

The Future of Struggling Liberalism and the United Nations:

East Asian Perspective in the Age of COVID-19

*Host: The Japan Association for United Nations Studies

*Venue: ZOOM from Japan

*Date: JST: 9:00 am ~12:00 am, March 20, 2021

UTC: 0:00pm~3:00 am, March 19,2021

EST: 20:00 pm~23:00 pm, March 19.2021

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Japan Association of United Nations Studies will hold an international academic symposium by webinar, focusing on the dynamic interactions between liberalism which has been increasingly challenged by powerful forces in the 21st century and evolving roles and functions of the United Nations. Specific regional perspectives of East Asia (South East and North East) will be emphasized.

The United Nations was established 75 years ago out of the strong conviction of the power of liberalism and multilateralism as the major corner stones of peace and prosperity. The United Nations has evolved by accommodating to the challenges to liberalism and multilateralism and yet by proving the value of both of them throughout the Cold War years. The end of the Cold War provided the United Nations a uniquely productive political environment with an almost triumphant praise for liberalism in the course of the 1990s through several rounds of global issues including environment and development, human rights and gender, the creation of the International Criminal Court and the creative invention of peacebuilding. Based on these records, the Millennium Declaration looked for a bright future of liberalism and the United Nations in the 21st century in the year 2000. The expectations that were generated by these activities provided the global community with the important background against which SDGs and the Paris Convention on climate change were adopted in 2015.

However, as these positive developments proceeded in the United Nations, the liberal global order has gradually been undermined by the emergence of political forces against liberal political regimes such as the combined forces of populism and xenophobia and the strengthening of authoritarian regimes domestically and of the hegemonic battles between the United States and China internationally in the recent period. The corona pandemic which desperately requires international cooperation to respond effectively has in fact aggravated the international environment for joint actions. It has made it difficult for the United Nations

system to mobilize resources to fight against the pandemic effectively.

The future of liberalism and the prospect of multilateral cooperation through the United Nations System are closely linked with each other as the founders of the United Nations assumed 75 years ago as testified by the historical evolution of the United Nations itself. At this historical juncture when liberalism is struggling to survive, it should be of urgent importance to examine the relationship between its major component parts, namely, human rights, democracy and civil society, on the one hand and the United Nations system, on the other. This academic exercise may start with regional perspectives around the world in order to deepen our understanding of these linkages over time. The webinar symposium in March 2021 will focus on East Asian perspectives.

Opening Remarks:

Dr. SHINYO Takahiro, President of Japan Association for United Nations Studies

Keynote Speech: Prof. Ed Luck (TBC)

Session1: Human Rights

Moderator

Panelist 1

Panelist 2

Commentator

Session 2: Democracy

Moderator

Panelist 1

Panelist 2

Commentator

Session 3: Civil society and NGO

Moderator

Panelist 1

Panelist 2

Commentator

Wrap Up Session :

All participants.

Moderator: Dr. TAKAHASHI Kazuo, External Relations Committee of JAUNS, The Library of Alexandria, Former Professor of International Christian University

Closing Remarks: Prof. KUKITA Jun, Secretary General of JAUNS; Graduate Course on UN and Foreign Affairs Studies, Kwansai Gakuin University

You are invited to submit your abstracts and papers for International Symposium of JAUNS. Abstracts should be written in English, the official language of the event. Virtual authors should submit their abstracts for evaluation before the deadline: January 6th, 2021.

Would you please cooperate with us?

Submission Details (Please fill out the following form)

Proposals must be sent by 6 January 2021

Submission must include the following:

1. An abstract of an unpublished paper (The abstract must be no more than 400-500 words, including the title.)
2. The proposal author's BIO 400 words

*The abstract and the BIO must be in English and **fill out the following form:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFqqeyP6TIwZQUexI_rU9Fz_kksD5VrCppZ3zfvY-g1ovuIw/viewform?gxids=7757

Moderators and Commentators

If you could join this conference as a moderator or commentator, please submit your BIO here. The BIO must be in English and **fill out the following form:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFqqeyP6TIwZQUexI_rU9Fz_kksD5VrCppZ3zfvY-g1ovuIw/viewform?gxids=7757

Review of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by the External Relations Committee the Japan Association for United Nations Studies (JAUNS). The authors of accepted proposals will be notified by 12th January.

Full Papers

It is desirable that the authors of accepted proposals submit a full paper by 6 March 2021. The paper must not have been published elsewhere. The paper will be made available to the

participants of the Conference. We are planning to publish a book containing the selected papers from this conference.

Language

The working language of the Conference is English.

Please, remember the following important dates:

Abstract Submission Deadline: January 6th, 2021

Registration deadline for moderators and commentators: January 6th, 2021

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection: January 12th, 2021

Full Paper Submission Deadline: March 6th, 2021

Conference Dates: March 20th, 2021

Inquiries

Any inquiries about the conference may be emailed to the following address:

jauns2013@gmail.com