

# **Outlines of Discussions**

## **The 9th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue**

### **"The Future of ASEAN Integration and Japan's Role"**

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ), The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) and the ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) co-sponsored the 9th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue in Tokyo on March 13th-15th.

The "Dialogue," which had 101 participants in total, featured lively discussion among the experts in attendance. The "Dialogue" began with the Welcome Dinner on the 13th, followed by a full-day "Dialogue" consisting of three Sessions open to the public and a Roundtable Dinner on the 14th and a "Policy Recommendations Drafting Meeting" closed to the public on the 15th.

#### **Session I: ASEAN Economic Community and Japan's Contribution**

In Session I, entitled "ASEAN Economic Community and Japan's Contribution," two keynote speakers made presentations. Prof. URATA Shujiro stated, "the object of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is to transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, and skilled labor, and a freer flow of capital. Substantial progress has been made toward establishing the AEC but there still remains much to be done. The extent of progress varies widely by area. Significant progress has been made with trade in goods, for example, while difficulties have been encountered in service trade and investment. Japan has three ways of contributing to the AEC. Firstly, Japan can help achieve a single market and a highly competitive region through infrastructure-building to improve logistics. Secondly, Japan can also endeavor to bring about a region with equitable economic development by assisting SME and supporting efforts to address gender issues. Lastly, in order to achieve full integration with the global economy, Japan should liberate its agricultural sector and promote the realization of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia (CEPEA). Japan can then make effective use of the CEPEA framework."

Next, Mr. SUNDRAM Pushpanathan remarked, "In 2007, the ASEAN leaders agreed to hasten the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015 and to transform ASEAN into a region with free movements of goods, services, investment, and skilled labor, as well as a freer flow of capital. The ASEAN economic integration framework is generally characterized by internal integration. In addition to this, however, we also need to consider external economic relations, basically comprising the ASEAN FTAs and CEPs now being implemented or pursued. ASEAN-Japan economic relations are very important. We in ASEAN sincerely appreciate Japan's continued support, cooperation and partnership over the years, especially in the field of technology transfer. By creating a win-win situation in our cooperation, the ASEAN-Japan relationship will progress further."

#### **Session II: East Asia Security and Japan-ASEAN Cooperation**

Session II looked at the topic of "East Asia Security and Japan-ASEAN Cooperation," and two keynote speakers offered presentations. Prof. Carolina G. HERNANDEZ commented, "Japan and ASEAN have a long history of friendship and mutually beneficial relations almost from the very establishment of ASEAN, and the 2011 Bali Declaration will further develop this cooperative relationship. The declaration endorsed five strategies to further enhance regional peace, stability

and prosperity. It also adopted twelve broad principles and commitments for political-security cooperation. From now on, firmer political will is required to craft concrete cooperation measures such as improving cooperation within the various ASEAN organizations, reframing maritime security from the viewpoint of ensuring people's livelihoods, enhancing law enforcement cooperation, upholding the freedom and safety of navigation and peaceful settlement of disputes, and lastly developing multi-stakeholder dialogues. While we know that there are many challenges ahead, we also see many opportunities for achieving this cooperation."

Subsequently, Prof. OGASAWARA Takayuki stated, "The main factor in exploring political-security cooperation between ASEAN and Japan has been their common interest in non-traditional security issues. It is undeniable that China's rapid military buildup and assertiveness in the region has become another factor in promoting cooperation. Japan will be putting continuous emphasis on the socio-economic development of ASEAN countries in a manner that enhances ASEAN connectivity. Peace and stability in the seas connecting ASEAN and Japan are essential for the prosperity of the region. However, we need to realize that the US-China strategic equilibrium is the keystone to maintaining peace and stability in the East Asia region. 'ASEAN's centrality' and ASEAN-Japan cooperation will not be effective unless the equilibrium brings peace and stability to the region. It is advisable for Japan and ASEAN countries to upgrade their own security capabilities through defense cooperation and capacity building, while cooperating with the US as it reconfirms its status as an Asia-Pacific nation."

### **Session III: Entangled Regional Architecture and ASEAN Community**

Session III featured two presentations on the subject of "Entangled Regional Architecture and ASEAN Community." Ms. YEO Lay Hwee asserted, "Since ASEAN was founded, it has always been an outward-looking organisation. ASEAN is an instrument designed to enable member states to enhance their autonomy and minimize any interference from major powers or neighbouring countries. With the end of the Cold War and the intensifying global economic competition today, it is necessary for ASEAN to enhance regional community-building and at the same time manage "external affairs" in the region. Although there are many overlapping architectures in Asia, it is necessary for ASEAN to manage all these architectures and help drive the process to collectively solve problems at the regional and global level. On the other hand, the role of Japan remains significant. Henceforth, Japan will be required not only to support ASEAN in many of its community building initiatives but also to play an active role in coordinating the various interests and challenges that different architectures face."

Mr. HATOYAMA Yukio followed up by noting, "The East Asia Community initiative is extremely important, and at the core of this initiative are ASEAN, Japan, South Korea and China. While ASEAN is making efforts towards becoming a community in 2015, Japan, China and South Korea need to strengthen their relationships in order to overcome historical barriers. When talking about the East Asia Community, I am often asked about the scope of 'East Asia.' I answer that there is no need to establish a rigid boundary for the region; instead, we should extend a multi-tiered network of communities across the region. It is important for countries to practice "cooperation to ensure mutual prosperity", "cooperation to save lives", "cooperation to save the environment in Asia" and "cooperation to create a future of fraternalism." Since we cannot address the matter of the region's security without the United States, it is in our best interest to discuss political and security matters at EAS and APEC."

## **Policy Recommendations Drafting Meeting**

On the following day (the 15th), the “Policy Recommendations Drafting Meeting” which was closed to the public was held to draft specific “policy recommendations”. JFIR and each of the ASEAN-ISIS member institutions submitted the Policy Recommendations to their respective governments of Japan and ASEAN.