

**The Japan-ASEAN Dialogue**  
**“Changing Regional Order in the Asia-Pacific and Japan-ASEAN Cooperation”**

**Outline of Discussions**

June 30, 2017

The Global Forum of Japan Secretariat

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ) organized “The Japan-ASEAN Dialogue” on “Changing Regional Order in the Asia-Pacific and Japan-ASEAN Cooperation” in Tokyo on June 30, 2017, under the co-sponsorship of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, The University of Social Sciences and Humanities at Vietnam National University (VNU-USSH), and The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), with the support by the Japan Foundation Asia Center.



Today, the Asia-Pacific region is undergoing a significant transition with the rise of China and other emerging countries. In order to maintain and develop the free, open and rules-based international order while coping with this situation properly, what should Japan and ASEAN do? With this awareness in mind, GFJ has organized a series of “The Japan-ASEAN Dialogue” since 2002, and this is the tenth “Dialogue.”

This Dialogue comprised of “Opening Remarks,” “Session I: International Environment of the Asia-Pacific in Transition,” and “Session II: Prospects for the Japan-ASEAN Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.”

This “Dialogue” was attended by six panelists from the ASEAN side, including TAN See Seng (Professor, RSIS), Aries A. ARUGAY (Associate Professor, The University of Philippines Diliman), Thomas Benjamin DANIEL (Analyst, Malaysia ISIS), Bui Tanh NAM (Associate Professor, VNU-USSH), Iis GINDARSAH (Researcher, Indonesia CSIS), and Kavi CHONGKITTAVORN (Senior Fellow, Security and International Studies Institute of Thailand), nine panelists from the Japanese side, including KAMIYA Mataka (Professor, National Defense Academy of Japan / Academic Governor, GFJ), NAKANISHI Hiroshi (Professor, Kyoto University / Academic Member, GFJ), HOSOYA Yuichi (Professor, Keio University), OBA Mie (Professor, Tokyo University of Science), and 54 other persons from the third countries.

Here are a highlight of the presentations made by panelists.

1. TAN See Seng (Professor, RSIS):

The world is leaning towards anti-globalization and protectionism, but protectionism has not completely prevailed. In East Asia exist frameworks such as the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership). These frameworks are alternatives to counter populism and protectionism.



2. NAKANISHI Hiroshi (Professor, Kyoto University / Academic Member, GFJ):

Since June last year, the strategic environment of the Asia-Pacific region has been rapidly changing. In the Philippines, with the election of President Duterte, there seems a departure from the foreign policy emphasizing traditional cooperation with Japan and the U.S. From now on, Japan needs to not only show attitude for stronger free trade by promoting TPP 11 and RCEP together but also make efforts to strengthen maritime governance by cooperating with neighboring countries in the South China Sea.



3. Thomas Benjamin DANIEL (Analyst, Malaysia ISIS):

The priority of developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region is on economic development and prosperity, and China is catching this point. This is a possible reason why small countries support China's "Belt and Road" even though it lacks concrete content.



4. HOSOYA Yuichi (Professor, Keio University):

Japan has deepened commitments to the region with the rule of law, disarmament, and nuclear non-proliferation at the core. From now on, Japan is probably required to strengthen the defense capability it lacks.



5. OBA Mie (Professor, Tokyo University of Science):

Japan and ASEAN have a gap of recognition over the regional situation. In other words, Japan's enhanced policy towards ASEAN means more to restrain China and disregards ASEAN itself. Now, it is urgent to revisit the regional vision that is desirable for both Japan and ASEAN.





6. Iis GINDARSAH (Researcher, Indonesia CSIS):

While having promoted the TPP to maintain its rebalancing strategy under the Obama administration, the U.S. does not follow the policy under the Trump regime and lessening its commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. However, although this is a risk for stability of Asia, it has aspects that count as an opportunity to enhance Japan-ASEAN cooperation.

7. Kavi CHONGKITTAVORN (Senior Fellow, Security and International Studies Institute of Thailand):

Important points for Japan-ASEAN cooperation are four points: that is, the change of mind set in policy makers of both Japan and ASEAN, implementation of high-level consultation between Japan and ASEAN, technical cooperation in cyber security etc., cooperation in counter-terrorism policy, and enhancing relationship among youth.



(The Secretariat is responsible for composing this text.)

For Dialogue-related materials, please refer to the URL below:

- Conference Papers: [http://www.gfj.jp/j/dialogue/20170630\\_cp.pdf](http://www.gfj.jp/j/dialogue/20170630_cp.pdf)



Venue filled with 69 participants in total



Panelists gathering from both Japan and ASEAN