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MT PROJECT FOR ASIAN LANGUAGES

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Center of the International Cooperation for Computerization (CICC) has been working on an international joint R&D project since the end of 1987 under a six-year plan to develop a machine translation system for five Asian languages: Chinese, Indonesian, Malay, Thai and Japanese.

The project has been promoted and sponsored by Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), and by the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand. MITI plans to fund the project with 630 million yen for this fiscal year.

Many researchers and engineers from these countries are now joining in the project. They are having frequent workshops for joint research activities. Last fiscal year, CICC invited 70 people from abroad for 1,300 days in total and sent 50 Japanese engineers to its partner organizations.

With technical advice from Electrotechnical Laboratory (ETL) of MITI, CICC is developing key technologies for the system. It is also coordinating research activities among the participating countries. Japan Electronic Dictionary Research Institute (EDR), Fujitsu, NEC, Hitachi, Sharp, Toshiba, Oki, and Mitsubishi are cooperating with CICC for this project.