

Outline of Discussions

The Japan-China Dialogue “Japan-China Relations, Marking a New Stage”

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ) and Institute of Japanese Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) co-sponsored “Japan-China Dialogue: Japan-China Relations, Marking a New Stage” in Tokyo on 4 July, 2008.

Japan-China relations have dramatically improved since the visit of former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo to Beijing in October 2006. The “Dialogue,” which had 3 participants from China and 23 participants from Japan, lively discussion was carried out among experts.

China’s point of view

In the Session I, on the theme of “China's point of view on the status quo and the future of Japan-China relations,” Dr.YANG Bojiang, Director of Institute of Japanese Studies in CICIR, stated, “Compared with the era of Koizumi administration, Japan-China relations have now gone through considerable change. It is because China has realized that the improvement of Japan-China relations would certainly contribute to the peaceful development of China. Cooperation, trade, investment and technology from Japan are the strategic asset which is essential for the economic development of China. Japan-China relations must be a testing ground for peaceful development of China in the 21st century. If we can successfully manage Japan-China relations, the international relations will go well as a whole. But if Japan-China relations are poorly managed, it will lead to the domestic destabilization in China. Therefore it is necessary for us to handle Japan-China relations well.”

In the following Free Discussion, participants made comments as follows: “Amid the improving Japan-China relations, comprehensive strategic dialogue should be established among Japan, the US and China, by paying due attention to the US.”(Prof. AMAKO Satoshi); “I wonder if the Chinese

government can really control domestic nationalism among the so-called 4th generation.”(Prof. TAKUBO Tadae); “I am worried that especially the internet society has a strong anti-Japan sentiment.”(Mr. IMAI Takashi); “I have highly evaluated Hu Jintao administration’s policy towards Japan as one of the reasons for advent of so-called Warm Spring.” (Prof. ITO Kenichi).

Japan’s point of view

In the Session II, on the theme of “Japan's point of view on the status quo and the future of Japan-China relations,” Amb. TANINO Sakutaro, a former Japanese ambassador to China, stated, “Having resumed leaders’ visit between Japan and China means the normalization of Japan-China relations. Maintaining such good and stable relations is in the interests of Asia and the world. National sentiments are easily affected by the media and often change. Leaders of both two countries should really understand the importance of Japan-China relations and deal with problems. About “a mutually beneficial strategic relationship,” it is necessary to look at it as “Japan-China relations in the world” from a long-term and comprehensive perspective.”

In the Free Discussion, participants made comments as follows: “China is not opposed to Japan-US Alliance itself, but rather regards it as one of the stable factors in the Asia Pacific region.”(Prof. YANG Bojiang); “The agreement of joint development of gas fields in the East China Sea is of great importance for both two countries. It should be promoted further.” (Amb. OKAWARA Yoshio); “The worldwide excess liquidity has caused the rise in the prices of resources and foods. I wonder what kind of East Asian regional cooperation is possible.”(Prof. SHINDO Eiichi); “I hardly hear the information of Chinese side about Tibet problem. Information should be open and PR should be promoted.” (Prof. OGASAWARA Toshiaki); “An opinion poll indicated that the Chinese people have questioned not the past history of invasion itself, but the lack of remorse for the history. In this sense, it can be said as a reactive response. Foundations for a mutually beneficial strategic relationship are firmly built among the public. How both countries will deal properly with various incidental events is a challenge for the future.” (Mr. SUN Jianhong).