

*(tentative)*

## **The 19<sup>th</sup> Trilateral East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System**

### ***“Multilateralism in East Asia and the United Nations”***

- **Host:** Korea Academic Council on the United Nations System  
in collaboration with the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies
- **Venue:** Conference Hall, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies,  
Seoul, Korea
- **Date:** November 7-9, 2019

The Korea Academic Council on the United Nations System (KACUNS) cordially invites delegations from the China Academic Network for United Nations Studies (CANUNS) and Japan Association for United Nations Studies (JAUNS) to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System, which will be held in the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies in Seoul from November 7-9, 2019. This year’s theme is “Multilateralism in East Asia and the United Nations” and the provisional agendas for discussion are listed below.

**The deadline for the list of participants submission is September 1, 2019.  
Paper submission due is October 7, 2019.**

The rule-based world order is being challenged by the same major powers that originally created it right after WWII, as well as by newly emerging non-state actors like terrorists and multinational corporations. This decline in support is a serious issue because the international community is more important than ever due to the rise of complex global challenges, including protracted civil wars, privatization of security, aggravated inequality, volatile financial markets, climate change and large-scale population displacements. New digital innovations, so-called the Fourth Industrial Revolution, add even more complexity to these problems. Cyber security threats, new types of warfare, changing patterns of work, disinformation, the rise of social media, and the technological erosion of the rights to privacy and freedom of expression are all examples of new problems that require a global response. As a result, multilateral institutions, which used to serve as a channel to resolve either bilateral or multilateral conflicts among different countries, are now being asked to do more than ever. We need a comprehensive academic analysis as well as tangible timely policy suggestions on how the existing international norms and institutions, represented by the United Nations, should adapt to and address these new changes in world politics.

East Asia also faces serious challenges and opportunities in this transforming world. First, major powers' disputes over security and economic issues in the region have escalated. Second, many different countries in the region are competitively seeking a leading role in crafting new norms and multilateral institutions in East Asia. Third, there are serious questions whether East Asian countries can cope with the positive and negative impacts of recent digital transformations both independently and collectively. How can East Asian countries work with the United Nations to effectively respond to these multifaceted changes?

The basic prerequisite peace and prosperity in East Asia is ensuring and sustaining mutual trust among Korea, China, and Japan. With mutually trusting relationships, the three countries can understand and respect each other's differences but also find common interests and values. This would allow them to resolve disputes peacefully and strive together for the progress of their own people as well as the East Asian region.

This year's East Asian Seminar will focus on the main pillars of the United Nations. In addition, we would like to bring East Asian scholars altogether to evaluate the transformative impact of new digital technologies on multilateralism in East Asia. We request participants to discuss the role of new technologies in global governance and explain how the UN has responded and what more needs to be done to successfully navigate the opportunities and challenges of the future. The 2019 East Asian Trilateral Seminar seeks to explore the broader policy implications of a changing world through academic research and discussion. Our aim is to help the three countries navigate changes and uncertainty by enhancing mutual understanding, forming a common ground, and facilitating cooperation.

In particular, we would welcome discussions on the following topics:

- the new digital revolutions and its implications on multilateral cooperation in East Asia
- opportunities and challenges of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution
- the impacts of the digital revolution on global governance and the UN's response
- innovation and competitiveness in East Asia
- cybersecurity and the rise of artificial intelligence in the context of East Asia
- emerging risks to the region (economic, health, social, demographic, political) and the respective roles of states and the UN in mitigating them
- how to establish multilateral norms in East Asia
- the implication of hegemonic competition between China and the U.S. for East Asia
- security situations in the Korean peninsula
- peace-building in the Korean peninsula and East Asian countries' roles and contributions
- local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in East Asia
- regional trade conflicts and the search for cooperative solutions
- the role of UN in promoting multilateralism in security and economy
- South-South Cooperation
- environmental cooperation in the region
- the movement of people in East Asia
- the cultural rise of Asia beyond the region

**[Tentative] Program:**

**1. Session I: Digital Transformation and the Future of United Nations System**

1) Entering the Era of the Digital Revolution: Past, Present, and Future

- Moderator: Korea
- Presentation: 1. China  
2. Japan  
3. Korea
- Discussion: 1. China  
2. Japan  
3. Korea

2) New Technologies in Global Governance and the UN's Response

- Moderator: China
- Presentation: 1. Japan  
2. Korea  
3. China
- Discussion: 1. Japan  
2. Korea  
3. China

**2. Session II: Peace and Security**

1) Peacebuilding on the Korean Peninsula

- Moderator: Japan
- Presentation: 1. Korea  
2. China  
3. Japan
- Discussion: 1. Korea  
2. China  
3. Japan

2) Security Cooperation in East Asia

- Moderator: Korea
- Presentation: 1. China  
2. Japan  
3. Korea
- Discussion: 1. China  
2. Japan  
3. Korea

**3. Session III: Economic and Cultural Development**

1) Local Implementations of SDGs

- Moderator: China
- Presentation: 1. Japan  
2. Korea  
3. China
- Discussion: 1. Japan  
2. Korea  
3. China

## 2) Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation in East Asia

- Moderator: Japan
- Presentation: 1. Korea  
2. China  
3. Japan
- Discussion: 1. Korea  
2. China  
3. Japan