

The 17th East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System

Towards East Asian Leadership

in

*Strengthening Multilateralism in an Increasingly Turbulent
World*



Kitakyushu International Conference Center November 10-12, 2017

Co-hosted by

Japan Association for United Nations Studies (JAUNS)

China Academic Net for United Nations Studies (CANUNS)

Korea Academic Council on the United Nations System (KACUNS)

In collaboration with
Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS)
With the financial contributions of
the Tokyo Club and City of Kitakyushu

Friday, 10 November

Annotations

A systemic change of the order of once in a century is taking place in the world community, bringing about a highly unstable international society. An important factor for this transformation is the revival of the Asian countries in the world, led by East Asia. One major powerful source of stability and orderly change that has been developed in the course of these one hundred years is multilateralism whose content has evolved over time.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of the East Asian countries to take a leadership in the world community to strengthen multilateralism at the time of increasing turbulence. The focus of the trilateral seminar of China, Korea and Japan on the United Nations System in 2017 is to discuss ways and approaches for these three countries to take a leadership in strengthening multilateralism. For this purpose, three broad issue-areas have been chosen : peace and security ; planetary boundaries; and fortifying fragility in the world economy.

17:30-18:30: **Opening Session**



Key note speech: Mr. Akashi, Yasushi



President of JAUNS

Leader of the Korean Team

Leader of the Chinese Team

18:45-20:30: Reception

Mr. Matsuo, Takashi, President, The University of Kitakyushu



Saturday, 11 November

I. Peace and Security

The current precarious situation in the world has been called in a number of different ways. Pope Francis referred to it as the diffused world war in the week following the terrorist attacks of Paris on November 13, 2015. While we are not in the full scale world war, prevention of escalation into it is the most urgent task for the United Nations as the Secretary General Guterrez emphasized upon assuming the office at the beginning of January this year. Among the most salient challenges to peace and security in the recent global situation are international terrorism and regional tensions and conflicts in various parts of the world including East Asia.

New approaches and conventional methods may have to be examined closely in this context. Emergence of populism, political or religious extremism, lone wolves, new arms race, nuclear proliferation (potentially even to terrorist groups) and cyber interventions may have to be countered essentially by relatively soft means such as expansion of the middle class, emphasis on dialogue, appeal to reason, fostering the culture of peace and cultivating an inclusive society, in relation to both international terrorism and regional tensions. Strengthening the UN for credible interventions in international terrorism and alleviating regional tensions may be supported by effective international legal systems.

1. Containing international terrorism 9:00-10:30



Historically terrorism has taken a number of different forms. The current characteristics of international terrorism are the prevalence of largely an indiscriminate killing with a view to generating fears and distrust of the authorities on the part of the populations at large and occasionally the subsequent formation of the political system that is contrary to the values which have been the basis of the society. In this situation, a resort to military means has only limited effects. Efforts to construct an inclusive community and to foster a culture of peace in addition to strengthening the legal system may provide a sustainable basis against international terrorism. While the UN has been labeled as a totally incompetent body for peace and security at the time when international terrorism is the biggest challenge for peace and security, it in fact may be the most powerful organization to fight against international terrorism in the long term. To realize this potential, what are the concrete extra-measures that need to be taken ? What can we do jointly to strengthen UN's capacity in these areas ? These are the questions that will be addressed in this session.

Moderator : Korea : Prof. Hyun, In-taek

Presentation [1. China : Ambassador Wang, Xuexian](#)

2. Korea : Prof. Choi, Hyun Jin

[3. Japan: Prof.Kihar-Hunt. Ai](#)

Comments 1. Japan: Mr.Inomata,Tadanori

2. Korea : Prof. Byun, Jin-suk

3. China : Mr Huang He

2. Alleviating regional tensions and conflicts 10:45-12:15

With the exit of the United States as the dominant supporting power of the liberal international order where the United Nations has played a key role for the past over 70 years, power politics has recently become an even more dominant feature in the world than in the past. Subsequent aggravations of regional conflicts and tensions are becoming ominous characteristics in various parts of the world. It is essential for the United Nations to play important roles to alleviate regional tensions and conflicts at this time simply because there is no other alternative in the world.

While the Middle East, the eastern part of Europe and the Indian sub-continent have grave conflicts, East Asia is considered as one of the flash points in the world. Japan, China and Korea are obliged to squarely face with this reality even in the context of the United Nations.

While all the political systems are victims of history, at the same time, history has also prepared some basis for potential solutions to contemporary problems. In East Asia, cultural and social interactions over a long period of time have nurtured some common grounds while mutual differences are also obvious. In the global context of the United Nations, the commonality among us

clearly exists. Can we develop new approaches to each other by using a highly diverse setting of the United Nations ? Is it possible to cultivate a culture of cooperation among us for the purpose of enhancing the United Nations so that East Asian culture can be reflected in its discussions and operations more clearly than in the current situation ? In this spirit, can we also consider ways to strengthen existing mechanisms such as the East Asian Summit including the trilateral secretariat in Seoul and even the ASEAN Regional Forum with a stronger support of it from the three countries? These are the issues and questions that will be addressed in this session.



Moderator : China : Ambassador Wang Xuexian

Presentation 1. Korea : Dr. Chung, Kuyoun

2. China : Mr Huang He

[3. Japan: Mr. Hirose, Satoshi](#)

Comments 1.Korea : Prof. Choi, Hyun Jin

2. China: Ambassador Wang, Xuexian

3. Japan: Mr. Higashi, Daisaku

II. Planetary Boundaries (Public Session)

With ever widening disparity in a number of issue-areas and advancing global warming, the humanity must urgently attend to issues and try to solve problems carried over from the 20th century, as represented in SDGs and the Paris Accord of 2015 and ensure sustainable development in

the 21st century. With the world community having entered into the period of implementing these agreements of soft and hard laws respectively, the UN system is the only and best mechanism in coordinating and achieving such complex and global goals and targets. This session will take stock of where each of the East Asian countries is in relation to these two agreements and to discuss how to take a stronger leadership jointly or separately in achieving globally agreed goals and actions.

3. Implementing SDGs : Taking stock of the current situations of each country and consider joint actions if possible. 13:30-15:00

The world community is slow in implementing the wide-ranging agreement of SDGs as evidenced by recent UN meetings. In implementing SDGs, East Asia can take a lead by showing good progress on many fronts and providing support to other regions. The session will review our implementing situations and identify areas where East Asia can take a lead and discuss how the region can contribute to accelerating progress in other regions. Paper presenters are encouraged to propose concrete measures.



Moderator: Japan: Mr.Kunugi, Tatsuro

Presentation 1. Korea : Prof. Song, Young Hoon

[2. Japan : Mr.Kuyama, Sumihiro](#)

[3. China : Mr Zhou Taidong,](#)

Comments 1. Korea : Prof. Hong, Kyu-dok

2. Japan: Mr.Inomata,Tadanori

3. China : Ms Sun Jingying,

4. Implementing the Paris Accord : Taking stock of the current situations of each country and consider joint actions ,if possible 15:15-16:45

The essence of the Paris Accord is to transform voluntary commitments into obligations, including accepting progressively ambitious targets. In implementing the Accord, East Asia continues to have major challenges and mixed experiences in reducing greenhouse gases and in adapting to the impacts of climate change. These challenges are even greater now than at the time of the adoption of the agreement at the end of 2015 due to the adverse political climate which prevails in the world community now. Having entered into force on November 4, 2016, the Accord requires signatories to prepare themselves well before 2020. The session will focus on how each country is progressing on implementation of the Accord and on how, in this adverse global political environment, East Asia can work together and contribute to accelerating global actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation including joint actions



Moderator: China : Mr Zhou Taidong

Presentation [1. China : Ms Jin Xi](#)

[2. Japan:Mr.Hase, Toshio](#)

3. Korea : Prof.Choi,Yong Soo

Prof.Yoo, Seung Jick

- Comments
1. Japan: Mr.Watanabe, Tomoaki
 2. Korea : Prof. Park, Heung Soon
 3. China : Ms Tian Huifang,

III Attacking fragility in the world economy

Wars and violent conflicts have basically triple causes that are structurally inter-linked with each other ; root causes, aggravating factors and triggers. In the rapidly evolving global socio-economic situation, one major aggravating factor which is currently at the center of the highly precarious balance in the world community, is rampant protectionism which is bringing about political tensions in various forms. While there are a number of root causes which need to be carefully tended, the widening gap between the rich and the poor in the world community has recently become a politically dangerous proportion. In this session, protectionism and poverty will be highlighted.

5. Rolling back protectionism 17:00—18:30

The discussion that followed the presentations reached a broad common understanding on one point, namely that in a globalizing world, stable trade and investment are a basic foundation for increased prosperity. It was pointed out that Asian economies will suffer more than others from increasing protectionism and the Chinese economy would suffer most in the world of protectionism. It was also suggested that the security issue of North Korea would pose the major threat to trade and investment in East Asia. The discussion session then focused its attention on measures to avoid increase in protectionism which had been recognized as rampant. While the WTO had lost its effectiveness, it could, with the support of all of us, be helpful in avoiding the world trading system from transitioning from a rule-based system into a purely power-based one. It has been suggested that the starting point could be to make G20, whose trade occupies some 77 per cent of the world trade, a more effective body concerning the trade issues, even for the purpose of making effective use of the WTO, and also for building a more effective world trade architecture,

Moderator : Japan:Mr.Hasegawa, Sukehiro

- Presentation
1. [China : Ms Tian Huifang,](#)
 2. [Korea : Prof. Byun, Jin-suk](#)
 3. [Japan: Mr.Watanabe, Tomoaki](#)

- Comments
1. Korea : Prof. Song, Young Hoon
 2. China : Ms Sun Jingying
 3. Japan : Mr. Takahashi, Kazuo

Sunday, 12 November

6. Redoubling efforts to fight against poverty 9:00 – 10:30

Oxfam reported at the Davos meeting of January 2017 that “the richest 8 men own the same as half of humanity “, in its “An economy for the 99 percent “. Shocked by this input into the annual event of business leaders and some political figures, the business community has strongly been sensitized for the first time by the dangers of the widening gap between the rich and the poor in the world, whereas this issue has constantly been the top priority concern in the development community for well over quarter of a century.

The globalizing economy has brought about deteriorating Gini indices in an increasing number of countries in the course of this century, including all the countries of East Asia. Gini index being the major precursor of the volume of aid of a donor country, government’s roles in alleviating poverty are bound to be reduced at the time when the need for aid in the alleviation of poverty is increasing and the consciousness of the establishment to tackle the issues of the widening gap between the rich and the poor is deepened.

It is obvious that we must redouble our long standing efforts to fight against poverty. How do we tackle this dilemma ? Does the bottom of pyramid approach through market operations do the trick ? What are its track records ? If the major response has to come from the public-private partnership, can we identify some major success cases ? Are there new roles for the UN system including UNDP and other programmes as well as specialized agencies in this context ?



Moderator : Korea : Prof. Hong, Kyu-dok

Presentation [1. Japan : Mr.Kiya, Masahiko](#)

2. Korea : Prof. Park, Heung Soon

[3. China : Ms Sun Jingying](#)

Comments 1. Korea : Dr. Chung, Kuyoun

2. China : Mr Zhou Taidong,

3.Japan: Mr.Ohira,Tsuyoshi,

IV ACUNS Session 10:45 – 11:45

- 1.Enhancing the participation of East Asian scholars and practitioners in the ACUNS Annual Meeting and other meetings
- 2.Possibility of holding an ACUNS Annual Meeting in China or Japan
- 3.Role of ACUNS Tokyo Liaison Office

This session was held for the purpose of enhancing information sharing between the ACUNS leadership and the participants.

The current ACUNS Executive Director, Prof. Alistar Edgar, informed that his current main concern was to oversee the leadership transfer in the period up to July 2018 to take place in as smooth a manner as possible. He then introduced the executive director-designate, Prof. Math Noortmann of the Research Center of Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, and informed that a new editorial board of Global Governance would begin to work from January 2018 headed by Mr. Ken Stiles, professor of political science at Brigham Young University (where the journal office would be located) and Ms. Alina Lyon, associate professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire, and that the next annual meeting will be held in Rome from July 12-14 ,2018.

The Executive Director-designate informed that he would introduce some measures in the works of ACUNS, including 1) an increasing number of annual meetings to take place outside of Europe or North America (planning a 2019 meeting in South Africa, and hoping a 2021 meeting to take place in China) and 2) establishment of standing groups to be integral components of annual meetings.

The director of the Tokyo liaison office, Prof. Sukehiro Hasegawa, reported the activities of the past six months; and, Prof. Ai Kihara-Hunt introduced upcoming meetings to take place in December 2017 and in April 2018. Concerning the role of the Tokyo Liaison Office, it was noted that this new office would cover the East Asian countries including China and Korea in addition to Japan for

enhanced liaison functions between ACUNS headquarters and East-Asia, until any additional liaison office is established in the region.

Prof. Mariko Shoji explained the experiences of organizing sessions where Japanese participants played active parts in annual meetings. Some exchange of views has ensued, leading to a widely held observation that this session has enhanced the transparency of the works of the executive director's office of ACUNS and helped clarifying the functions of the new liaison office of Tokyo.

V Concluding Session 11:45 – 12:45

1. General Concluding Remarks : Director for Academic Exchange and Cooperation,

JAUNS Mr.Takahashi, Kazuo

2. Concluding Speeches

President of JAUNS

Leader of the Korean Team

Leader of the Chinese Team

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 to10 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. A paper to be presented (a conference paper, not a full fledged academic article) should be concise. The length should not exceed 5 pages (A4 with a font of 10.5). Emphasis should be placed on conclusions.

The oral presentation should not exceed 10 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.

Excursion

Date: November 10th

Destination: Kyushu National Museum & Kyushu National Museum

Secretariat

Mr.Takahashi Kazuo

Mr.Kukita,Jun

Ms.Mashima,Asako

Ms.Shoji,Mariko

Mr.Ohira,Tsuyoshi

< student volunteers >

Ms. Hatanaka, Maria

Ms. Izawa, Maaya

Ms. Kubota, Yuriko

Mr. Okazaki, Daichi

Ms. Sakamoto, Yuki

Ms. Tada, Marika

Ms. Takahashi, Erina

Ms. Tatamoto, Kokoro