The Japan-Asia Pacific Dialogue "International Order in the 21st Century and the Security of Maritime Asia"

Outline of Discussions

July 12, 2016 The Global Forum of Japan

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ), under the co-sponsorship of the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), Meiji Institute for Global Affairs (MIGA) / Meiji Institute of International Policy Studies (MIIPS), and Western Sydney University, organized the Japan-Asia Pacific Dialogue "International Order in the 21st Century and the Security of Maritime Asia" on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at the "Global Front," Meiji University, Tokyo. This "Dialogue" was convened on the very day when the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Hague issued an award in the arbitration concerning the South China Sea issues. The list of Panelists and outline of their statements are as follows.

1. List of Panelists

A total of 111 people attended the event, including 14 panelists as listed below.

Japanese Side: 8 Panelists

ITO Kenichi	Chairman and President, GFJ / President, JFIR
NAKATANI Gen	Minister of Defense
ITO Go	Academic Governor, GFJ / Director, MIIPS / Professor, Meiji University
SATO Koichi	Professor, J.F. Oberlin University
SHOJI Tomotaka	Head, America, Europe, and Russia Div., Regional Studies Dept., National Institute for Defense Studies
YAMADA Yoshihiko	Professor, Tokai University
ASANO Ryo	Professor, Doshisha University
SUZUKI Taketo	Associate Professor, Meiji University

Asia-Pacific Side: 6 Panelists

NGUYEN Thi Lan Anh	Vice Dean, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (Vietnam)
YOU Ji	Professor, University of Macau (China)
Hikmahanto JUWANA	Professor, University of Indonesia (Indonesia)
David WALTON	Senior Lecturer, Western Sydney University (Australia)
PHAM Quang Minh	Rector, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University-Hanoi (Vietnam)
Virginia WATSON	Professor, Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (the U.S. / the Philippines)
	(In order of appearance)

2. Highlight of Presentations

This Dialogue comprised of "Opening Session," "Session I: the Security of Maritime Asia from a Global Perspective," "Session II: How to Maintain Maritime Asia Open, Free and Peaceful," and "Wrap-up Session" in that order. Here are highlights of the keynote speech and presentations by the panelists.

(1) Keynote Speech

NAKATANI Gen, Minister of Defense

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in Hague will issue an award in the arbitration between the Philippines and China concerning the entitlements in the South China Sea claimed by China. This award is noted as the first international judicial ruling on the South China Sea issues. The international society is expected to abide firmly by this ruling. The Japanese government has claimed to the Chinese government for 3 years that changing the status quo by force or coercion is not acceptable.

(2) Presentations

(a) NGUYEN Thi Lan Anh, Vice Dean, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (Vietnam)

Any maritime activities must be conducted abiding by the rules stipulated in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In this context, the Philippines appealed to the Permanent Court of Arbitration to inquire into the basis of the "Nine-dash Line" claimed by China.

(b) YOU Ji, Professor, University of Macau (China)

The issue of sovereignty cannot be solved immediately, but the actual war must be avoided by all means. For that purpose, what we should do now is to "maintain the status quo."

(c) Hikmahanto JUWANA, Professor, University of Indonesia (Indonesia)

Indonesia has been in conflict with China over the maritime interests in the southern South China Sea. However, Indonesia is an important trade partner for China, and China is supporting Indonesia's infrastructure projects. Although gradually, China's responses seem to have softened.

(d) PHAM Quang Minh, Rector, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University-Hanoi (Vietnam)

On China's future course of actions, the following three scenarios are possible. First, China disregards an award issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration and establish air defense identification zones etc. Second, although unlikely, China calms down its activities in the South China Sea. Third, China pursues diplomatic solutions. In any of these scenarios, an award of this time will be a turning point for China.

(e) David WALTON, Senior Lecturer, Western Sydney University (Australia)

While many of Asia-Pacific countries, including Australia, have active economic exchanges with China, challenges remain in the security field. In the future, cooperative relations with China should be promoted not only in the economic field but also in the security field.

(f) ITO Go, Academic Governor, GFJ / Director, MIIPS / Professor, Meiji University

It is quite curious to note that the word "territory" is often used by China in recent international conferences about the South China Sea issue. It uses the word in the discussions on sea issues and land issues indiscriminately, despite the fact that defining a "territory" at sea is a subtle question. Also, as in the Session titles today, defining the sea as a "global" public good is easier said than done.

(The Secretariat of GFJ is responsible for the text herein.)

For conference-related materials, please refer to the URLs below:

- 1. Conference Papers: http://www.gfj.jp/j/dialogue/20160712 cp.pdf
- 2. Report (in Japanese): http://www.gfj.jp/j/dialogue/20160712 dr.pdf
- 3. Video Record (in Japanese): <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKp2aeRX7as</u>



NAKATANI Gen, Minister of Defense, giving a keynote speech



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