

## **The Rise of Emerging Countries and the Future of Global Governance**

### **Background and Aim**

The concept of global governance first became generally known in the late 1990s, particularly after the publication of the “Our Global Neighborhood” report in 1995 by the Global Governance Committee. The debate at the time was focused on how the international community as a whole could combat global economic, poverty, environmental and population issues.

Among the reasons this topic has garnered so much attention in recent years is, first of all, the remarkable rise of the BRIC countries. It is widely expected that sometime between 2025 and 2030 China will overtake the United States in terms of GDP and become the world’s largest economy. The problem is that it is difficult to imagine that the BRIC countries (China included) will share and take part in global governance premised on liberalism, as opposed to maintaining their stance on domestic non-interference based on the traditional notion of sovereignty. For example, while dispatching the necessary personnel for peacekeeping operations, these countries’ troops do not participate in peace-building operations that they consider interference in affairs of state, nor do these countries show much concern for human rights or democratization, giving precedence to their own development above environmental concerns and holding the developed nations responsible for environmental policy. These are some of the conspicuous behavioral characteristics of these countries, and the rise of the BRICs clearly illustrates their opposition to the idea of global governance.

Global governance is changing under these circumstances, and its status is the focus of this study group, which will examine three primary topics.

First, the group will investigate theoretically the types of constructive changes the rise of the developing nations will bring to the international order. Second, the group will isolate the various global problems the international society is currently facing, and then study the attitudes of developing countries to these individual problem areas. Third, the group will try to determine the future changes likely to occur in perceptions of the idea of global governance.

The ultimate goal of the study group is to determine through such analysis precisely the direction that the idea of global governance is moving in a world of decreasing international order. Moreover, it aims to propose responses that Japan should adopt towards the issue. This research will not only be pioneering on this important scholarly problem, but will also have significance in promoting Japan’s

national interests.

### **Overview of Activities**

The research will take place from April 2011 to March 2012.

The study group will consist of a total of 13 members from JIIA and outside institutions. Meetings will be held on a monthly basis, with progress reports made regularly and outside lecturers invited for discussions and seminars.

In addition, the study group will form the following working groups (made up of four to six members each) for the three aforementioned research topics to facilitate expert debate on each topic:

- **Working Group 1:** The Economic Development of Developing Countries and International Structure: Power Shifts and International Order
- **Working Group 2:** Developing Countries and Global Issues
- **Working Group 3:** Developing Countries and Global Governance

The research results are to be announced through symposiums and reports. A report will be made by the end of the research period (March 2012).

### **Study Group Members**

#### **Chairman**

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#### **Members**

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