

depend on these factors. Countries will correspondingly have to compete on the basis of their human capital and related infrastructure for both domestic and foreign capital.

Renewed regionalism – in the Americas, Europe and Asia – both facilitate globalization and sharpen trade friction between the regions. Given that multilateral rules lag behind changing patterns of international trade, the major regional economies are increasingly managing these disputes directly, outside of multilateral rule-based structures.

While some newly industrialized economies are experiencing sustained and rapid growth, the poorer among the developing economies are falling further behind and becoming marginalized. Growing pressures on global capital markets suggest little relief in the coming years. Economic and increasingly political conditionality – environmental, human rights, and military expenditures-based – has become a reality of multilateral and bilateral aid programs.

### **A World beyond Borders**

The information society is global in scope. The new global economy is paralleled by similar developments in the worldwide diffusion of information, culture and knowledge. Citizens are aware of what passes beyond their borders. Political and economic disparities between countries become known. Pollutants released in one country can have profound effects on life beyond its borders. Domestic policies increasingly have transnational and international ramifications.

The list of those problems facing the international community that ignore national boundaries is growing in length and gravity. Global environmental threats, population and migratory pressures and proliferation of weaponry can only be addressed on a multilateral basis.