

Outline of Discussions

The Japan-China Dialogue

"The Japan-China Relations at Crossroads"

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ), under the co-sponsorship by China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), organized the Japan-China Dialogue on the theme of "The Japan-China Relations at Crossroads" in Tokyo on October 26, 2011. A lively discussion was carried out by 39 participants including Amb. OKAWARA Yoshio, Chairman of GFJ, Hon.Dr./Prof. ITO Kenichi, President of GFJ, Amb. TANINO Sakutarō, former Ambassador to China, Prof. SONODA Shigeto, Professor of the University of Tokyo from the Japanese side, and Mr. CUI Liru, President of CICIR, Dr. YUAN Peng, Assistant to the President and Director of the Institute of American Studies of CICIR, Dr. HU Jiping, Director of the Institute of Japanese Studies of CICIR from the Chinese side.

Opening Remarks

ITO Kenichi, President of GFJ, made his opening remarks as follows: China, its GDP having reached 6 trillion USD in 2010 and surpassed that of Japan, has become the second largest economy in the world. In trade, China ranks the first in total exports and the second in total imports. Though China's presence is becoming more and more prominent, there are not only expectations but also concerns on the role China will be playing in the Japan-China relations and in the world. In this context, it is truly timely for GFJ and CICIR to hold our third "The Japan-China Dialogue" on the theme of "The Japan-China Relations at Crossroads."

Session I: Chinese Perspective

In Session I, HU Jiping, Director of Institute of Japanese Studies of CICIR, delivered a keynote speech in which he stated: Though economic interdependence between China and Japan is being promoted, there still exists mutual distrust in terms of politics and security, which can change for the worse in the future. Now that the China-Japan relations are indeed at crossroads, we need to seriously discuss the China-Japan relations. There are differences of view in several respects. First is on national power: Though China has surpassed Japan in GDP, most Chinese see that China is still a developing country. Second is on enhancement of military power: Though most Japanese see that China is strengthening its military power more than necessary, China strengthens military power only to keep pace with its economic development. Third is on the

Chinese foreign policy: While Japan sees that China's diplomacy is becoming hard-line, China sees that it is rather soft. Fourth is on China's diplomacy with its neighboring countries: Though Japan sees that China's hard-line diplomacy is generating tensions in neighboring countries, China maintains a policy to develop good-neighborly relations. In response to the keynote speech, comments were made by four lead discussants. Then, free discussion was carried out by all the participants.

Session II: Japanese Perspective

In Session II, AMAKO Satoshi, Professor of Waseda University, delivered a keynote speech in which he stated: The significant problem in the Japan-China relations is the growing mutual distrust, which must be seriously recognized. The collision incident of a Chinese fishing boat in September 2010 was generally accepted as a "failure of Japanese diplomacy," but I rather see it as a "failure of Chinese diplomacy." In order for China to become a country with a significant influence in the world, China needs a "true partner." From a strategical standpoint, Japan was considered as such a partner since Japan had been in a good relationship with China based on the concept of "strategic partnership of mutual benefit." However, now that irrecoverable distrust has been created by their responses to the incident, Japan and China are quite unlikely to build a true partnership. In that sense, the incident was a "failure of Chinese diplomacy." In response to the keynote speech, comments were made by four lead discussants. Then, free discussion was carried out by all the participants.