

6. Conclusion

Akio Morishima

We are nearing the final stage of the First Phase of IGES strategic research, at the same time as we prepare drafts of the Second Phase strategic research plans to be submitted to the Boards of Directors and Trustees. The preparatory work, towards the formation of drafts of the Second Phase research plans and for the start of research activities in April 2001, is progressing steadily along a schedule that received approval from the Board of Directors in June 2000. Regarding the budget for the fiscal year 2001, we expect to be able to begin the Second Phase of research by means of comprehensive support from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Kanagawa Prefecture and other local governments in which IGES is located.

If the research plans for the Second Phase are approved by the Boards of Directors and Trustees, at a minimum the Climate Policy, Urban Environmental Management, Forest Conservation, and Environmental Education Projects, which were developed in the First Phase, can smoothly progress into the Second Phase. Preparatory work has already begun for the Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project, and if it gains approval we expect to formulate project implementation plans after April. Similarly, the new Business and the Environment Project is to be carried out at the IGES Kansai Research Center set to be established in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture. The project can start operating in April 2001 on the condition that the establishment of the Kansai Research Center is approved at the same time as the Second Phase plan for the project is approved at the Board meetings.

Preliminary research has already started on sub-project Information Technology Revolution and the Environment, within the New Development Patterns Project of the First Phase. This project will probably become a sub-project of the Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project. Regarding the two topics of Environmental Industries in Developing Countries and Freshwater Resources Management, the research targets, research methods, and selection of Project Leaders, etc., require further discussion, and their details are to be refined as sub-projects or projects before the end of the fiscal year 2001. Furthermore, we would like to start the Freshwater Resources Management Project, based on open call after determining framework of the research.

If the Second Phase strategic research plans are approved by the Boards of Directors and Trustees in February 2001, the Secretariat will immediately decide on the recruitment of researchers (currently we are going ahead with selection of researchers), and each project will submit detailed research plans for the fiscal year 2001. Meanwhile, the final reports by the projects of the First Phase will be submitted by the end of the research period at the end of March, and will be compiled for publication as the First

Phase research reports. As soon as the compilation process is complete, IGES will organize a conference to report on the research achievements, targeting audiences outside the organization. In addition, IGES plans to have each of its projects from the First Phase evaluated by the Research Advisory Committee.

note: The Second Phase IGES Strategic Research Plan was approved at the Ninth Meeting of the Board of Directors in February 2001.