

## **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 (JAUNS)

\*Venue: ZOOM from Japan

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

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

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Japan Association of United Nations Studies (JAUNS) 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:**

Professor Takahiro Shinyo

President of Japan Association for United Nations Studies (JAUNS); Kwansei Gakuin University

**Keynote Lecture: “The UN at 76:A History of Challenges”**

Presidential Professor Thomas G. Weiss

Distinguished Fellow, Global Governance, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Presidential Professor of Political Science, Director Emeritus, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, The City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center

**Session1: Human Rights**

Moderator: Prof. Heun-Soon Park, Sun Moon University/ UNA-Korea

Panelist 1 : Prof. Young-dahl Oh, Chungnan National University

"Peace and Conflict in Northeast Asia: A Liberal Perspective.

Panelist 2 : Dr. Hajime Akiyama, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba

“Protecting Human Rights and/or Strengthening States’ Control over the Individuals? The Meaning of Ending Statelessness and the East Asian Perspectives”

Commentator:

Prof. Misako Takizawa, Graduate School of Int’l Studies, J. F. Oberlin University

**Session 2: Democracy**

Moderator: Prof. Kyungyon Moon, Jeonbuk National University

Panelist 1: Dr. Juhee Suk, Daejeon University

“Korea-Japanese Solidarity for Peace Building and Its Implication for Democracy after the Cold War”

Panelist 2: Dr. Ryuya Daidouji, School of Political Science and Politics, Waseda University  
“The Case for ‘global contestatory democracy’: Individuals’ Contestation Against Global Governance (tbd)”

Commentator:

Prof. Koichi Sugiura, Department of International Studies and Communication, Wayo Women's University

### **Session 3: Civil society and NGO**

Moderator: Prof. Tsuyoshi Ohira, The University of Kitakyushu

Panelist 1 : Prof. Tadanori Inomata, Nagasaki University

“Fostering the role of civil society and NGOs towards inclusive global governance for conflict and disaster prevention during COVID-19 pandemic, and beyond”

Panelist 2: Mr. Asrul Daniel Ahmed, Analyst of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Malaysia.

“Efforts by UN Organizations to Prevent Violent Extremism by Engaging and Empowering Civil Society Organizations in Southeast Asia”

Commentator:

Dr. Tatusro Kunugi, A Board Member of UNA-Japan and JAUNS, Deputy Representative of Earth Charter Japan Committee, and Academic Adviser, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation

### **Wrap Up Speech :**

Dr. Kazuo Takahashi, External Relations Committee of JAUNS, International Christian University

### **Closing Remarks:**

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

### **Inquiries**

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