

PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM “BUILDING AN EAST ASIAN COMMUNITY”

Hosted by the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)

With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

17th March 2010

“Goshiki-no-Ma (五色の間)”, 2F, Convention Center Goshiki
Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka

The Japan Institute of International Affairs is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a public symposium "Building an East Asian community" (please see the details below) with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan. (Symposium venue: “Goshiki-no-Ma (五色の間)”, 2F, Convention Center Goshiki, Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka) We hope that you will be able to find time in your busy schedule to join us.

If you wish to attend, please download the application form and send back to the responsible persons (please see “4) Application”) no later than noon of Monday, March 15, 2010. In view of the limited number of seats available, participants may have to be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, so we ask that you please reply early. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Program Details

1) Background and Identification of Issues

Particularly, since the 1997-8 Asian financial crisis that led East Asian countries to recognize a real need to promote regional cooperation, the region has witnessed the evolution of region-wide institutions such as ASEAN plus Three (APT) and the East Asian Summit (EAS), in addition to the existing institutions in the Asian-Pacific region, including Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Amidst progress made in these regional institutions, recent years have seen vigorous discussions of an “East Asian community” that might well be termed the ultimate format for regional cooperation. Regional attention to an East Asian community concept was further intensified by a series of proposals presented by Japan’s Prime Minister, Yukio Hatoyama in recent months. In his Asia policy speech in Singapore on the occasion of the APEC Summit Meeting in November 2009, for instance, Prime Minister Hatoyama defined the creation of an East Asian community as a major objective of Japan’s Asia policy.

At the government level, regional discussion on an East Asian community has intensified since the Eighth APT Summit Meeting in November 2004, at which the participating countries agreed to make the establishment of an East Asian community a long-term objective. Following this, in December 2005, the EAS was established as a means of promoting the community. The determination “to realize an East Asian community as a long-term goal” was again declared at the Ninth APT Summit meeting, with APT regarded as “the main vehicle in achieving that goal” and EAS as a forum to “play a significant role in community building in this region.”

Although discussion of an East Asian community has steadily gained momentum in recent years, no common understanding on the substance of an East Asian community has emerged among the region's countries. It has also been pointed out that a variety of obstacles – the economic disparities among the region's countries and their political/cultural diversity – stand in the way of creating such a community. Japan's presentation of a new initiative for the formation of an East Asian community offers a good opportunity to address once more the challenges inherent in the East Asian community concept and the measures required for its realization.

2) Objective and significance

This symposium will seek to familiarize the public at large with the East Asian community concept by discussing the progress made thus far and the challenges confronting further regional cooperation and the concept as it garners attention with Japan's new diplomatic initiatives as well as the measures required to realize it. In particular, this symposium is intended to shed light on the following points:

1. Views on regional cooperation and the East Asian community concept among major countries in the region
2. Challenges and prospects of regional cooperation and the East Asian community concept
3. Concrete measures needed to strengthen regional cooperation and eventually to realize an East Asian community

3) Program

10:00-12:45 Opening remarks: Yoshiji NOGAMI, President, JIIA

Remarks by Prime Minister Yukio HATOYAMA (TBC)

First Session

“Perceptions: current status and challenges of an East Asian Community”

Moderator:	Ms. Aiko DODEN Senior News Commentator, NHK, Japan Broadcasting Corporation
Panelists:	Professor. Takashi SHIRAISHI Executive Member, Council for Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet Office President, Institute of Development Economics - JETRO Professor. T. J. PEMPEL Professor, University of California, Berkley Professor Yizhou WANG Associate Dean, School of International Studies, Peking University Amb. Ro-myung GONG Chairman, The Sejong Foundation/Institute Former Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

14:15-16:45 Second Session

“Prospects: steps toward the realization of an East Asian community”

Moderator: Amb. Yoshiji NOGAMI

President, The Japan Institute of International Affairs

Panelists: Dr. Yoichi FUNABASHI

Editor-in-Chief, The Asahi Shimbun

Professor Ezra F. VOGEL

Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus, Harvard University

Prof. Tommy KOH

Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Professor, National University of Singapore

Amb. Rajiv SIKRI

Former Secretary, Indian Ministry of External Affairs

Prof. Peter DRYSDALE

Emeritus Professor of Economics and a Visiting Fellow, the Crawford School
of Economics and Government, The Australian National University

16:45-17:00 Concluding remarks: Yoshiji NOGAMI, President, JIIA

4) Application

Please download the application form on the JIIA website, fill in the blanks and send back by FAX or Email to the responsible persons below.

Dr. Takeshi YUZAWA, research fellow of JIIA

Mr. Hiroshi TAKAZAWA, research assistant of JIIA

TEL: 03-3503-7801

FAX: 03-3503-7186

Email: takazawa@jia.or.jp,