



International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation 2017

Strengthening Trilateral Cooperation in the Face of New Challenges

Final Outcome Report

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Seoul, ROK



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International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation 2017

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ABOUT IFTC

International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) is an annual event that brings together eminent scholars/policy makers to share and offer new insights into the political climate, economic cooperation and socio-cultural ties among the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ROK). IFTC is held on a rotational basis among the three countries, targeting at participants of government dignitaries, scholars, business leaders, journalists and civil society leaders from the three countries. The inaugural IFTC was held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK and Sejong Institute in Seoul, ROK, in 2011, commemorating the launch of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS). The TCS has succeeded the initiative and organized the IFTC as its annual independent project since IFTC 2012 held in Seoul. In 2015, the TCS decided to organize the IFTC in the three countries on a rotational basis and hosted IFTC 2015 in Tokyo, Japan.

On April 18, 2017, the TCS hosted IFTC 2017 under the theme of “Strengthening Trilateral Cooperation in the Face of New Challenges” in Seoul. IFTC 2017 was attended by dignitaries from the ROK, Japan and China including Mr. LEE Jeong-kyu, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the ROK; Mr. BANG Sang-hoon, President of Chosun Ilbo; Mr. NAGAMINE Yasumasa, Ambassador of Japan to the ROK and Mr. QIU Guohong, Ambassador of China to the ROK to deliver congratulatory remarks. Mr. HAN Sung-Joo, former Foreign Minister of the ROK; Mr. OGURA Kazuo, former Japanese Ambassador to the ROK; and Mr. LI Zhaoxing, President of China Public Diplomacy Association and Former Foreign Minister of China delivered keynote speeches to share their insights on future trilateral cooperation and regional prosperity.



PROGRAM

09:30-10:30 OPENING SESSION

OPENING REMARKS	YANG Houlan Secretary-General of the TCS
CONGRATULATORY REMARKS	LEE Jeong-kyu Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK
	BANG Sang-hoon President of Chosun Ilbo
	NAGAMINE Yasumasa Ambassador of Japan to the ROK
	QIU Guohong Ambassador of China to the ROK
KEYNOTE SPEECHES	HAN Sung-Joo Former Foreign Minister of the ROK, Professor Emeritus, Korea University
	OGURA Kazuo Former Japanese Ambassador to the ROK, President of the Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Center
	LI Zhaoxing Former Foreign Minister of China, President of the China Public Diplomacy Association

10:30-10:45 TEA BREAK (PHOTO SESSION)

10:45-12:00 SESSION 1 | REVISITING THE ESSENCE OF TRILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

MODERATOR	CHANG Dal Joong Professor of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Seoul National University
SPEAKER	CHOI Jong Kun Professor of the Department of Political Science & International Studies, Yonsei University

SOEYA Yoshihide

Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Keio University

LIU Debin

Associate Vice President of International Affairs,
Dean of School of International and Public Affairs, Jilin University

ONG Keng Yong

Former ASEAN Secretary-General,
Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International
Studies, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore

Michael REITERER

EU Ambassador Designate to the ROK

12:00-13:20 LUNCHEON

13:20-13:35 CJK CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

**13:35-14:50 SESSION 2 | INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY AT A CROSSROADS
– AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRILATERAL COOPERATION**

MODERATOR

CHOI Byung-il

Professor and former Dean of the Graduate School of International
Studies (GSIS), Ewha Womans University

SPEAKER

BARK Taeho

Former Trade Minister of the ROK,
Professor of the Graduate School of International Studies,
Seoul National University

IWATA Kazumasa

President of Japan Center for Economic Research

CHEN Wenling

Chief Economist of China Center for International Economic Exchange

Shiro ARMSTRONG

Co-director of Australia-Japan Research Center,
Fellow of Crawford School, Australian National University

**14:50-16:05 SESSION 3 | TOWARDS THE PROMISING FUTURE
– PRACTICES OF THE TRILATERAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

MODERATOR	CHO Sei-Young Professor of International Studies and Director of Japan Center, Dongseo University
SPEAKER	ROH Hyouk President of National Youth Policy Institute
	ARAKI Masaru Professor Emeritus, Okayama University
	NIU Huayong Dean of the School of International Business, Beijing Foreign Studies University
	Thomas LEHMANN Ambassador of Denmark to the ROK

16:05-16:15 CLOSING SESSION

CLOSING REMARKS	YANG Houlan Secretary-General of the TCS
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OPENING SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

YANG Houlan

Secretary-General of the TCS



Amb. YANG Houlan expressed his sincere appreciation and extended warm welcome to all guests and participants to the 2017 IFTC. He underscored that the three nations of China, Japan and the ROK have great potential for cooperation, as they are close neighbours and have common cultural elements, which can complement each other. Despite the increasing uncertainty and complexity, which is recently unfolding in Northeast Asia, the three countries have made steady progress and cooperation in many different areas. Until now, the three countries have hosted high-level dialogues including Trilateral Summit, 21 Ministerial meetings, more than 60 governmental dialogues and over 100 trilateral cooperative projects.

Since its establishment in 2011 by the consensus of the 3rd Trilateral Summit, the TCS has been expanding and further promoting the trilateral cooperation in diverse fields by developing new cooperative projects in youth exchange, journalist exchange, FTA and disaster management. Among the signature projects organized by the TCS, the IFTC aims to provide support for cooperation among

the three nations holding hands to boost future oriented partnership, as well as to promote peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia.

Noting the lower level of economic interdependence among the three countries vis-à-vis other regions, he stressed that the three countries still have much room to grow when it comes to trade cooperation. The three countries should also seek to promote human exchanges, especially among scholars, young students, businesses and local governments. He concluded his remarks with hoping the IFTC to become a significant platform for extensive exchange and intensive communication for future cooperation.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

LEE Jeong-kyu

Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, MOFA of the ROK

BANG Sang-hoon

President of Chosun Ilbo

NAGAMINE Yasumasa

Ambassador of Japan to the ROK

QIU Guohong

Ambassador of China to the ROK

Mr. LEE Jeong-kyu noted that the three countries in Northeast Asia are now confronting another new challenge different from 18 years ago when the trilateral cooperation first came to begin. The recent US-China Summit, G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting and the DPRK's persistent development of nuclear and missile programs pose a grave and urgent matter to the international community. He mentioned that it is fortunate under the circumstance, however, that the pivotal countries of Northeast Asia, the ROK, China and Japan recognized the DPRK's nuclear and missile threat as the most pressing challenge to the security in Northeast Asia and tried to seek a collective response. Apart from the threat from the DPRK, he also pointed out that the three countries are facing various forms of challenges, in particular the rising tides of protectionism. Terrorism, violent extremism, refugee issue, contagious diseases and other trans-border threats are affecting all three countries in one way or another. Meanwhile, environmental problems such as ultrafine dust and disaster present crucial tasks that the three countries must be bolted together to tackle. He hoped that the three countries can move and think with one another, like three wheels in a tricycle, so as to live up to the world's expectation as a driving force in addressing global challenges.

To overcome such difficulties, the three countries need a new vision in all areas of cooperation from political trust

building, economic innovation, to social and cultural exchanges and people-to-people exchanges that could be upgraded to a higher level. Through VISION 2020, leaders of three countries already declared ambitious vision for the future of the trilateral cooperation that envisages common market and economic innovation among the three countries. Mr. Lee urged that it is time for the three countries to bear this vision in mind and think a new path for the trilateral cooperation. He closed his remarks by hoping that the discussion in the forum will help to explore the essence and future path for the trilateral cooperation.

Mr. BANG Sang-hoon first expressed his gladness and congratulation to the TCS for hosting the IFTC again in Seoul in its 6th year. He mentioned the three countries have had difficult relations in the past and have been facing many challenges even in recent years. However, he also stated, by quoting a Korean saying "the higher mountain, the deeper valley," that the cooperation among the three countries would be worthy despite all the difficulties. The difficult issues and heightened tensions in Northeast Asia only imply that the three nations of the ROK, Japan and China need to make more efforts to meet the challenges. No matter how complicated the situation is, the three can overcome those difficulties if they work together. The three countries not only have the shared past, but also will create the future together. He stressed that it is the time to work together to preserve peace and consolidate



LEE Jeong-kyu



BANG Sang-hoon



NAGAMINE Yasumasa



QIU Guohong

further prosperity which have been handed down from generation to generation. Finally, he hoped that the IFTC would become a fruitful platform where related people can develop cooperation.

Amb. NAGAMINE Yasumasa opened his remarks with a focus on the importance of the IFTC. He mentioned that the security threats such as the DPRK and Syrian issues are strongly affecting international circumstances. Not only Asia but also the whole community of nations are concerning such escalating uncertainties and conflicts. At this critical juncture, the close neighbours in Asia, Japan, China and the ROK playing as responsible members of the international community, should work together toward regional solidarity. Regional security issues should not be put in the back anymore. At a time when the DPRK's nuclear and missile development is posing a new level of threat, the three countries, other relevant states and all members of the international community should jointly commit to build solidarity and keep a harmonious coexistence. As the world's leading economy and trading partners, Japan, China and the ROK must step up their efforts to boost mutual exchanges with one another. Further facilitation of exchanges such as Trilateral FTA will surely contribute to the prosperity of each country in the region and beyond. Moreover, mutual understanding and cooperation through people-to-people exchanges among young people, as well as scholars will become a pivotal foundation for sustainable relations among the three countries.

As the chair country, Japan is working to host the Trilateral Summit this year and to further boost cooperation among the three countries.

Amb. QIU Guohong highlighted the theme of the 2017 IFTC and stated the fact that the current international and regional environment is reflecting a complicated and far-reaching change posing new challenges as well as opportunities to the three countries.

As the world economy is recovering slowly, trade protectionism is rising and transnational security threat is increasing, it is essential for the three nations to play their expected roles to cope with such emerging global issues. As the trilateral relations are still influenced by sensitive bilateral issues, more efforts have to be made to turn those challenges into a positive direction. He underscored that China, Japan and the ROK are important economic partners in Asia as well as in the world. The trilateral cooperation will not only be beneficial for the three countries but also will promote regional integration. Therefore, each country needs to make consolidated efforts to safeguard the region and global peace, and to infuse positive energy into the process of globalization.

China will always be an active participant in the trilateral cooperation and will play an important role in deepening the level of the cooperation. Chinese people are struggling to realize the revitalization of the Chinese nation, and China's development will provide more opportunities for the cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK. China is willing to work together with the ROK and Japan to tackle the challenges, and to promote regional cooperation in diverse fields.

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

HAN Sung-Joo

Former Foreign Minister of the ROK,
Professor Emeritus, Korea University

OGURA Kazuo

Former Japanese Ambassador to the ROK,
President of the Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Center

LI Zhaoxing

Former Foreign Minister of China,
President of the China Public Diplomacy Association

Mr. HAN Sung-Joo highlighted that the three countries are moving in two opposing directions, namely, one towards cooperation and integration and the other towards conflict and division. However, Mr. Han said, the three countries have shared many historical and cultural things, and there lies a great potential for mutual benefit through exchanges and cooperation in the nonpolitical domains including culture, technology, environment, resources as well as economy. In this context, Mr. Han put forward three proposals for more fruitful and peaceful trilateral relations. First, he advised the three countries to separate between the politics and non-political issues. This entails working together on various free trade agreements, building stable infrastructure and financial framework, contributing to the enhancement of human security across Asia, and cooperating on environmental and energy issues. Second, Mr. Han underscored the importance of embracing a future-oriented attitude, meaning that the three countries should encourage more exchanges among the youths and thus deepen their understanding of one another. Lastly, Mr. Han called for greater interests in the younger generation of the three countries who will shape the future of trilateral relations as well as impacting the present. Only when they come to be positive and friendly towards each other, he stressed, the future of the three countries will be bright.

Mr. OGURA Kazuo stressed the importance of dialogue and communication in the face of uncertainties. He

raised the maintenance of security within Northeast Asia as the most urgent short-term issue among the three countries underlining that their cooperation is also crucial for the entire world, as the region's security is closely linked to that of the world. Regarding long-term goals, he stressed that the three countries should send a joint message to the world that the global ties is essential to move beyond protectionism and nationalism. Further, providing ageing society as an example that directly affects the general population, Mr. Ogura called for citizens' active participation in the trilateral communication process to come up with a way to cope with such issues. In conclusion, Mr. Ogura highlighted the need to find common interests and promote intellectual dialogues, and he strongly encouraged the TCS to focus not only on meetings between government officials but also on citizens-to-citizens dialogues or exchanges.

Mr. LI Zhaoxing quoted a Chinese proverb "A good neighbour is more precious than a house worth a million" to highlight the significance of the trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK. He spoke highly of the trilateral cooperation mechanism and took it as one of the highest institutionalized platform in East Asia. He then pointed out the three challenges restricting the trilateral cooperation, namely, the rocky bilateral relations among the three countries; the lack of political mutual trust; as well as the weak economy outside of the region. By quoting



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HAN Sung-Joo



OGURA Kazuo



LI Zhaoxing

“Our real enemy is not the neighbouring country; it is hunger, poverty, ignorance, superstition and prejudice” (Jean Henri DUNANT, founder of the Red Cross), for the purpose of consolidating the basis of bilateral relations, he suggested that the three countries should balance each one’s security concern and avoid adopting unilateral actions only focusing on self-interest. Meanwhile, the three countries should enhance economic and trade cooperation by accelerating negotiations on CJK FTA and RCEP, and take it as the engine for the trilateral cooperation and regional integration. As the three countries are striving hard to upgrade and transform domestic industries, international cooperation in emerging areas particularly

in Southeast Asian countries will help to boost economic vitality and potential. Besides, the three countries should work together to promote East Asia regional cooperation by cooperating and coordinating in multiple regional cooperation mechanisms including ASEAN+3, EAS, APEC, etc. Finally, it is necessary to expand people-to-people exchange in the fields of education, media, sports, religion, local governments as well as young teenagers. He concluded his remarks by appreciating the achievements made by the TCS since its establishment, and suggested the three parties to provide more support to the TCS in the future.

SESSION 1

REVISITING THE ESSENCE OF TRILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

MODERATOR

CHANG Dal Joong

Professor of the Department of Political Science and International Relations,
Seoul National University

SPEAKERS

CHOI Jong Kun

Professor of the Department of Political Science & International Studies, Yonsei University

SOEYA Yoshihide

Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Keio University

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Associate Vice President of International Affairs,
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ONG Keng Yong

Former ASEAN Secretary-General,
Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang
Technological University in Singapore

Michael REITERER

EU Ambassador Designate to the ROK

SESSION OVERVIEW

In the first session, moderated by Mr. CHANG Dal Joong, the panelists examined the uncertainties and opportunities facing the three countries in the regional and global contexts, and presented their views on the implications for the trilateral cooperation and the TCS.

Mr. CHOI Jong Kun pointed out that the regional political order in Northeast Asia is characterized by long absence of major war, grounded on military deterrence with geopolitical considerations remaining as high priorities. He further stated that regional stability in Northeast Asia will

be maintained in a manner that corresponds to the realist perspective as each state continues to pursue its own political autonomy, economic development and territorial integrity. On the other hand, Mr. Choi referred to deepening of economic cooperation, albeit under-institutionalized, as a positive sign for regionalism in Northeast Asia. In particular, he added, complex economic interdependence created through production network and supply chain have made the three countries non-fungible partners, and increasing social interaction would contribute to regional stability as well. Mr. Choi concluded by underscoring that the TCS stands as a beacon for the next generation's cooperation among the three countries. Considering that



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the establishment of the TCS was once inconceivable, the trilateral cooperation is gradually moving in the right direction, and Mr. Choi urged all parties not to be consumed by episodic diplomatic stand-offs.

Mr. SOEYA Yoshihide focused on the context of global uncertainty, mainly addressing the impact of the Trump administration's foreign policy. He asserted that with the U.S. very much divided and inward-looking, some leaders point to regionalization of international politics during which major powers will assume important roles. In this context, noting that the U.S. wishes to avoid war on two fronts with the Middle East already on top of its foreign policy agenda, Mr. Soeya placed importance on the development of Sino-U.S. relation in terms of dealing with the DPRK's nuclear threat effectively. He further commented that it is crucial for the three countries to maintain dialogue among themselves as well the respective bilateral relations with the U.S. on equal footing. On the economic front, Mr. Soeya said as the U.S. pulls out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), it falls on the three countries to find their own way of realizing the potential of free trade agreements including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

as well as creating a regional economic system. On a broader level, the three countries should also think about harmonious ways to co-exist with other neighbors in the region and put their efforts into coming up with fresh logics for advancing the trilateral cooperation.

Mr. LIU Debin analyzed the shifting dynamics in the region by looking into certainties and uncertainties found in the trilateral relations. He first mentioned that structural economic interdependency as well as increasing social interaction, especially through tourism and shared values of the youths, among the three countries serve as solid foundations for the trilateral cooperation. Peace, he also contended, has been preserved in the region since the Korean War and the three countries hold similar positions regarding denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. On the other hand, Mr. Liu pointed out that unresolved history and territorial disputes among the three countries stir up nationalistic sentiments from time to time. He also addressed some factors in the global context such as changing U.S. engagement in the region under the Trump administration and rise of anti-globalization as factors for uncertainties in trilateral relations. Mr. Liu called on the



CHANG Dal Joong



CHOI Jong Kun



SOEYA Yoshihide



LIU Debin



ONG Keng Yong



Michael REITERER

three countries to make collective efforts in identifying the commonalities with a view to overcoming the regional identity crisis and building a community of common destiny in the long-term. In this vein, he placed emphasis on the importance of technology transfer among the three countries and called on the TCS to facilitate more social interaction like the CAMPUS Asia and other university exchanges.

Mr. ONG Keng Yong touched upon the ASEAN way, which has been the key to arriving at the current level of cooperation in Southeast Asia over the past 50 years. He explained that while the pace of cooperation may have been slow, the ASEAN way takes every member state's voice into account and upholds the principles such as process-driven and rules-based approach in order to prevent division among the member states. As the ASEAN treasures its experience of deepening integration based on continuous dialogues, exchanges and numerous meetings daily, Mr. Ong encouraged the three countries to get ready to meet more frequently as trilateral cooperation advances. Mr. Ong also shared his view that the essence of regional cooperation is leadership, more so in the times of such uncertainties. Noting that the ASEAN leaders have often come together, putting aside their personal and national

interests, Mr. Ong stressed the importance of following a decision as a regional grouping for regional interest. He further commented that the ASEAN will continue to pursue multilateralism and open ASEAN, thereby making the region peaceful and more attractive to foreign businesses and investment, which will also be beneficial to the three countries.

Affirming that the security and prosperity of Asia and Europe are intertwined, **Amb. Michael REITERER** shared several lessons the trilateral cooperation can take from the experience of the European Union (EU). First, while the Northeast Asian region prefers the functionalist model, whereas the EU has pursued both functional and legalistic integration, the cooperation in the functional areas can actually build solid underpinnings for further dialogue. In this sense, if the three of the largest economies in the world can reach a free trade agreement, it will heighten the value of multilateralism in the region where collective response is required on many issues. Mr. Reiterer also pointed out that the history of the three countries reminds all that being open societies with open political system not only invigorates the society itself, but also makes it easier for the neighboring countries to build trust and work together. Moreover, a regional system is needed to shoulder the



burden together, just as how various areas for cooperation are embedded in the UN system. Mr. Reiterer concluded by putting forward ‘comprehensiveness,’ encompassing political, economic and people-to-people exchanges, as the key concept to be passed on from the EU to trilateral cooperation. Just as how Europe moved away from fierce fights towards forward-looking approach as shown in the EU Global Strategy, Mr. Reiterer encouraged the three countries to talk to each other more.

DISCUSSION

On the peace and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Mr. Soeya asserted that China has a significant role in the matter, but it is yet to be seen which course of action China will take in response to the pressure from the recent U.S. missile strike on Syria.

Mr. Liu also stated that China can work with the U.S. in making the DPRK abandon its nuclear weapons despite the differences in their opinions. He also suggested that providing training to the government officials about the other parties’ situation can contribute to overcoming the differences and enhancing understanding among the three countries.

Mr. Choi commented that in times of crisis, China has to clearly deliver a message to the U.S. that should any war break out in Northeast Asia, it will compromise the U.S. hegemony and interests. Calling on all relevant parties to come up with a concrete roadmap and action plan for the next 5-10 years for dealing with the DPRK, Mr. Choi said this task will be an important litmus test for China’s leadership in the region.



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SESSION 2

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY AT A CROSSROADS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRILATERAL COOPERATION

MODERATOR

CHOI Byung-il

Professor and former Dean of the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS),
Ewha Womans University

SPEAKERS

BARK Taeho

Former Trade Minister of the ROK,
Professor of the Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University

IWATA Kazumasa

President of Japan Center for Economic Research

CHEN Wenling

Chief Economist of China Center for International Economic Exchange

Shiro ARMSTRONG

Co-director of Australia-Japan Research Center,
Fellow of Crawford School, Australian National University

SESSION OVERVIEW

Moderated by **Mr. CHOI Byung-il**, panellists presented the international economic policy of the three countries and provided their analysis of the current global economic situation, and actively explored new horizons for future trilateral economic cooperation.

Mr. BARK Taeho briefly introduced the ROK's main free trade agreement (FTA) policy and made three proposals featuring ways to promote the trilateral cooperation. Building on the development of the ROK's trade relations in the past few decades, Mr. Bark illustrated the country's reliance on trade, and underscored the main benefits the ROK enjoys from FTAs including: 1) Expansion of opportunities and networks for small-and medium-scale enterprises to become more global players; 2) Increase

of foreign investments in the ROK accompanied by new technologies; and 3) Enhancement of competition in the domestic market. Mr. Bark explained that the uncertainty of the world trade environment derives from the stalemate of the Doha Round, the protectionist trade policy measures announced by the Trump Administration, and increasingly negative sentiments of the public toward FTA. He expressed his concern on the potential trade war and its impact on trade among China, Japan and the ROK. In conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Bark suggested that China, Japan, and the ROK work together to play a constructive role to save the Doha Round. He also advocated early conclusion of high-quality RCEP and CJK FTA in order to achieve greater regional integration, and stated that such trade agreements can provide markets not only for intermediate goods but also final consumer goods. Further, referring to



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the word “loser” often used in relation to free trade, Mr. Bark proposed that the government redesign policy schemes to provide more education and trainings to facilitate trans-sector movement of people.

Mr. IWATA Kazumasa summarised domestic macroeconomic circumstances in which Abenomics was implemented, and drawing on Japan’s experience as well as the uncertainty of the US fiscal policy, he showed two possible trade policy frameworks that Japan may take. Referring to the several policy shifts that Abenomics has undergone in its struggle to tackle secular stagnation and deflation originating in the global financial crisis, Mr. Iwata pointed out that the current Japanese fiscal and monetary policy are both expansionary. He contrasted this to the tightening monetary policy of the US, and warned that the gap between the two nation’s monetary policies may cause downward pressure on yen and upward pressure on US dollar. As a solution to this, he recommended that both governments respect the central bank’s decisions on price stability target instead of relying on trade measures to correct the exchange rate. He further noted the importance of international cooperation among Asian economy to strengthen the Chiang Mai Initiative. On policy trade framework, Mr. Iwata stressed that Japan should stick to concluding the TPP, and keep Japan-US bilateral free trade

agreement as plan B. He noted that although Japan-US bilateral FTA will have a significant impact on the Japanese economy, he hopes that US will one day come back to the TPP, in which case the benefit for Japan would be largest.

Ms. CHEN Wenling briefly touched upon how the tax cuts in the US may affect Asian economy, and made recommendations on how to promote further cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK to address the uncertain international political economy. Ms. Chen raised the issue of rising protectionism, globalisation in reverse and change in energy policy as causes of uncertainties. Further, alarmed at the repercussions of the American measures to reduce its national debt, she called for continuous and careful monitoring of the development in the US. Emphasising that Asia Pacific plays a pivotal role in the global economy, and that Asia’s competence will depend upon trilateral cooperation, Ms. Chen argued that the scope of commonalities must be expanded. She also stated that a new paradigm for economic cooperation must be built based on the culture of harmony and peace nurtured through the region’s long history. In conclusion, Ms. Chen recommended the following directions to pursue trilateral cooperation: 1) Utilise trilateral FTA negotiations further; 2) Build momentum to boost current FTA negotiations; 3) Conclude RCEP as early as possible; and 4) Make a vision out of free trade in Asia Pacific on the basis of APEC Joint Declaration.



Mr. Shiro ARMSTRONG analysed the global economic context and pointed out that currently unfolding crisis is structural, and based on the observation that Asia is the most dynamic part of the global economy, shared the importance of cooperation in Asia to push back against the hostile external environment. He pointed out that the rules based system of WTO for trade in Asia has very important security implications, since trade rules and dispute resolution systems can be a strong balance against retaliatory actions. Mr. Armstrong advocated collective and ambitious responses from China, Japan and the ROK to tackle growing uncertainties and risks in the world. RCEP can not only cover for making bilateral progress in trade negotiations, but also provide a natural platform to project trilateral interests against the US and EU, as well as set a path for Asia Pacific free trade. In this light, constant dialogues and capacity building in Asia is also very important as they may make a big difference beyond the initial commitments made in RCEP deal. Given that trilateral cooperation is sustained despite the political situation and rise in tension, trilateral FTA negotiations is also a very important process. Mr. Armstrong concluded that ambitious commitments and progress made by the three large economies can have positive implications on the regional and global level.

DISCUSSION

On ways of trilateral cooperation to deal with the US policy to reduce trade deficit, Mr. Bark stated that restarting the trilateral ministerial meeting was the key to show the world that East Asia leaders support multilateralism. Adding onto this, the speakers agreed that strong commitments and leadership are needed to achieve ambitious and high-level trade agreements.

Currently China, Japan and the ROK's main economic power comes from manufacturing, but one of the focuses in the RCEP talks is increased competition in the service sector, possible collaboration in environment and pollution, and how the three countries can effectively cope with digital power. On ways of collaborating in these three new areas, Mr. Iwata mentioned that TPP can serve as a model of regional integration given its advanced deals in digital trade, environment and labour.

The discussion was concluded with the shared recognition that the uncertainties in the global economic context are both challenges and opportunities for strengthening the trilateral cooperation.

SESSION 3

TOWARDS THE PROMISING FUTURE – PRACTICES OF THE TRILATERAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

MODERATOR

CHO Sei-Young

Professor of International Studies and Director of Japan Center, Dongseo University

SPEAKERS

ROH Hyouk

President of National Youth Policy Institute of the ROK

ARAKI Masaru

Professor Emeritus of Okayama University

NIU Huayong

Dean of the School of International Business, Beijing Foreign Studies University

Thomas LEHMANN

Ambassador of Denmark to the ROK

SESSION OVERVIEW

Mr. CHO Sei-Young moderated Session 3. The speakers mainly examined the previous and existing programmes of youth empowerment among the three countries as well as in other regions to explore feasible policies for youth development in China, Japan and the ROK.

Mr. ROH Hyouk focused on youth employment and welfare status in the ROK. He mentioned that although the percentage of young people is rapidly declining due to low birth rate and aging population in the ROK, the greatest challenge that youth are facing is still the difficulty of finding jobs. This situation needs urgent counter measures as the youth are facing serious financial problems, particularly the housing problem. He thought that China and Japan might share the same concerns in terms of realizing the need for discussion and searching for solutions, although the three countries might differ in specific conditions. In terms of welfare assistance, he made four suggestions to

deal with the existing problems. First, with regard to youth employment policy, it is necessary to consider providing support in the form of monthly subsidy for unemployed youth. Second, with regard to youth welfare policy, it is necessary to search for a strategy to help the youth to build assets, namely the 'Youth Asset Development Account' system. Third, to vitalize cultural life among young people, it is necessary to consider expanding the system of Youth Card. Finally, it is necessary to re-discover positive common Asian values to resolve the inequality and conflict among generations regarding youth issues.

Mr. ARAKI Masaru mainly examined the CAMPUS Asia programme co-organized by Sungkyunkwan University (the ROK), Jilin University (China) and Okayama University (Japan). In the program, the three universities linked up as partners to pool their particular areas of expertise and to jointly develop a common liberal arts curriculum to be shared among the three countries. He started his



Group Photo

presentation by introducing the definition of “Common Good”. For the speaker, to bring forth the common good is to work together in each other’s interests. “Common Good” entails taking an active interest in each other’s well-being, acting in a forward-looking manner, and pooling together the things people consider beneficial. The programme gives students opportunities to encounter various social environments, contexts, and settings in which people work, produce, and make a living, rather than just absorbing systematic knowledge in the classroom. For the author, the programme aims at producing a generation of civil servants, researchers, and businesspeople who are proficient in Mandarin, Korean, and Japanese. He ended the presentation by highlighting the challenges affecting the programme’s future operation. For him, the three countries should seek out the common good in liberal arts education first, and the organizers must step up efforts to work with enterprises, local foundations, and NPOs to further inculcate practical knowledge in students. Lastly, the three universities should identify specific ways of seeking the common good within fields of specialist knowledge to nurture aesthetic and intellectual sensibilities of East Asia’s young people.

Mr. NIU Huayong shared his views on constructing a higher education exchange mechanism among China, Japan and the ROK under the trend of education globalization. He noted that, for most Chinese universities, the internationalization of the past decade often meant westernization without considering much about the

educational exchange with other countries. Meanwhile, with the changes of global economy and politics, the globalization of higher education is experiencing some new trends. 1) Developed countries have introduced incentives to encourage students to study abroad. 2) Although the students flow is changing and Asian countries’ attraction increases, English-speaking countries are still the most attractive. 3) Non-English-speaking countries offer more English courses and language barriers have been reduced. He then pointed out the obstacles for higher education exchange among China, Japan and the ROK. 1) Although the number of exchange students is large, most excellent students are not attracted. 2) With cultural closeness and historical and realistic disputes, the three countries are not as attractive as other foreign nations for students. 3) Language difference is a major disadvantage when students from China, Japan and the ROK are learning from each other. He ended the presentation by giving suggestions to promote higher education exchange among the three countries. 1) To ascend the level of higher education exchange among China, Japan and the ROK to the equivalent level as the exchange programmes with western countries. 2) To establish a long-term mechanism for education exchange, such as setting up a mechanism to issue joint degree and co-research East-Asian-featured majors. 3) To promote the establishment of the mechanism with English-instructing majors and curriculums among the three countries.

Mr. Thomas LEHMANN introduced the Danish model of youth empowerment. He held the view that Denmark,



the ROK, Japan, and China are facing similar challenges stemming from the trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. As Denmark has the ‘universal welfare’ model, Danish citizens have the right to equal access to a variety of social services such as free education and healthcare, and are obliged to contribute to the society and becoming productive actors in the labour market. In terms of education, Denmark aims to keep up with the development via continued educational reforms to make sure that young people have a broader knowledge base and specialised skills fitted the demand of the labour market. He then briefed the Danish labour market model defined as “flexicurity”, which balances three principles: flexibility, security, and active employment policies. He concluded that, currently, there is now an increased focus on areas such as IT security and privacy, e-commerce, digital transition, Smart City, Big Data, robotics and digital solutions for small and medium-sized companies to help unleash the talent of youth in Denmark.

DISCUSSION

Regarding the relationship between the trilateral cooperation mechanism and addressing youth issues in the ROK, Mr. Roh stated that it is necessary to find a way to accommodate more students. Although

education exchange is not the specific measure to deal with unemployment issue, it can at least help to improve the quality of education. From these programmes, young students have the opportunity to teach younger students and future generations. Asian values can be interpreted and transferred to more students. From CAMPUS Asia project, such values can be shared, such views can be exchanged to consolidate the foundation among young people.

About the CAMPUS Asia programme, Mr. Araki mentioned that although only limited number of students can get the opportunity to join, scholarships have been provided to a range of students. With the scholarship, they can go to Japan or study in China and the ROK. In fact, not only governmental scholarships but also private scholarships have been offered to relief students’ financial pressure.

In terms of the expense in education in Denmark, Mr. Lehmann highlighted that education is free and equal for all in Denmark. The Danish government pays the students to study. Each student can receive around 900 US dollars per month to study. No matter the students are from wealthy or poor family, they can have equal opportunities. Although it looks expensive, the government takes this as a very important investment for the future of Denmark.

CLOSING SESSION

CLOSING REMARKS

YANG Houlan

Secretary-General of the TCS

Amb. YANG Houlan expressed his deepest gratitude and appreciation to all participants and guests joining the 2017 IFTC. At the forum, advice and suggestions from the speakers have given new hope and new direction for the future of the trilateral cooperation. He emphasized that, in order to respond the newest challenges and uncertainties, the most appropriate way is to cooperate for promoting the benefits of the people in the three countries. At the 6th Trilateral Summit, the leaders of the three countries pointed out the fact that further cooperation among the three countries will be of great significance for building stability and peace in the region. Leaders had also expressed firm commitment to further expand the trilateral cooperation, such as supporting the trilateral cooperation mechanisms and exploring new cooperation projects. The TCS, in this regard, will continue to move forward according to the key agreements reached by the three leaders, and to play as the “stabilizer and thruster” for the trilateral cooperation, as well as peace and stability in Northeast Asia.



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