

## NEASE-Net 13<sup>th</sup> Edition Communique

November 11, 2018

The 13th edition of NEASE-Net Forum was held on November 11, 2018 in room 1004 of the Nihonbashi Life Science Building in Tokyo with the joint sponsorship of The Northeast Asia Research Center of Tohoku University and with the assistance of the general incorporated association Tokyo Club.

Just as in last year's 12<sup>th</sup> Forum, under the theme of "Reconstruction of Order in Northeast Asia: From Opposition to Cooperation," a lively discussion was held under the moderation of Professor Hiroki Oka of Tohoku University's Northeast Asia Research Center and Professor Tetsu Sadotomo of Nihon University.

During the Young Leader's Session which was begun last year, in the first part of the forum study-abroad students from China, America and India, as well as young Japanese researchers presented timely suggestions related to "The Reconstruction of Northeast Asia."

In the first session of Part 2's panel discussion, there was discussion concerning the energy, environmental, logistical and financial aspects of the One Belt One Road initiative.

After presentations by Business Initiative Representative Hiromu Tanaka and Tohoku University Northeast Asia Research Center Professor Jusen Asuka, there was a heated discussion responding to questions posed by NEASE-Net Representative Secretary Makoto Taniguchi and Nagoya City University 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Research Center's Specially Appointed Professor Nakagawa Juro. As a result of the discussion, there was a consensus of opinion that Japan should participate actively in One Belt One Road so that it can evolve into a global project.

The afternoon began with keynote speeches by the former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and Senior Fellow of the Center for American Progress Glen Fukushima. Mr. Hatoyama gave frank suggestions on Japan's response to the change in the North Korean situation and situation changes such as the thawing of Japan and China's relationship. Mr. Glen Fukushima gave his suggestive opinion on how Japan should respond to the change in the Trump Administration's change in foreign relations following the result of the American midterm elections.

The second session was held under the theme of "US-North Korea

Relationship, World Situation,” with moderation by Professor Teruo Komaki of Osaka Economic Law University’s Asian Pacific Research Center. In response to questions posed by Professor Lee Jong Won of Waseda University’s Asian Pacific Research Center and Professor Kumiko Haba of Aoyama Gakuin University, Director Tomoyoshi Kimura of Northeast Asia Movement’s Research Center, Professor Andrei Berov of Fukui Prefectural University and Korean minister Gyonhan Kim conducted a discussion about what to do for economic prosperity and stability.

In the general session, under the moderation of NEASE-Net Deputy Secretary Yasuhiro Chiba and Professor Tetsu Sadotomo, members of NEASE-Net reported on movements of each region and research organization in responding to a question posed by Advisor of Japan-China Science, Technology, and Culture Center Xingguang Ling

Osaka Law University’s Asian Research Department’s Chief Wakio Fujimoto gave the general comment. In the closing session, NEASE-Net Deputy Secretary Takahide Shioya presented the draft for the communique.

The situation of the world has changed a lot in comparison to the time of 12<sup>th</sup> Forum held last year on November 5<sup>th</sup>. This forum was held five months after the America-North Korea Summit which shocked the world.

In this communique, we stressed that “because the world is in a tense and dangerous situation, in order to avoid war, we should emphasize the importance of building up persistent dialogue and cooperation.” The opening of dialogue in June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018’s meeting between American President Trump and Worker Party Chairman Jong-Un Kim was a historically groundbreaking event. Since there is no clear move toward denuclearization, our country which is situated in the same northeast Asia cannot stand by and watch the situation. What is required of our country is to actively participate in international solidarity and work to solve each issue for lasting peace in northeast Asia.

In this forum, we held various discussions and gave suggestions in regard to issues contributing to the reconstruction of order in northeast Asia. The participants had various stances and opinions, but we were able to hold a common understanding in regard to the below.

1. The June 12, 2018 America-North Korea Summit and the South Korea-North Korea, China-North Korea summits that followed it were

historical feats that eased tensions through dialogue in a touch-and-go world situation. In order to direct this toward a lasting peace in northeast Asia, our country should actively participate and push forward concrete cooperation such as putting representatives in each-other's countries.

2. The "One Belt, One Road" concept which China proposes is a grandiose strategy which has possibility for enormous impact on international rules of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our country should also participate actively in this as well as the AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank), not for China's benefit, but for the economic development and security of Asia which includes Japan. There is a necessity to cooperate to develop it as a more global project.

3. Geopolitically, Japan is at the eastern end of the Eurasian continent, and the Japan Sea coastal region holds a very important strategical economic value for the "One Belt, One Road" concept. We want to adopt the idea of a "Japan sea land axis" proposed in the 5<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive National Development Plan and especially make the building of a Japan Sea coastal bullet train a goal.

4. If China adopts a "China first" strategy in response to President Trump's "America first" strategy, it will bring about a great misfortune for the world. The "America-China trade war" has only a negative effect for both America and China, and brings about an extremely bad influence to the world economy as a whole. We expect a rational response from both countries.

5. With the efforts of both Japan and China's heads of state, Japan-China relations are heading toward improvement. Now is the time to hurry the conclusion of a "Japan-China-South Korea FTA" and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) while holding onto the ideals of the WTO and cooperate to expand a free-trade zone in order to wipe out the momentum of trade protectionism advanced by American President Trump.

6. In order to further develop the improving Japan-China relations, while maintaining the Japanese-American security system, an Asian-led security council should be created.

7. Learning from the EU (European Union) experience, making "Northeast Asian Community" as a goal, we aim to solve each issue. Leading the discussion to make that a reality, we must not be bound by old notions

and paralyzed thought, but deepen our inquiries of every kind of problem. For that purpose, the role played by research organizations and researchers in the “Intelligence Network” is big. The Northeast Asian Studies & Exchange Network (NEASE-Net) will continue to play that role.