

Outline of Discussions

The Japan-China Dialogue “Prospect of Japan-China Relationship in the Changing World”

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ) and Institute of Japanese Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) co-sponsored “Japan-China Dialogue: Prospect of Japan-China Relationship in the Changing World” in Tokyo on 4 June, 2009, in which 5 participants from China and 18 participants from Japan had lively discussion. The “Dialogue” was convened in two sessions, namely “China's Views” and “Japan's Views.”

Before the two sessions, ITO Kenichi, President of GFJ, made opening remarks representing GFJ, in which he stated, “‘Japan-China Dialogue’ between GFJ and CICIR has been precious occasions for experts from both sides to further understand each other in the transitional period of Japan-China relations shifting from the KOIZUMI Junichiro-JIANG Zemin era to the ABE Shinzo-HU Jintao era.”

China’s point of view

In the Session I, on the theme of “China's point of view on the prospect of Japan-China relationship in the changing world,” CUI Liru, President of CICIR, stated, “Japan-China relationship, which is referred to as a ‘Strategic Mutually-Beneficial’ one, is characterized by the mutual interdependence established in economy on the one hand, and by the mutual distrust still predominant in security on the other. While China is making efforts not to stir concerns among neighboring countries by her rapid development, she still has many unsolved problems within the country.”

In the following Free Discussion, participants made comments as follows: “It is important hereafter to enhance and establish the trilateral framework of The 1st “Japan-China-Korea Summit” held for the first time late last year”(OKAWARA Yoshio, Chairman, GFJ); “Although the post-KOIZUMI Japan-China relationship seems to have been stabilized, it is, in essence, still in

uncertain situations. Both two countries should not utilize diplomacy as a tool for domestic politics”(YANG Bojiang, Director, Institute of Japanese Studies, CICIR); “The US-China relationship is becoming the driving force to lead the world. In that situation, we need to consider how to establish a trilateral relationship among Japan, China, and the U.S.”(AMAKO Satoshi, Professor of Waseda University); “Strategic and cooperative relationship is required between commercial companies of Japan and China in a number of fields including that of food security” (LIU Junhong, Professor of Institute of Japanese Studies, CICIR); “While cooperative frameworks is being built between the two countries such as the joint development project in the East China Sea, nationalistic sentiments impede them. The governments of both countries should enhance advertisement and education for their respective peoples.” (TAKAHARA Akio, Professor of The University of Tokyo)

Japan’s point of view

In the Session II, on the theme of “Japan's point of view on the prospect of Japan-China relationship in the changing world,” KOKUBUN Ryosei, Professor, Keio University, stated, “The Japan-China relationship is undergoing a transition, shifting from the “1972 Regime,” based bilateral friendly relationship, to the “2006 Regime,” set up in a situation where the global US-China relationship is established. Although this transition has not been completed yet, three characteristics of 1) the popular relationship, 2) multilateralism, and 3) mutual interdependence, are emerging in the process.”

In the following Free Discussion, participants made comments as follows: “Although the rise of China is seen as a problem, Japan, to the eyes of China, is also rising. Development of the Japan-China relationship would be valuable not only for the two countries but to the entire region of East Asia. We understand that the rise of China stirs concerns not only in Japan but other neighboring countries including Mongolia.”(YANG Bojiang, Director of Institute of Japanese Studies, CICIR); “China’s response to nuclear issues of North Korea has not been adequately explained, and therefore stirs concern in Japan. In the age of public diplomacy, it is important to achieve accountability” (SATO Yoshiyasu, former Ambassador to China); “The concept of ‘Strategic

Mutually-Beneficial Relations” is based on the recognition of the need for rational and functional ways of problem solving”(HUO Jiangang, Assistant Professor of Institute of Japanese Studies, CICIR); “We are seriously concerned about China’s relentless military buildup. The number of soldiers, the need to renew the battle equipments, and the high rate of price increase are not persuasive enough to account for the development of space strategies of China. (TAKUBO Tadae, Visiting Professor of Kyorin University); “While China should be viewed as a major power in terms of politics, she still is a developing country in terms of domestic affairs such as welfare. China cannot afford to take responsibility for the international community and the creation of a regional order. Diplomacy, therefore, should sometimes become resources with which to addressing domestic problems.” (SUN Jianhong, Assistant Professor of Institute of Japanese Studies, CICIR).