

About the Author

JIRO OKAMOTO is a former Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) in Japan. His research focus has been on international political economy of East Asia and the Asia Pacific, economic cooperation/integration processes in the region and the role of international institutions in regional integration processes. He has edited several books in Japanese and English, including *Whither Free Trade Agreements?: Proliferation, Evaluation and Multilateralization* (IDE-JETRO 2003) and *Trade Liberalization and APEC* (Routledge 2004). He received his Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from the Australian National University.