

Outlines of Discussions

The 7th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue Convened "Prospect of Japan-ASEAN Partnership after the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation"

The Global Forum of Japan (GFJ) and ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) co-sponsored "the 7th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue" in Tokyo on September 24th-26th, in cooperation with The Yomiuri Shimbun and The ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism.

In the "Dialogue," which had 107 participants in total, lively discussion was carried out among experts. The "Dialogue" started at Welcome Dinner on 24th. We had a one full-day "Dialogue" consisting of three Sessions open to the public and Roundtable Dinner on 25th. "Policy Recommendations Drafting Meeting" closed to the public was held on 26th.

An East Asian Community and Japan-ASEAN Relations

In the Session I on the theme of "An East Asian Community and Japan-ASEAN Relations," two keynote speakers made their presentations respectively. Prof. Carolina G. HERNANDEZ stated, "An East Asian Community building has been pursued based on cooperative relations between ASEAN and each of "plus three" countries. Japan-ASEAN relations have the longest history and the most outstanding significance among them. ASEAN does not want to be forced to choose between Japan and China. With the rise of the presence of China, ASEAN hopes that Japan will restore its leadership."

Following that, Prof. SOEYA Yoshihide stated, "When we discuss an East Asian Community building, the most important thing is to have a clear perspective of Japan-China relations. If we look at the process of East Asian Community building from a functional perspective, Japan-China relations are mutually complementary. But both countries are in a conceptual and ideological competition regarding a desirable vision of regional order in East Asia. To bridge the gap between two countries is essential. Japan and ASEAN should pursue a common agenda."

Japan-ASEAN Cooperation for Sustainable Development

The Session II, the theme of which was “Japan-ASEAN Cooperation for Sustainable Development,” started with a keynote speech by Prof. TAKEUCHI Sawako, in which she stated, “Instead of the 20th century type GDP, new indicators covering social welfare, environment, and energy are needed for the sustainable development in East Asia. In addition, I would like to propose the establishment of CO2 emission trading market and the international accreditation systems in East Asia.”

Subsequently, Dr. Hank LIM stated, “Collective measures among East Asian countries are needed for such issues as energy, environment, climate change which were emphasized in the Second Joint Statement. In this regard, initiatives by “plus three” countries, especially by Japan, are important. Technology transfer, ODA, and private sector involvement from Japan are expected.”

Japan-ASEAN Cooperation for Political and Security Fields

In the session III on the theme of “Japan-ASEAN Cooperation for Political and Security Partnership,” two speakers made their presentations respectively. Dr. Rizal SUKUMA stated, “In political and security fields, there are six issues in which Japan and ASEAN should strengthen cooperation; human security, creation of non-proliferation regime, non-traditional security, building of regional order in East Asia, promotion of peaceful rise of China, promotion of democracy and human rights.”

Next, Prof. OGASAWARA Takayuki stated, “It is the US and China that basically decide balance of power in East Asia. For Japan, Japan-US relations, Japan-China relations, and Japan-ASEAN relations are mutually interrelated. It is clear that it is impossible to promote East Asian cooperation without the improvement of Japan-China relations. Japan-ASEAN partnership is a precious asset for Japan.”

Policy Recommendations Drafting Meeting

“Policy Recommendations Drafting Meeting,” which was closed to the public, was held for the first time in the history of the “Japan-ASEAN Dialogue” on the following day of the above-mentioned three Sessions. Participants worked on policy recommendations based on the achievements of the “Dialogue.” Global Forum of Japan and each of the ASEAN-ISIS member institutes submitted Policy Recommendations to the respective governments of Japan and ASEAN.