

FOREWORD

An International Symposium, titled 'Democracy and Market Economics in Central and Eastern Europe: Are New Institutions Being Consolidated?' was held at Sapporo, Japan, on 3-5 September, 2003 by the Slavic Research Center of Hokkaido University mainly under a grant (Japan-Europe Support Program for Conferences and Symposia) from the Japan Foundation, with the support of the grant-in-aid of JSPS (Scientific Research (A)(2), no. 14252002, FY2002-2004) and the 21st Century COE Programme 'Making a discipline of Slavic Eurasian Studies: Meso-areas and Globalization'.

This symposium was the first part of a conference series, named 'Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) — Japan Forum for the 21st Century' aiming to promote academic exchange between CEE and Japan, especially in the Social Sciences. Ambassador Yoshitomo Tanaka (formerly Japan's Ambassador to Hungary) and Professor Hiroshi Kimura (then of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and now at Takusyoku University) had showed excellent initiative in organizing a five-part conference series titled 'New Dialogue Between Central Europe and Japan' which was launched in 1996 at Budapest and successfully completed with the Zagreb Conference of 2002. This new conference series succeeds to the spirit of the first series under new leadership and based on the network of scholars in Central Europe and Japan which has been established through the first series.

This symposium was held almost fourteen years after the '1989 revolutions' of the CEE countries and about eight months before the EU enlargement of May 2004. We believe that this timing was right to evaluate the achievement of democratization and marketization of these countries and discuss remaining problems from a distance in time and at the threshold of a new era.

This volume is composed of four parts. Two papers of the first part, contributed by Attila Ágh and Tomáš Kostecký, indicate outlines of problems related to democratization focusing on East Central European countries, the most successful countries in transformation among CEE, in the context of 'Europeanization'. Tsuneo Morita's paper, the other one of this part, raises questions

on the meaning of 'globalization' with regard to 'transformation' of CEE countries.

The second part of this book is comprised of four case studies. Péter Gedeon deals with problems of relations between marketization and democratization referring to the Hungarian case. Milan Sojka and Tadayuki Hayashi review 'neo-liberalism' in the Czech Republic from the view points of economics and politics respectively. Soňa Szomolányi examines the Slovak 'difficult case' of democratization.

The three papers of third part by Milica Uvalic, Vojmir Franičević and Taro Tsukimura deal with problems of transformation in Southeast European countries, which have faced more formidable difficulties than East Central European countries and still remain out of the European Integration with the only exception of Slovenia.

The fourth part, titled 'Between CEE, Russia and Japan', is comprised of five papers. Takayuki Ito tackles the challenge of comparing Japan and Poland focusing on electoral ordinance and party systems. Tsuneaki Sato gives a reappraisal of the 'Japanese economic system' and examines its applicability to emerging capitalist economies. Two papers contributed by Japanese specialists of Russian studies, Shugo Minagawa and Manabu Suhara, provide a broader perspective of comparative studies. Lastly, but not least, Ambassador Yoshitomo Tanaka contributed to this volume a retrospective essay on his days as Japan's ambassador to Hungary in 1995-1997.

Here I have to express my heartfelt gratitude particularly to Professor Tsuneaki Sato, not only for his participation to the symposium and contribution to this volume, but also his generous support in organizing this symposium using his personal network of economists in CEE countries which he has established in his academic life of almost a half century. Without his help, I would not have been able to hold this symposium so smoothly.

I would like to thank, as usual, Mika Osuga, the managing editor of the SRC and express my sincere gratitude to Mark Hudson for correcting the English.

Tadayuki Hayashi

Editor

Sapporo, June 2004