

Pilots in the Chartless Sea of a Knowledge Economy

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Think tanks and universities will play a major role in helping nations and societies steer through the turbulent seas of the 21st century, already a time of unprecedented crises in the nuclear, environmental and financial fields. In our Jan/Feb. issue, the first issue of 2013, a critical year for determining whether the nations of the world will be defeated by such crises or can overcome them, we try to show how these intellectual bodies will be crucial in the battle against such threats.

The editor-in-chief provides an overview of the role of Japanese think tanks and universities in their search for remedies to restore the domestic economy and society, while two distinguished experts on think tanks in Japan, Ms. Akiko Imai, research fellow and director for public communications at the Tokyo Foundation, and Mr. Jun Kurihara,

research director of the Canon Institute for Global Studies, introduce their respective activities and missions. *Japan SPOTLIGHT's* editorial section then includes brief summaries of interviews with the heads of two prominent and unique institutes founded by the University of Tokyo and Hitotsubashi University, so readers can see how academics are actively involved in pragmatic issues.

Some others leading thinkers in the Asia-Pacific region also discuss their contributions to the accumulation of knowledge and wisdom, and in particular how they try to resolve common problems and issues in this area, including that of economic integration.

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