The 20th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System（ＴＢＣ）

October　15－17,2020

Hiroshima City, Japan

Organized by the Japan Association for United Nation Studies (JAUNS) in Cooperation with the China Academic Net for the United Nations Studies and the Korean Academic Council of the United Nations System : sponsored by ○○

In Search of Pro-Active Linkages among 17 Goals of SDGs: Leaving No-One Behind in the Turbulent Period ahead Aiming for a World Characterized by Sustainable Peace and Development in the Course of the 21st Century

October 15

　　　１７：３０－１８：３０　Opening Session

　　　１８：４５－２０：３０　Reception

October 16

I. Peace and Good Governance

　　1.　９：００－１０：３０　　Nuclear Arsenals

　　2.　１０：４５－１２：１５　Good Governance and Peace

II. Social Cleavages

　　3.　１３：３０－１５：００　Leaving No One Behind

　　4.　１５：１５－１６：４５　Community-Education Nexus

October 17

III. One Earth

　　5.　９：００－１０：３０　　Environment and Resources

　　6.　１０：４５－１２：１５　Non-State Actors

IV. ACUNS Session １３：３０－１４：３０

V.　Concluding Session

　　1.　１４：３０－１４：４５　General Concluding Remarks : Director for Academic Exchange and Cooperation, JAUNS

　　2.　１４：４５－１５：４５ Concluding Speeches

Annotations

The United Nations was established 75 years ago as the central institution for collective security anchored by Chapter VII of its Charter only to find that the Cold War made it impossible for this scheme to function as it was intended originally. Over the course of years, the United Nations system as a whole including specialized agencies and various programmes evolved into basically a development cooperation mechanism due to the overwhelming majority of developing countries in the General Assembly and corresponding institutions in other organizations in the UN system. Linking development cooperation with explosion of civil wars in the developing world and in some of the transition countries after the end of the Cold War, the United Nations invented peace-building in the course of the 1990s. With the emergence of some successful countries in the field of development, a structural change has been taking place in the balance of power in the world community from the beginning of this century, bringing about substantial tension among major powers. This situation has brought forth the classical concern with wars between nation-states once again to the center of the world community which has been continuing to suffer from the disfunction of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

This is the background against which SDGs was agreed in 2015. The major objective of the SDGs is to strengthen the basis of world peace by enhancing global sustainability even under the weakened regime of Chapter VII of the UN Charter. By linking a number of salient global developmental challenges from the viewpoint of sustainability in a multilateral manner, stakeholders of major issues across communities and nations are expected to develop stable and productive associations. The interlinked relationships of major stakeholders in an intermeshed manner are expected to provide strong countervailing forces against powerful factors that promote conflicts and eventually wars. Therefore, the essence of SDGs is to develop linkages among 17 goals each of which has been discussed and negotiated for decades in relevant UN organs. To deal with only one of them is simply redundancy with decades old discussions. Pursuit of linkages of a goal or goals of SDGs with the others in them provides a new horizon of peace and sustainability in the course of the 21st century.

However, it is clear that in the SDGs exercise as it is reflected in the Summit discussions in September 2019 and their background documents, linkages pursuit is weak, while concerns with them are expressed. It should be useful for the world community to receive advises and insights from experts of the UN studies who have broad views of the UN activities about linkages among 17 goals of SDGs. East Asian scholars may jointly take the lead of the UN experts around the world in search of pro-active linkages among 17 goals.

I   Peace and Good Governance

Key factors that threaten peace have been revealed more clearly than before after the euphoria of the end of the Cold War. The root causes, aggravating factors and triggers of conflicts have been identified and the dynamism among them is now considered as being critically important in diagnosing the

conditions of peace. Many of these factors are included in the other 16 goals of SDGs. Good governance which is one important condition for peace is also closely associated with a number of other goals in the SDGs. It is essential for us to examine the broad issues of peace and good governance in relation with various goals of SDGs and to deepen the analysis to provide effective policy measures.

1. Nuclear Arsenals ９：００−１０：３０

The nuclear regime of the Cold War was based on the belief in MAD (mutually assured destruction) between the United States and the Soviet Union. The non-proliferation regime was the major supporting mechanism. The end of the Cold War prompted the United States and Russia to reduce the levels of nuclear arsenals to lower levels in order to minimize the cost of maintaining nuclear forces where MAD is expected to function.

However, with the emergence of China as a major nuclear power, it has become extremely difficult to expect for the logic of MAD to function as it was originally intended. Now the irony is that the logic of non-proliferation of nuclear arms during the Cold War, MAD, has become the theoretical base for nuclear proliferation for such states as North Korea and Iran. The world community is faced with the conceptual bankruptcy with regard to the nightmare of nuclear arsenals. The nuclear arms race has been resumed in the 21st century involving larger number of countries.

It is the responsibility of the experts of the world affairs to elaborate an effective alternative to MAD to manage nuclear arsenals in the fundamentally different world from the 1970s and the 1980s. This conceptual challenge can be accepted by those who are involved with SDGs. Linking the other 16 goals to the entrance point of Goal 16 in order to enhance the base of sustainable peace by promoting sustainability in the world community, the security requirements of each nation-state may be reduced substantially, making it easier for nuclear states to reduce nuclear arsenals. Under this condition concrete policy concepts may be articulated for a dialogue and negotiations among stakeholders and the roles to be played by various existing mechanisms may be explored. The first step towards this end may be the report of the UN Secretary General of February 27, 2020 titled "Securing Our Common Future", in particular the 8 points in the chapter titled " Towards the elimination of nuclear weapons". The strong wish and the prayer of Hiroshima for a world without nuclear weopons may, if we take this route, become closer to reality in the course of the 21st century.

- For this path to be taken, what are the initial steps in relation to the other 16 goals of SDGs or the elements in goal 16 itself ?
- How do we advance the process as proposed by the Secretary General as above by linking it to SDGs ?

Moderator： Japan：Dr. Shinyo,Takahiro (Kwansei Gakuin University)

Presentation 1. China：○○, (○○ University)

2. Korea：○○ (○○ University)

3. Japan: ○○(University of ○○)

Comments 1. Japan: ○○ (○○ University)

2. Korea：○○ （○○ University)
3. China：○○ （○○ University)

2.　**Good Governance and Peace**　１０：４５－１２：１５

Mutually enhancing relationship between good governance and peace is well known. However, broader requirements of good governance than such classic factors as transparency, anti-corruption, freedom of the press and the rule of law are of relatively recent findings. They include reduction of social disparity, community development and a quality education. These social factors are integral parts of SDGs.

- How do we develop an institutional framework in the UN context for deepening the understanding of the relationship between peace and good governance in this new light ?
- Shall we bring in even more goals from SDGs so that policy measures for mutually enhancing relationship between good governance and peace can be strengthened ?
- At a time when the quality of political regimes is declining in practically all forms including multi-party democracy and developmental authoritarianism, how do we relate the question of good governance and peace to a political system ?

Moderator : Korea：　○○ （○○ University)
Presentation　1. Korea：○○ （○○ University)
　　　　　　　2. China：○○ （○○ University)
　　　　　　　3. Japan: Tamai, Masataka (Tohoku University of Community Service and Science)
Comments　1.Korea：○○(○○ University)
　　　　　　2. China：○○　(○○ University)
　　　　　　3. Japan: ○○ （○○ University)

II　**Social Cleavages**

The gap between the rich and the poor is widening internationally and domestically,　a situation which OXFAM report of 2020, Time to Care, describes that the richest 22 men in the world have incomes equal to those of all African women. The sectarian conflicts are becoming ever more violent in increasing number of countries in the world. Xenophobia is rampant. The fabric of the society has been weakened considerably in the recent decades in the world community, while significant progress has been made in reducing poverty mainly in China and India.

The question of social cleavages is the core of the multiple challenges of SDGs. While practically all of the 17 goals of SDGs are relevant to it, it is suggested that the entry points of "leaving no one behind" and "community-education nexus" are highlighted in this section of the Seminar.

3.　**Leaving No One Behind**　１３：３０－１５：００

By linking SDGs with the declaration of "leaving no one behind", the world community has declared the human solidarity in the strongest manner. SDGs not specifying who are intended to be the addressees,

we may go beyond those whom we normally identify in the current situation such as victims of civil wars, inter-state conflicts, diseases including epidemics such as COVID 19, natural disasters, as well as handicapped people, the extreme poor, stranded immigrants and refugees. Unexpected victims may emerge in a turbulent world in an unforeseen manner.

Traditional policy instruments such as humanitarian aid and R2P(responsibility to protect) may be called upon to be linked to a development process even more closely than before. Other measures may have to be elaborated to deal with unexpected types of crises.

- How do we integrate all of these people in various goals in SDGs ?
  Is strengthening the humanitarian aid office at the UN the only way to prepare ourselves for unexpected needs for leaving no one behind ?
- Is a crisis management mechanism necessary for unforeseen incidence where "leaving no one behind" could become an issue ? What are the lessons we should learn from the recent experiences of COVID 19 in terms of crisis management domestically and internationally, including the crisis management of WHO ?

Moderator: Japan: Dr. Takahashi, Kazuo (International Christian University)

Presentation 1. Korea：○○ (○○ University)
2. Japan：○○(○○ University)
3. China：○○(○○ University)

Comments 1. Korea：○○(○○ University)
2. Japan: ○○(○○ University)
3. China：○○(○○ University)

4. Community-Education Nexus　　１５：１５−１６：４５

In recent decades the concept of education has been turned around to learning with the shift of center of the concern from teachers to students. At the same time, the objectives of the learning has been broadened to cover 4 dimensions : to know, to do, to live together and to be (UNESCO's Delors Report of 1996). All of these activities are suggested to be considered to be an integral part of life-long learning. ESD emerged from the inter-face between the post-Rio process and the implementation of the Delors Report which stresses the importance of the involvement of communities to pursue four dimensions of learning. Therefore, the community involvement in ESD is an indispensable requirement. Linking the learning initiatives of villages, towns and cities to broad global concerns of SDGs through the entry point of ESD should be important to groom global citizens whose roots are firmly set in where they live.

- Can we identify some useful initiatives ?
- Is it useful to try and arrange their mutual contacts so that they can exchange experiences in order to improve their activities ?
- What are other roles UN experts like us can play to enhance the vital nexus between communities and education ?

Moderator: China：○○(○○ University)
Presentation   1. China：○○(○○ University)
                     2. Japan: Dr. Fujii, Hiroshige (Utsunomiya University)
                     3. Korea：○○(○○ University)
Comments   1. Japan: ○○(○○ University)
                     2. Korea：○○(○○ University)
                     3. China：○○(○○ University)

III   One Earth   ９：００－１０：３０

The dynamic interactions among philosophical-ethical warnings, policy suggestions and scientific approaches characterize the issues of the relationship between man and the earth. Understanding and policy measures of this field have been deepened gradually over time through these interactions. Only One Earth was edited jointly by Barbara Ward and Rene Dubos in 1970, providing a powerful base for the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on Human Environment from the perspective of philosophy and ethics and the title of the conference itself became Only One Earth. The 1987 report of the Brundtland Commission, Our Common Future, proposed a set of policy measures which was presented as "from One Earth to One World", setting a stage for the eventual Rio Summit where its Secretary General, Maurice Strong, aimed for the cultural revolution of a global dimension. Failing in this ambitious objective, Maurice Strong joined hands with Mikhail Gorbachev immediately after the Rio Summit and pursued the opposite approach, the grass-roots approach to elaborate a highly ethical and philosophical proclamation. The Earth Charter was announced in June 2000.

The negotiation for the eventual SDGs, which had started in 2013, got stack in 2014 due mainly to conceptual confusion. The axe to cut the Gordian knot was provided by a scientist, Johan Rockstrom, the director of the Stockholm Resilience Center. He suggested the concept of planetary boundaries which consist of 9 sets of quantitative limits within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive for generations to come. The final set of SDGs was formed based on this scientific advise, leading to a political settlement, taking account also of the concerns of major stakeholders.

The involvement of a broad range of actors in the global community has characterized the process of the dynamic interactions among philosophers, policy specialists and scientists, backed-up by expanding layers of the civil society over half a century, arriving at SDGs in 2015. It is essential that the implementation of SDGs should also be characterized by active involvement of actors beyond national governments. Non-state actors are expected to provide key components of the fabric of the world community through implementation of SDGs.

5. Environment and Resources

It is now broadly understood that the limit of 1.5c degrees as suggested by the special report of IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) in 2018 is virtually impossible to be realized, a grave situation which has been brought about by the mass consumption of the industrial age. The attention on accommodation measures has accordingly been increasing rapidly in the world community in the recent period. The biodiversity loss, which is characterized as the silent killer, is about 60 percent already since 1970, another deadly result of the mass consumption.

These few illustrative examples suggest the broad challenges that humanity as a whole is faced with. The culture of ever expanding mass consumption which is promoted by the rich and the middle class is forged by the ignorance of "others", the poor who are the major victims. Innovation in science and technology, based on this ignorance, has been widening the gap between the rich and the poor, increasing the insensibility to this gap which has been undermining the very basis of our lives. It is submitted that this vicious cycle being a critically important root cause of environmental destruction and resource depletion, measures related to individual environmental damages are not suffice. It should be the inter-linked challenges of the mind-set and the behavioral pattern of each one of us that should be changed. The seriousness of the problem of environment and resources has already arrived at this level.

- From the entry point of environment in SDGs, what are the other goals that should be integrated into policy considerations for changing our behavioral patterns ?
- Would a global solidarity fund based on voluntary contributions rather than any tax idea for damages to the environment help change our mind-set and behavioral patterns?
- How will ESD be developed so that it can become a powerful instrument for behavioral change ?

Moderator :   China: ○○ (○○ University)
Presentation   1. China : ○○(○○ University)
                        2. Korea : ○○(○○ University)
                        3. Japan: ○○(○○ University)
Comments   1. Korea : ○○(○○ University)
                        2. China : ○○(○○ University)
                        3. Japan : Mr. Kukita, Jun (Kwansei Gakuin University)

6. Non-State Actors   １０：４５－１２：１５

The Rio Summit sparked critical activities of non-state actors. The business community was organized by Stephan Schmidtheiny on behalf of the Secretary General of the Summit and launched the Business Council for Sustainable Development(BCSD) in 1991 which published Changing Course at the time of the Summit in 1992, proving to be the major landmark for the business community. BCSD was developed further beyond Rio and was turned into the World BCSD in 1995, setting a stage for ESG

(Environment, Society and Governance) which has become fashionable in the business community.

The importance of local communities was recognized by the environment specialists around the world from the 1970s. Policy initiatives of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in the 1960s preceded the actions of the national government in Japan where the Diet session of 1970 was named the Environment Legislature, leading to active contributions of Japan to the international community throughout the1980s in this issue area. This example came to be known widely by the time when the Rio Summit was to become a major challenge after the end of the Cold War. The world community organized in 1991 the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) as an integral part of global preparation for the Summit. After the Summit, the local community has been continuing their activities with the same acronym (ICLEI), with however a simpler name since 2005, Local Governments for Sustainability. The membership of ICLEI now covers some 20 percent of global population.

The active participation of the civil society, led by NGOs, characterized the preparation of the Summit. In view of their potential contributions to the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, the civil society was given a special space, some 50km away from the venue of the Summit, an exceptional treatment from the view point of the ECOSOC regulations related to Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. After the end of the Summit, some 20,000 environment related NGOs were organized under the newly created Earth Council, headed by Maurice Strong.

There have been ups and downs of all of these non-state actors in recent decades. The present situation is characterized by active and innovative contributions of the business sector and by lower profiles of non-profit sectors including NGOs and local governments. Scientists, including social scientists, have been either coopted by governments or international organizations, or contributed individually to the causes of SDGs.

- How can we re-invigorate the NGOs and other actors of the non-profit sector in the current situation for effective implementations of SDGs ?
- How do we encourage closer collaboration between the business sector and the government for more powerful pursuit of the objectives of SDGs ?
- Can the epistemic community play a useful role in bridging the civil society, business, local governments and national governments ?
- An increasing number of countries have established a central institution for various actors in relation to SDGs. Some of them seem to be functioning relatively well as a coordinating body, while some others are still looking for useful roles. Could it be useful to pursue a comparative study of them ?

Moderator : Korea : ○○(○○ University)

Presentation 1. Japan：○○(○○ University)
          2. Korea：○○(○○ University)
          3. China：○○(○○ University)
Comments 1. Korea：○○(○○ University)
          2. China：○○(○○ University)
          3.Japan: ○○(○○ University)

IV ACUNS Session   1 3：3 0－1 4：3 0

V Concluding Session   1 4：3 0－15：4 5
    1. General Concluding Remarks:
         Director for Academic Exchange and Cooperation, JAUNS
    2. Concluding Speeches
      President of JAUNS
      Leader of the Korean Team
      Leader of the Chinese Team