

# Outline of Discussions

## Emergency Dialogue

### "The Great East Japan Earthquake and Regional Cooperation on Disaster Management"

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ), under the co-sponsorship with National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) and The Council on East Asian Community (CEAC), organized "Emergency Dialogue" on the theme of "The Great East Japan Earthquake and Regional Cooperation on Disaster Management" in Tokyo on July 8. With 217 participants in total including 11 foreign panelists from seven of the ASEAN countries, China, Korea, the U.S. and the ASEAN Secretariat, a lively discussion was carried out over two Sessions which lasted for three and a half hours. This "Emergency Dialogue" was featured by an NHK BS1 program "HOT@ASIA," which was broadcast nationwide on August 23.

#### **Session I: The Lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami**

In Session I on the theme of "The Lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami," ANDO Shoichi, Director of International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering of Building Research Institute delivered a keynote report in which he stated: "In terms of the buildings affected by tsunami, we found such new cases as reinforced concrete buildings toppled over sideways and iron frames distorted. We need to learn lessons from studies of those examples." Following this, Panadda PUCHAROENSILP, Senior Professional Level Scientist of Research and International Cooperation Bureau of Ministry of Interior of Thailand delivered a keynote report in which she stated: "Though the Indian Ocean Tsunami brought tremendous social and economic damages particularly to the coastal areas, we could make a recovery owing to the emergency assistance from the international community. Now we are required to strengthen the regional cooperation on disaster management in accordance to the increasing levels of frequency and severity of natural disasters in East Asia."

In response to the keynote reports, such comments were made as: "When disasters of unexpected levels happen, it is difficult for us to avoid and overcome damages. We must modify our traditional life style as well as develop facilities and spaces adaptable to huge disasters," by KAMOTO Minoru, Chief Researcher of Public Works Research Institute; "Even Japan, who had been believed to be advanced in disaster reduction, suffered great damage. Now we are fully

aware that disasters can affect all countries regardless of developed or developing," by Danilo C. ISRAEL, Senior Research Fellow of Philippine Institute of Development Studies; "Disaster risk and climate change are closely related. In order to enhance our disaster management ability, more budget should be allocated to studies on climate change," by Wan Portiah WAN HAMZAH, Senior Fellow of Institute of Strategic and International Studies of Malaysia.

## **Session II: Regional Cooperation in the Future Disaster Management"**

In Session II on the theme of "Regional Cooperation in the Future Disaster Management," OKAZAKI Kenji, Professor of GRIPS, delivered a keynote report in which he stated: "Local communities and people understand the disaster risk. Nevertheless, due to uncertainty of the future disasters, they do not prioritize investment in disaster reduction. An effective way to improve their motivation for disaster reduction is to implement pilot projects in which they develop their own risk management and action plan." Then, WAN Zhenyao, Dean of One Foundation Philanthropy Research Institute of Beijing Normal University delivered a keynote report in which he stated: "The weakness of East Asia is the absence of a contingency plan for catastrophes. The whole East Asia must define its action plans, rules and procedures in disasters as well as establish a joint catastrophe research institute so that this region can manage an earthquake of magnitude 10 and a sea level rise of 3 meters."

In response to the keynote reports, such comments were made as: "The affected areas need long-term medical services to provide mental care for victims, home care for elderly people, and measures against infectious diseases. It is important to establish a medical cooperation system which sustains beyond the immediate aftermath of disasters," by ONIMARU Takeshi, Assistant Professor of GRIPS; "This earthquake disaster brought a significant impact on the supply chain. The whole East Asia should share the experience of Japan in preparation for another contingency in the future," by Aaron FORSBERG, First Secretary of Embassy of the U.S. in Japan; "Each country in East Asia must share more opportunities of communication as well as improve the reliability of information so that people inside and outside the affected areas can take appropriate actions with scientific information," by KIM Kee Seok, Professor of Kangwon National University of Korea.