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## Message from JILPT

I am delighted to announce that we, the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (JILPT), have launched a new quarterly journal, the *Japan Labor Review*. JILPT, established on October 1, is a research institute, successor to the former Japan Institute of Labour (JIL). Our purpose is to undertake comprehensive research and study on labor policies and circulate the findings of that research while simultaneously contributing to the effective implementation of labor policies by training personnel in labor-related administration. With increasing globalization, the aging of society, rapid technological innovation in information and telecommunications and other structural changes, the labor market is changing dramatically as are employment systems and practices in the private sector. In line with this, we have selected nine themes for intensive investigation and research, including study on ideal employment strategies in Japan, an analysis of regional unemployment structures, and so on. To tackle these themes, it is also extremely important, we believe, to have an understanding of labor policies and the state of the labor market in other countries. With this in mind, we shall be cooperating actively in joint studies with researchers and research institutes abroad.

Our new publication, the *Japan Labor Review*, will make available in English, research papers on Japan's labor policies for the benefit of a broad range of overseas readers, including researchers and people involved in industrial relations and administration. To this end, the *Review* will be distributed widely to researchers, research institutes, organizations responsible for labor policies, and other institutions overseas. And through the *Review* we hope to enhance opportunities for interaction in research activities with such individuals and organizations abroad, which in turn will give research activities in Japan an added sophisticated quality.

The editing committee responsible for the *Review* consists of foremost authorities on research into labor issues and labor policies in Japan. The editing committee will select outstanding research papers, considered worth introducing to overseas readers, from among studies by Japanese experts concerning labor issues and labor policies. In addition, where implications for future political tasks that may interest overseas readers are concerned, members of the committee will themselves write articles from their own professional viewpoint. The predecessor of the *Review*, the *Japan Labor Bulletin*, initially launched in 1959, carried articles containing information and research results on Japanese labor issues in a monthly feature entitled "Special Topics." The *Japan Labor Review*, will continue this policy and focus on "Special Topics" similar to those which appeared in the *Bulletin*. In addition to these research papers, the *Japan Labor Review* will provide summaries of the results of studies by the JILPT itself. We sincerely hope that the *Review* will provide insight into our purpose and the aims of our activities.

The *Japan Labor Review* is a small journal which has only just set sail. We will do our best to satisfy the requirements of our readers and to maintain high academic standards. May it enjoy your patronage for many years to come.

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**Akira Ono**

*President,*

*The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training*

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