

## **Outline of Discussions**

### **The Japan-East Asia Dialogue**

#### **“East Asia in Transition and New Perspectives on Regional Cooperation”**

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ), International Studies Department of Vietnam National University and the Japan Forum on International Relations co-sponsored the “Japan–East Asia Dialogue” in Tokyo on February 23-24. In the “Dialogue,” which had 77 participants in total, lively discussion was carried out among experts including five Panelists from Vietnam, Malaysia, Korea, China and the U.S. The “Dialogue” started at Welcome Dinner on February 23, hosted by ITO Kenichi, President of GFJ / JFIR. The “Dialogue” consisted of three Sessions all of which were open to public.

#### **Session I : East Asia in Transition and New Visions for Regional Cooperation**

In Session I on the theme of “East Asia in Transition and New Visions for Regional Cooperation,” ITO Go, Professor of Meiji University proclaimed that first and foremost, while Asia has become the center of the world’s growth, the most pressing issue we are faced with now is how to create a framework for the development of such a wide area.

In succession, Pham Quang MINH, Dean of International Studies Department of Vietnam National University declared that Vietnam is an important player in regional security in East Asia. There exists a mature and asymmetrical relationship between Vietnam and China. On one hand, Vietnam is strengthening its relationship with the U.S., and at the same time is taking measures to balance the expansion of the South China Sea.

Next, TAKAHARA Hikojiro, CEO of Consul Bution Co. reported that given the size of the Chinese market, we should see it as an opportunity to take risks associated with its expansion; however the risks we take must be weighed with meticulous care.

Finally, REN Xiao, Professor of Fudan University addressed that regarding regional cooperation in East Asia, while organizations such as the Japan-Korea-China Cooperation, the East Asia Summit and ASEAN+3 exist, it is critical to understand their relationship to each other, and whether it is necessary to merge with one another.

## **Session II : On the Nature of Regional Cooperation in East Asia: Introvert or Extrovert?**

In Session II on the theme of “On the Nature of Regional Cooperation in East Asia : Introvert or Extrovert?,” WATANABE Shino, Associate Professor of Saitama University stated that by having an aggressive regional diplomacy, China has managed to enter into the current international order, and that this is laying the foundation for making things more convenient for China in the future.

Subsequently, Robert DUJARRIC, Director of Institute of Contemporary Asia Studies of Temple University presented that in East Asia, in addition to the tensions in Korea and the Taiwan Strait, there is a problem of Senkaku Islands. Furthermore, in the South China Sea, there exists a dispute between China and ASEAN countries. In the background of all this, it should be noted that there is a geopolitical rivalry between China and the U.S.

In succession, OGASAWARA Takayuki, Professor of Yamanashi Gakuin University claimed that Vietnam’s foreign policy is to avoid complete reliance on the U.S. and China, and to actively promote entry into regional organizations such as APEC and ASEAN.

Finally, KIM Beng Phar, Director of Strategy/Research of Foreign Policy Study Group in Malaysia reported that the protests recently occurring in the Middle East are a sign that we are entering a new phase in international relations. He also stated that it goes without saying that East Asia is not able to combat or resist these dynamics.

## **Session III : New Perspectives on Regional Cooperation toward Open Regionalism**

In Session III on theme of “New Perspectives on Regional Cooperation toward Open Regionalism,” SANADA Yukimitsu, Professor of Aichi Shukutoku University suggested that Japan should aim to be a stable supplier of goods and services which other countries are dependent on but are not able to manufacture.

Subsequently, KWON Taek-myung, Standing Director of KEB Foundation declared that while it is true that the East Asia region is moving toward economic integration, the ideologies and precepts as well as the “win-win” spirit to support this integration are still insufficient.

Finally, HORIKANE Yumi, Associate Professor of Meiji University claimed that the biggest problem in our future is how to deal with uncompetitive industries such as the agricultural sector.