

The 20th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System

November 12–13, 2021

Online, based in Tokyo, Japan

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

In Search of Pro-Active Linkages among 17 Goals of SDGs: Leaving No-One Behind in the Face of the COVID 19 Pandemic, Aiming for a World Characterized by Sustainable Peace and Development in the Course of the 21st Century

Time is in Japan Standard Time (JST) unless otherwise stated

November 12

Opening Session

9:00-9:40 (0:00-0:40, UTC) Keynote Speech

”How the World Attains the Goals of SDGs: A View of Former UNESCO Director-General”

Dr. Koichiro Matsuura (Former Director-General of UNESCO)

Moderator : Takahiro Shinyo (Kwansei Gakuin University, President of JAUNS)

9:40-10:00 (0:40-1:00, UTC) Opening Remarks

JAUNS: Takahiro Shinyo (Kwansei Gakuin University, President of JAUNS)

KACUNS: Shin-wha LEE (Korea University, President of KACUNS)

CANUNS: HU Wenli (Vice-President and Director-General of UNA-China)

I. Peace and Global Governance

1. 10:15-11:45 (1:15-2:45, UTC) Good Governance in the Age of COVID-19

II. Social Cleavages

2. 13:15-14:45 (4:15-5:45, UTC) Leaving No One Behind

3. 15:00-16:30 (6:00-7:30, UTC) Community-Education Nexus

Reception 16:45-17:45 (7:45-8:45, UTC)

November 13

III. One Earth

4. 9:00-10:30 (0:00-1:30, UTC) Environment and Resources

5. 10:45-12:15 (1:45-3:15, UTC) Non-State Actors

IV. Dialogue with ACUNS

13:30-14:00 (4:30-5:00, UTC) Dialogue with ACUNS

Concluding Session

1. 14:15-14:25 (5:15-5:25, UTC) General Concluding Remarks: Director for Academic Exchange and Cooperation, JAUNS

2. 14:25-15:15 (5:25-6:15, UTC) Concluding Speeches

JAUNS: Takahiro Shinyo (Kwansei Gakuin University, President of JAUNS)

KACUNS: Shin-wha LEE (Korea University, President of KACUNS)

CANUNS: WANG Ying (Deputy Director-General of UNA-China)

The Annotated Agenda

The United Nations was established 76 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, a situation which has been aggravated by the onset of Covid 19 pandemic since the beginning of 2020. 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 for the revival from the pandemic, laying the ground for 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 December 2020 and their background documents as well as in each of the High Level Political Forum sessions since 2016, 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 Global 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 in relation to both inter-state relations and civil wars. Many of the factors that affect the conditions of peace are included in the other 16 goals of SDGs.

1) Global Governance in the Age of COVID-19

It is the common responsibility for the international community to uphold international peace. Improving global governance is very important to promote peace. The UN plays an indispensable role in global governance. Problems like COVID-19 and climate change expose the defects and flaws of the current global governance, and also bring huge challenges to the implementation of SDGs on schedule.

- How can the international community enhance the role of the UN in global governance?
- In order to implement SDGs as scheduled, how should the international community strengthen global governance?
- How should the international community strengthen coordination and cooperation in global governance so as to promote peace?

Moderator : Shin-wha LEE (Korea University)

Presentation 1. Korea : Sung Chul JUNG (Myongji University)

2. China : LI Jia (Zhejiang University)

Xu Xueying (Zhejiang University)

3. Japan: Mashima, Asako (Nihon University)

Comments 1.Korea : Jae Jeok PARK (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)

2.China : LI Xin (Shanghai Institutes for International Studies)

3.Japan: Hasegawa, Sukehiro (ACUNS-TOKYO)

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 and a situation which has been dramatically aggravated by the Covid 19 pandemic. 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.

2) Leaving No One Behind

By linking SDGs with the declaration of “leaving no one behind”, the world community has committed to 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, natural disasters, as well as handicapped people, the extreme poor, stranded immigrants and refugees.

It is suggested that we focus on policy measures that are addressed to the fight against the Covid 19 pandemic and that are intended to overcome its disastrous impacts on widening social cleavages.

- Given the fact that the only sustainable solution to a pandemic being a global approach, how do we ensure availability of Covid 19 vaccines to the most disadvantaged people around the world ? The on-going discussions/negotiations in the world community are basically among the four options : 1)strengthening the financial basis of COVAX, 2)suspending WTO/TRIPs regulations in relation to patents on Covid 19, 3)establishing a new global treaty on common monitoring and response system to current and future pandemics and 4)adoption of the universal right to health, including application of it to pandemics. While recognizing the urgency of the problem,

could it be a reasonable first step to recommend the establishment of an expert group on this issue to the High Level Political Forum on SDGs at its next session in 2022 ?

Significant damages have already been caused by Covid 19 to the development efforts of the past few decades, particularly in poverty alleviation. Special efforts of the world community are obviously called for in order to overcome the widening social cleavages, in particular in relation to aggravation in poverty. What are the specific measures that will contribute to this objective in the context of “leaving no one behind” of SDGs at the time of unprecedented financial constraints of all the governments and the private sector ?

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

Presentation 1. Korea : Mi Hwa Hong (Kookmin University)

2. Japan : Inokuchi, Ayako (Osaka University)

3. China : HUA Ruoyun

(Development Research Center of the State Council)

Comments 1. Korea : HanSeung CHO (Dankook University)

2. Japan: Hoshino, Toshiya (Osaka University)

3. China : ZHOU Taidong

(Center for International Knowledge on Development)

3) Community-Education Nexus

In recent decades the concept of education has been turned around to learning with the shift of the 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 local 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 that are on-going already?
- Is it useful to try and arrange their mutual contacts so that they can exchange experiences in order to improve their activities, providing useful models for the

world community at large through the High Level Political Forum ?

- Given the fact that the Covid 19 pandemic has caused significant damages to the education, in particular, of the disadvantaged people around the world, how will a community-education nexus contribute to overcoming this challenge in the world community ?

Moderator: China : WANG Ying (UNA-China)

Presentation 1. China : SHI Anbin (Tsinghua University)

2. Japan: Yamaguchi, Shinobu (United Nations University) *

* Dr. Yamaguchi's presentation will be done by video, and Dr. Jonghwi Park (United Nations University) will participate on behalf of Dr Yamaguchi.

3. Korea : Hwanbo PARK (Chungnam National University)

Comments 1. Japan: Tamai, Masataka

(Tohoku University of Community Service and Science)

2. Korea : Utak CHUNG

(Former 4, 5th Director, Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) Under the Auspices of UNESCO)

3. China : Ms. SONG Yi (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

III One Earth

The dynamic interactions among philosophical-ethical warnings, policy suggestions and scientific approaches characterize the issues of the relationship between man and the earth for over the past half century. 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 stuck 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 partly based on this scientific advice, 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.

4) Environment and Resources

It is now broadly understood that the temperature 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 in spite of the accelerated efforts of the political and business leaders in the recent period, a grave situation which has been brought about by the unmitigated mass consumption of the industrial age. The attention on accommodation measures has accordingly been increasing rapidly in the world community in recent years. The biodiversity loss, which is characterized as the silent killer, is about 60 percent already since 1970, another deadly result of the mass consumption. Some virus specialists suggest that one of the root causes of the pandemics including Covid 19 is the human invasion on the once remote natural environment which is characterized by the fertile ground for viruses.

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 of the rich and the middle class 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: ZHANG Haibin (Peking University)

Presentation 1. China : CHEN Ying

(Chinese Academy for Social Sciences Research Centre for Sustainable Development)

2. Korea : Sijeong Lim (Korea University)

3. Japan: Higuchi, Eka

(Tohoku University of Community Service and Science)

Comments 1. Korea : Sangbum SHIN (Yonsei University)

2. China : WANG Huo

(China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation)

3. Japan : Kukita, Jun (Kwansei Gakuin University)

5) Non-State Actors

The Rio Summit sparked critical activities of non-state actors. The business community was organized by Stephan Schmidheiny 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 the 1980s in this issue area. This example came to be known widely by the time when the Rio Summit was to become a major political challenge for the world community 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, and others attempted to contribute 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 : Dong-Ju CHOI (Sookmyung Women's University)

Presentation 1. Japan : Kobayashi, Ayako (Sophia University)

2. Korea : Junhyup KIM (Handong Global University)

3. China : XUE Lei (Shanghai Institutes for International Studies)

Comments 1. Korea : Kyungyon MOON (Jeonbuk National University)

2. China : ZOU Xiaolong (Jilin University)

3. Japan: Shoji, Mariko (Keiai University)

IV. Dialogue with ACUNS

ACUNS Professor Lise Morjé Howard, Chair of ACUNS

ACUNS-TOKYO Dr. Sukehiro Hasegawa,

Director of ACUNS-TOKYO,

President of Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan

V Concluding Session

1. General Concluding Remarks:

Director for Academic Exchange and Cooperation, JAUNS

2. Concluding Speeches

JAUNS: Takahiro Shinyo (Kwansei Gakuin University, President of JAUNS)

KACUNS: Shin-wha LEE (Korea University, President of KACUNS)

CANUNS: WANG Ying (Deputy Director-General of UNA-China)

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JAUNS policies and code of conduct
in the 20th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System

JAUNS Code of Conduct

The Japan Association for United Nations Studies (JAUNS) pledges to uphold professional standards of behavior and ethics for a respectful environment. Harassment and unethical behavior undermine JAUNS values of inclusivity and goals for excellent scholarship and informed policy solutions to global challenges. Closely modeled on the anti-harassment policies of peer organizations, JAUNS' Anti-Harassment Policy lists the expectations for the 20th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System.

■ Appropriate Zoom Conduct

Zoom etiquette can ensure productive and professional online events. Please be mindful of respectful Zoom conduct by abiding by the listed ground rules:

- Mute microphones to minimize background noise unless speaking. Please hold all questions and comments until the end of each session and plenary
- No surreptitious recording or photography. Please refer to the ACUNS 2021 Annual Meeting Recording Policy for more information.
- Respectful use of Zoom functionalities.

■ Unacceptable Behavior

As a virtual attendee of the 20th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System, I agree to follow the JAUNS Anti-Harassment Policy and to avoid the following unacceptable behaviors that include but are not limited to:

- Threats or actions that cause or threaten personal or professional harm
- Harassing or derogatory speech or action against JAUNS annual meeting and event attendees
- Abusive comments or actions related to race, ethnicity, nationality, identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, religion, or socioeconomic status that undermine the principles of professional equity and academic exchange
- Persistent and unwelcome solicitation of emotional intimacy
- Harassing photography or recording
- Sustained, unprofessional disruption of talks or other events
- Other intentionally disruptive behavior

■ Acknowledgment

During registration, you will be asked to review and accept the ACUNS Anti-Harassment Policy and the Code of Conduct

JAUNS Anti-Harassment Policy and

Reporting Harassment Procedures

The Japan Association for United Nations Studies (JAUNS) pledges to uphold professional standards of behavior and ethics for a respectful environment. Harassment and unethical behavior undermine JAUNS values of inclusivity and goals for excellent scholarship and informed policy solutions to global challenges. Closely modeled on the anti-harassment policies of peer organizations, the JAUNS Anti-Harassment Policy lists expectations for the 20th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System.

■ Purpose

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■ Unacceptable Behavior

Behaviors that violate the JAUNS Anti-Harassment Policy include but are not limited to the following:

- Threats or actions that cause or threaten personal or professional harm
- Harassing or derogatory speech or action against JAUNS Annual Meeting attendees.
- Comments or actions associated with race, ethnicity, identity, nationality, sexual orientation, ability, age, religion, or socioeconomic status that undermine the principles of professional equity and academic exchange
- Persistent and unwelcome solicitation of emotional intimacy
- Harassing photography or recording
- Unprofessional disruption of talks or other events

■ Reporting Harassment Procedures

The procedures for addressing violations of the anti-harassment policy apply to all

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Suggestions for participants

1. The major role of the moderators is to organize the assigned time (90 minutes)in as productive a manner as possible with the involvement of all the participants at the seminar. By minimizing the time of introducing the subject, and by keeping the time of presentation of a paper to 15 minutes and of a comment to 5 minutes, maximize the time available for the plenary to discuss the relevant issues as much as possible. Participation of all the participants in the seminar is the top priority concern.
At the end of the discussion of each session, the moderator is expected to present a set of conclusions of the session.
2. The oral presentation should not exceed 15 minutes. The major objective of a paper is to provide a good basis for discussion by the whole participants.
3. Comments should be addressed to any or all of the paper presentations in the session. Their role is not to present short papers. The major objective of a comment is to provide a useful bridge between the papers and the plenary. Time is strictly limited to 5 minutes.
4. Importance of the participation of as many seminar participants as possible is highlighted. For this objective, remarks and questions from the floor should be limited to 2 minutes for one participant and it is essential for the whole participants to follow the lead of the moderator.
5. This conference has been recorded by secretariat for the administrative purposes.