for a new kind of world. We are a *network institute* with a small staff in Tokyo and Honolulu. The distinguished scholars who collaborate with us carry out the bulk of the Toda Institute's research work. The first phase of our work during 1996-2000 was to lay the foundations for a research effort toward the following three main objectives.

- To highlight the issues often neglected in the international discourse.
- To empower the voices often not heard.
- To recommend the just and peaceful paths often not taken.

### Looking Forward

In 2001, the Toda Institute initiated a new project entitled, "Globalization, Regionalization, and Democratization (GRAD): A Multi-Civilizational Dialogue and Research Project." The project is a continuation of the Institute's pursuit of the above three objectives. However, in this phase, the Institute will act as a catalyst in launching a truly worldwide, multi-civilizational, and dialogic research program on the most pressing problems facing humankind in the new millennium. The following provides only the briefest possible description of the project. As GRAD proliferates

into a growing number of Working Groups, we hope its findings stimulate serious discussions with an impact on peace and policy in all regions of the world.

### **Research Problem**

Three Megatrends characterize our won era and perhaps the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including globalization, regionalization, and democratization. The evolution of the global system must be clearly studied in the context of these trends.

Globalization is perhaps the oldest of the three trends. It has gone through three phases in human history. The first round of globalization took place along the Eurasian landmass from ancient China to Rome through the Silk, Spice, and Incense Roads. The second round started with the sailing of Columbus to the New World in 1492 followed by massive population movements and colonization of Africa, Asia, and America by the Europeans. The third round has been assuming increasing momentum in the post World War II period by the technological revolutions in transportation and telecommunication. This round has led to the rise of a global economy, communication networks, and cultural ethos.

Regionalization has an equally long history from empires to its current form in part responding to the challenges of globalization. Western Europe pioneered the new by establishing the European Economic Community followed by the European Union. Other regions of the world have followed suit, organizing around NAFTA, MERCOSUS, ASEAN, ASSRC, CIS, ECO, etc. The trend continues in a variety of modalities in different regions and subregions.

Democratization ins a process of broadening and deepening of political participation that has a long history. However, following the fall of the Soviet Union and Eastern European dictatorships in the early 1990s, democratization has become an unmistakable force throughout the world. The modalities of democratization vary enormously from region to region and country to country. Its main features include popular sovereignty, constitutions and rule of law, periodic elections, and checks and balances by increasingly autonomous centers of power in government (legislative, executive, and judiciary) and civil society (political parties, trade unions, media, as well as professional and voluntary associations).

Although he three trends are deeply intertwined, there are significant lags and leads among them. While globalization is rapidly moving forward under the leadership of transnational corporations (TNCs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO, regionalization and democratization have a significantly slower pace. Widening of wealth and income gaps within and among countries and regions of the world is calling for new modes of participation in global governance beyond the current nation state system. Continuation of the growing gaps clearly undermined the social compact within and among nations and threatens global peace and stability.

### **Research Objectives**

In pursuit of the following objectives, the GRAD Project proposes to undertake a long-range study of the dynamics of continuity and change in the global system.

- To bring together a number of peace and policy research centers from seven continental

civilizations into a collaborative multi-civilization research project focused on the above three megatrends. Spread over seven imaginary continents, these civilizations include:

1. The indigenous world,
  2. The Hindu-Islamic world stretching from South East Asia to Central Asia and North Africa,
  3. the Buddhist-Confucian world stretching from the East to Central and South East Asia,
  4. the African world south of the Sahara,
  5. the Euro-North American world stretching from the Ural Mountains to Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand,
  6. the Latin American world, and
  7. a global civilization resulting from the convergence of all past and present cultures.
- To develop a multi-civilizational conceptual framework focusing on the unity and variety of conditions and institutions for global democracy in an age of globalization and regionalization.
  - To conduct empirical and comparative research on critical aspects of democratization under the conditions of globalization and regionalization, These may include the role of the state, market, civil society, political participation, women, migration and diasporic communities, technological innovation and adaptation, cultural identity and multiple citizenship, urban planning, art and literature, etc.
  - To propose recommendations and to engage in action research wherever appropriate to advance the causes of peace, justice, and democracy.

### **Research Plan**

The GRAD Project is expected to go through the following phases:

Phase 1. Development of the project's conceptual and organizational framework

Phase 2. Implementation of proposed research activities by Working Groups

Phase 3. Critical reviews and publication of research in the form of articles, monographs, books, or video documentaries.

### **Research Organization**

The GRAD Project will be mainly organized and financed by a consortium of peace and policy research centers from all seven continental civilizations. It will however enlist the collaboration of a wider spectrum of scholars and research institutes throughout the world at subsequent stages of the project and with respect to more specific research problems and activities. A Steering Committee consisting of the directors of Co-sponsoring institutes will manage the project. To ensure a multi-civilizational dialogue, each Working Group must consist of representatives from at least seven civilizations. An International Advisory Group will evaluate the output of the project as it evolves.

### **Research Financing**

The funding role of the Toda Institute and the Globalization Research Center at the University of Hawaii is to underwrite the first planning conference. It is expected that the conference will lead to the formation of active Working Groups raising their own funding. Other sources of funding will be also actively sought to support the Working Groups and their coordination.

### **Research Output**

The project is expected to produce three distinctly different sets of output. These include (1) publications in the print (articles, monographs, books). WebPages, and video documentaries (2) recommendations on problems of human security and global governance at local, national, regional, and international levels, and (3) triple track diplomatic initiatives to bring government, non-governmental organizations, and civil societies into dialogic processes of conflict resolution.

### **Research Time Table**

While it is possible to consider a flexible timetable for certain projects within GRAD's framework, the research program as a whole needs to have a definite timetable to ensure tangible output. Three-year intervals seem to be a realistic time horizon for the Working Groups to produce tangible results by meeting face-to-face and through telecommunication in the conduct of their research projects.

### **Participating Centers**

A number of peace and policy research centers are currently negotiating with the Toda Institute for participation in the project.

### **Conclusion**

The steadfast support of the Institute's founder Daisaku Ikeda, Chairman Einosuke Akiya, the Board of Directors, and the International Advisory Council, has been the source of constant encouragement. Thanks also are due to the Institute's dedicated staff in Tokyo and Honolulu, including Masaichi Ueda, Tomosaburo Hirano, Kiochi Taniguchi, Hiroshi Morita, Satoko Takahashi, Hau'oli Busby, and Chie Sunada. Farideh Fari and Anne Smith have helped the Institute to project itself through its journal *Peace & Policy*, and its webpage.

Globalization, regionalization, and democratization are often perceived as relatively new phenomena. However, a deeper look shows that the roots of all three trends and the problems they have posed go way back into history. There is perhaps no more telling a commentary on the environmental, cultural, political, social, and economic consequences and remedies of globalization than the one we can find in *Tao Te Ching* some 25000 years ago (by Lao Tzu, translated by Witter Bynner, source: <http://www.wakeup.org/andalou/04/3/book.html>).

*“Those who would take over the earth  
And shape it to their will  
Never, I notice, succeed.  
The earth is like a vessel so sacred  
That at the mere approach of the profane  
It is marred*

*And when they reach out their fingers it is gone.  
For a time in the world some force themselves ahead  
And some are left behind,  
For a time in the world some make a great noise  
And some are held silent,  
For a time in the world some are puffed fat  
And some are kept hungry,  
For a time in the world some push aboard  
And some are tipped out:  
At no time in the world will a man who is sane  
Over-reach himself,  
Over-spend himself,  
Over-rate himself.”*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Honolulu, Hawaii, Noruz, March 20 2001