The Dialogue with the World "The International Order in Europe and Asia-Pacific after the Ukraine Crisis and Japan's Course of Action"

Outline of Discussions

November 25, 2016 The Global Forum of Japan

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ), under the co-sponsorship by The Atlantic Council's Brent Scowcroft Center (BSC), Institute of World Policy (IWP), and The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), organized The Dialogue with the World "The International Order in Europe and Asia-Pacific after the Ukraine Crisis and Japan's Course of Action" on November 25, 2016, at "Saffron" of Ivy Hall, Tokyo. The List of Panelists and Highlight of their presentations are as follows.

1. List of Panelists

A total of 76 people attended the dialogue, including 11 panelists as listed below.

Japanese Side: 6 Panelists

ITO Kenichi Chairman, GFJ / President, JFIR

MUTSUSHIKA Shigeo Academic Governor, GFJ / Professor, University of Shizuoka

SUEZAWA Megumi Associate Professor, Heisei International University
ITO Go Academic Governor, GFJ / Professor, Meiji University

HAMAMOTO Ryoichi Professor, Akita International University

SAITO Motohide Visiting Research Fellow, The Institute of Policy and Cultural Studies, Chuo University

Overseas Side: 5 Panelists

Leonid LITRA Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World Policy (Ukraine)

Daria KHASPEKOVA Research Fellow, Russian International Affairs Council (Russia)

Joerg FORBRIG Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund (Germany)

Robert NURICK Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council (U.S.)

PAN Zhongqi Professor, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University (China)

(In order of appearance)

2. Highlight of Presentations

This Dialogue comprised of "Opening Remarks," "Session I: The Ukraine Crisis from the European Perspective," "Session II: What the Ukraine Crisis Means to the Asia-Pacific," and "Wrap-up Session: Europe-Asia Pacific Security Linkage and Japan's Course of Action" in that order. Here are a highlight of the presentations made by the panelists.

(1) Leonid LITRA, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World Policy (Ukraine) The Ukraine "Crisis" threw into relief the collapse of the system of international law and norms. The Russian aggression on Ukraine was/is exploring the weakness of the Ukrainian state institutions and high level of corruption. On the part of Ukraine it is important to have a clear sequencing of Minsk implementation that would lead to a sustainable conflict settlement. What is expected of the international community to deal with the "Crisis" is to have a principled joint position over the illegalities that were/are taking place from the side of Russia, and to continue the policy of sanctions in order to deter Russia from further escalation.



(2) SUEZAWA Megumi, Associate Professor, Heisei International University (Japan)



Although the Ukraine Crisis is often analyzed in the context of foreign relations, the internal factors behind the crisis should not be overlooked. For example, the Minsk Agreement is in deadlock because of domestic resistance, not by pressure from Russia. If Poroshenko will fail to accomplish the Minsk Agreement and domestic reform, he will lose trust from all sides. Besides, foreign commitment has limitations regarding drastic change of a country's society and the mindset of its people. As in the words of Mikheil Saakashvili, "The best Ukraine can do now is to reform and become self-reliant."

(3) Daria KHASPEKOVA, Research Fellow, Russian International Affairs Council (Russia)

The Ukraine Crisis has drastically undermined trust between Russia and Western countries. Once again in history Europe is divided into the West and Russia giving many experts reason to speak about a new cold war. Yet, the crisis we are witnessing today was not provoked by "Putin's aggressive policy on Ukraine" or Russia's inconsiderate imperial ambitions however dubious Russia's role might seem. The roots of the conflict lie in flaws remaining after the collapse of bipolar world. The turmoil in Ukraine did not start with Russia's interference - though Moscow's role is ambiguous - it started long before the Crimea or DNR.



(4) Robert NURICK, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brest Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council (U.S.)



Russian actions in and around Ukraine have had a major impact on the Washington policy community, both in and outside of the government: European defense, NATO, and Russia are all back at the center of the U.S. policy agenda. The crisis and its aftermath are widely seen not only as a serious geopolitical challenge, but as reflecting a basis clash of values—one which can be managed but is unlikely to disappear as long as Mr. Putin is in power. The U.S. policy response to date has had several basic components: bolstering NATO, punishing Russia, and supporting Ukraine.

(5) HAMAMOTO Ryoichi, Professor, Akita International University (Japan)

China was reluctant to declare its official stance on Crimea, preferring to keep silent. This is in part because China opposes any form of referendum, especially in a time when it is facing a possibility of a referendum in Taiwan. China, therefore, could not support the referendum by Crimea in 2014 but at the same time could not oppose to Russia's decision either. However, China was also eager to take sides with the West in opposing Russia's annexation of Crimea as one of permanent members of the UN Security Council. China did not wish to be an enemy of Russia either, making them silent on the issue.



(6) PAN Zhongqi, Professor, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University (China)



The Ukraine Crisis poses two dilemmas to China. One is about its non-interference principle, which has been made contradictory to its another foreign policy principle of strategic partnership. While China should oppose Russia's annexation of Crimea, it should support Russia's approach in dealing with the Ukraine Crisis. So, China has to take a low key approach to the crisis itself. Another dillenma is its difficult position it has to take between Russia and the U.S. For most Chinese, the Ukraine Crisis is a crisis between Russia

and the U.S., a kind of renewal of the Cold War. The memory of the Cold War, in which China was pushed around by the competition of the two superpowers, reminds China to simply stay afar from the crisis.

(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/20161125 cp.pdf
- 2. Video Record (in Japanese): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIMhUb9X1cs



Panelists gathering from all over the world



Venue filled with 76 participants in total