

Preface

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The papers presented in this volume are the results of a two year project (the 1988 and 1989 academic years) entitled "Socio-Economic Development Policy and International Relations in the Asian-Pacific Area."

This project investigated possible developments leading to the formation of a regional community among the nations of Asia and the Pacific Area, focusing on politico-socio-economic factors.

Two papers focus on the recent development of interregional interdependency. Li Ting Jiang concentrates on the development of the "North Asian Economic Community." He opens his paper by clarifying the background behind the concept of the North Asian Economic Community, and then examines the various factors which accelerated the Community's formation over the past few years and looks at its future.

Du Jin analyzes the development of economic interdependency between Hong Kong and mainland China. Although the dominant view of the restoration of Hong Kong to mainland China has been pessimistic, he tries to show how bright the future may be by examining various phenomena which show the two countries becoming so economically interdependent that neither could survive or pursue further development without the other. Thus, mainland China will not damage Hong Kong's prosperity.

Iwasaki explains recent rapid economic development in Singapore with emphasis on domestic factors. He argues that Singapore's Developmental Regime, which was established according to the ideology that socio-economic development should take priority in order to achieve the political independence, plays a crucial role in the country's success.
