

The 18th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System

(Beijing, November 9-11, 2018)

Theme:

Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation for Regional Peace and Prosperity

Agenda Items:

1. Security Challenges to East Asia

- 1) Situation on the Korean Peninsula
- 2) Security Cooperation in East Asia

2. Cooperation for Development

- 1) Reform in the UN Development System
- 2) Challenges to the Multilateral Trading System

3. Promoting People-to-People Exchanges to Enhance Mutual Understanding

- 1) The UN and Cultural Exchange
- 2) The Role of Media and People-to-People Exchanges

Annotation:

East Asia is the world's most dynamic region with the

fastest economic growth but it's also faced up with various challenges. On the one hand, it is the common desire of countries in the region to maintain regional peace, boost economic development. On the other hand, land and maritime territorial disputes, nuclear proliferation, offensive military alliances and unilateral trade actions pose great threats to this region.

Mutual trust between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea is of great importance to peace and development in East Asia. The foundation of East Asian cooperation lies in mutual respect, seeking common grounds while reserving differences, peacefully resolving disputes, and achieving mutual benefits and win-win results. This year's Seminar will focus on three issues: peace and security, economic development and people-to-people exchanges. Our aim is to explore the right path to peace and development in East Asia through enhancing mutual understanding, building consensus and promoting cooperation.

I. Security Challenges to East Asia

1. Situation on the Korean Peninsula

The situation on the Korean Peninsula is a major security challenge to East Asia. As a legacy of the Cold War, it has long posed serious obstacles to the regional political, security and

economic integration. But this year, encouraging changes have taken place on the Peninsula as the North and the South teamed up to participate in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games, ushering in new and optimistic sentiment for regional security. Is the situation on the Korean Peninsula now stable? How to maintain the current trend? How to promote the denuclearization process? What can East Asian countries and the United Nations do to achieve peace? These and many other issues need to be discussed.

Moderator: Japan

Presentations: 1. Korea

2. Japan

3. China

Comments: 1. China

2. Japan

3. Korea

2. Security Cooperation in East Asia

Although the Yalta System in Europe has already collapsed since the end of the Cold War, its framework in Asia has not been fundamentally changed. Peace treaties are yet to be signed between Russia and Japan as well as on the Korean Peninsula,

and new disputes emerge.

Globalization has made countries more interdependent, and more and more global and regional challenges have added uncertainty to peace and security in East Asia. Due to different interests considerations as well as intervention of powerful non-regional players, however, cooperation on regional security issues are limited. This situation should not last, and it is urgent to consider how to address our common challenges, how to enhance mutual trust through dialogue and promote cooperation through exchanges. The possibility of building an East Asian security cooperation mechanism and take collective actions against threats and challenges, in particular to eliminate the root causes of those threats and challenges, should also be considered. In addition, cooperation on UNPKO between China, Japan and Korea have been actively pursued. How to promote this cooperation is another area that could be discussed.

Moderator : Korea

Presentation: 1. Japan

2. Korea

3. China

Comments: 1. Korea

2. China

3. Japan

II. Cooperation for Development

1. Reform in the UN Development System

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. In July and December of 2017, Mr Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, submitted two reports on the reform of the UN development system. He made it clear that the main task of the UN development system is to implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs). For this purpose, he made seven reform proposals concerning reform and revamp of the development system, including the country teams, resident coordinators, coordination and accountability mechanisms, and a fund compact.

As the most universal, representative and authoritative inter-governmental international organization, the United Nations is an effective platform for collective responses to cope with various threats and challenges. It should continue to serve as a forerunner for the maintenance of peace and for the promotion of development. It is in the common interests of all member states to strengthen the role and development pillar of the UN through the reform.

This year, member states will consider and discuss the reform plan of the Secretary-General. How do East Asian countries view the reform process, how to strengthen the development pillar of the United Nations, and how to promote the development of all countries especially that of developing countries, and other relevant questions, should be properly addressed.

Moderator: China

Presentation: 1. China

2. Korea

3. Japan

Comments: 1. Japan

2. Korea

3. China

2. Challenges to the Multilateral Trading System

In 1947, with the signing of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the world saw the founding of a new multilateral trading system. Before the Industrial Revolution, the world trade grew by only 0.27% a year. Thanks to GATT, trade barriers between countries gradually lowered and trade frictions were lessened through negotiations, which greatly boosted the

world trade and the world economy. In 1995, the GATT became the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Since the beginning of the 21st century, due to the unbalanced economic growth and widening gap between the rich and the poor, protectionism and populism have gradually risen in some countries. As a result, the multilateral trading system and globalization led by developed countries are severely affected. Besides, the expansion of the WTO members has led to more divergence of interests. The Doha Round has yet to bear any fruit. Many countries have turned to bilateral or regional or sub-regional trade agreements. In March 2018, the United States, the world's second largest trading nation, once again took unilateral actions on certain imported goods in violation of WTO rules.

What would be the impact of the above-mentioned trends on the global multilateral trading system? What will be the future of WTO? How do East Asian countries promote the negotiation of the trilateral free trade agreement and the negotiation of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)? What to achieve a more balanced globalization? These are issues facing us all.

Moderator: Japan

Presentations: 1. Korea

2. Japan

3. China

Comments: 1. China

2. Japan

3. Korea

III. Promote People-to-people Exchanges to Enhance Mutual Understanding

1. The United Nations and Cultural Exchanges

Cultural exchanges have become an important task for the United Nations since the 9/11 attacks. In 2005, the then Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan declared the establishment of the United Nations Alliance for Civilization in an effort to mobilize the international community to eliminate prejudices, misunderstandings and conflicts among different civilizations and promote world peace and security. Since 2008, the United Nations Alliance for Civilizations has held 7 Global Forums to discuss how to build cross-border and cross-cultural bridges for mutual understanding and exchanges among different countries, nationalities and cultures. The Forum advocates inclusive and multicultural coexistence and opposes extremism, terrorism and

discrimination in their various forms. Apart from that, the UNESCO has been playing an key role in leading and pursuing cross-cultural dialogue and exchanges.

The Asian civilization is rich and colorful. East Asian countries have gained rich experience in international cultural exchanges. With the world undergoing great changes, East Asian countries should further strengthen collaboration and jointly promote exchanges among different civilizations and work together to address various challenges and build a community of shared destiny.

In the Seminar, we could explore how East Asian countries would help in the cultivation of a culture of peace in the United Nations, how to integrate cultural exchanges into the agenda of United Nations, and how to eliminate prejudice and hatred through cultural exchanges. Besides, we will also explore how to foster the spirit of respect, openness, and inclusiveness among young people.

Moderator : Korea

Presentation 1. Japan

2. Korea

3. China

Comments 1. Korea

2. China

3. Japan

2. The Role of Media in Cultural Exchanges between China, Japan and Korea

News media (mass media), including paper media (newspapers), electronic media (radio and television) and online media have long become important players in modern society. The mass media not only transmits information and provide entertainment, but also constantly changes people's values and lifestyles. By continuously offering opinions on all aspects of social development, it helps to shape social value and public life, exerting great influence on people's psychological characteristics, behavioral patterns and political attitudes.

China, Japan and Korea have highly sophisticated news and publishing sector, well-known news agencies and online websites. The media's value orientation influences not only peoples' perception of other countries, but also affects governments' foreign policy. How to evaluate the role of the media in people-to-people exchanges? How would the media better promote exchanges and cooperation among the three countries? How would the media in East Asia jointly give the

voice of maintaining peace, promoting development and win-win cooperation? We should make joint efforts to find answers to these questions.

Moderator: China

Presentation: 1. China

2. Korea

3. Japan

Comments: 1. Japan

2. Korea

3. China

Reminders:

1. The time length of presentation is 10 minutes and of a comment to 5 minutes.

2. At the end of session, the moderator will present a set of conclusions of the session.

3. We hope a paper or written draft of each presenter is to be emailed to us a month before the Seminar.