

Joint Report and Policy Recommendations “Towards a CJKFTA: Visions and Tasks”

Trilateral Joint Research by
Development Research Center (DRC) of China
National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) of Japan
Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of Korea

Since 2003, a joint research project on the “Economic Effects of a Possible FTA between China, Japan and Korea” has been undertaken by the three representative institutes of the three countries. The Research in 2003 focused on the impact of the CJK-FTA on the macro-economies of the three countries. Following an overall analysis of this subject, the three research teams conducted a joint research on the “Sectoral Implications of a China-Japan-Korea FTA” in 2004, analyzing cross-sector impacts in general, and the three sectors of agriculture, automobiles and electronics in details.

Based on the research of the last two years, the theme of joint research in 2005 is “Towards a CJKFTA: Visions and Tasks.” The research is mainly concerned with the following three sectors: fishery, textile and steel. A general analysis on implication of the FTA on the services industries of the three countries has also been initiated.

After three years of cooperation, the joint research on the CJKFTA has achieved some significant results. The three representative institutions participating in the joint research project jointly submitted a comprehensive report of the current phase to the leaders of China, Japan and Korea, and would like to put forward the following policy recommendations:

CJKFTA Should Comply with WTO Rules

China, Japan and Korea account for a

large share in global trade. Especially in the areas of automobiles, steel, electronics, textiles and agricultural products, the proportion of imports and exports of the three countries in the global market is even higher. Therefore, the establishment of a free trade relationship between the three countries should pursue not merely the maximization of mutual interests, but also jointly promote the multilateral trade liberalization process. CJKFTA in the future should follow WTO rules concerning the regional trade agreements (RTAs), promote comprehensive and substantial liberalization and facilitation in such fields as trade in goods, trade in services and investment, and strengthen the economic and technological cooperation in broad areas. While opening markets to one another, the three countries need to consider opening markets to other East Asian countries and participating actively in the feasibility study on East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA), so as to play constructive roles in achieving the long-term goal of establishing an “East Asian Community.”

Accelerating Structural Adjustment in Sensitive Sectors through External Pressure and Setting Timetables

Although all three countries have sectors with weak international competitiveness such as agricultural, manufacturing and services industries, long-term depend-

ence on market protection is likely to slow down the pace of structural adjustment and miss out the huge economic benefits brought about by trade liberalization. For those sensitive sectors (namely, sectors that are likely to suffer from competition and relatively high costs of structural adjustment in employment after losing protection), it is necessary to reduce the social costs by such means as compensation schemes, job training and social safety net, etc. On the other side, to counter pressures from the interest groups in the vulnerable sectors, there is a necessity to propose plans for structural readjustment and timetables for market opening in an effort to accelerate the structural readjustment in these sectors.

The CJKFTA Should Be Set as the Mid-Term Goal

Most of the East Asian countries are APEC members, according to the trade liberalization timetable of APEC, trade liberalization shall be realized before 2020. ASEAN FTA plans to reduce the tariff rates to zero among member states before 2015. China, Japan and Korea have signed or have been negotiating FTA or EPA with ASEAN countries respectively and all of them will be implemented within next 5 to 10 years. However, as the three largest economies in East Asia, China, Japan and Korea are relatively lagging behind in forging mutual free trade relationship. Without substantial progress in this aspect, the process of regional eco-

conomic cooperation in East Asia would be slowed down. Since the EAFTA is being studied as a long-term goal, it is necessary to set CJKFTA as a medium-term objective and implement it before the establishment of EAFTA. In order to show the political will of the three countries to actively promote the establishment of CJKFTA, it is recommended that the Tri-Party Committee should hold serious dialogues over the official joint research on CJKFTA.

The Active Participation of the Business Community and the Support of Governmental Officials are Beneficial for the Joint Research

Model simulation and statistical analysis are obviously insufficient for analyzing such a complicated issue, the possible implications of the CJKFTA. The opinions from the business community are invaluable for perfecting the joint research. It would be a good trail to make interaction between the two mechanisms, the joint research and the trilateral business forum, by introducing the progress of the joint research on CJKFTA to the business forum and inviting the forum's organizers of the three countries to attend the workshops of the joint research. During the process of the trilateral joint research, if the governments of the three countries could provide more support with necessary information, consultation and constructive opinions, it would be of great benefits to the trilateral research teams to pursue the ways towards the CJKFTA and put forward positive and pragmatic joint policy recommenda-

**Table 1:
Macro-economic Effects of CJKFTA**

	GDP Growth (%)	Economic welfare gains (million US \$)
China	0.30	3349
Japan	0.37	16760
Korea	3.55	12446

Source: Calculated by Dr. Kazutomo Abe.

**Table 2:
Cross-sector Industrial Impacts of the CJKFTA**

	China	Japan	Korea
Agriculture	+	-	-
Fisheries	+	/	-
Textiles	+	-	+
Electronics	+	/	+
General Machinery	-	+	-
Steel	/	+	/
Automobiles	-	+	/
Chemical	-	+	+

Note: + means the output increases, - means the output decreases, and / means the impact is quite small.

tions. At the same time, it is recommended that China, Japan and Korea should disclose its information regarding the FTA they have concluded as much as possible.

The Trilateral Research Teams Shall Continue to Conduct Joint Research on the CJKFTA

Mutual trust, cooperation and win-win aspiration built among the three

representative research institutions in the past three years has laid down a sound foundation for the joint research of the next stage. The Joint Research on CJKFTA shall continue to be policy-oriented. Based on the analysis of the sectoral implications of tariff cuts for trade in goods of the three countries, the contents of the CJKFTA research shall be expanded further to the cost and benefits of trade liberalization. Trade in services including producer services, non-tariff barriers, protection of IPR, investment, the framework of CJKFTA and implementation steps, will also be important research topics.

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Research on a Grand Design for Northeast Asia: Phase III

Research term: April 2005 - March 2006

Recently, Northeast Asia has shown rapid development of interdependence with Japan in terms of trade and investment. However, because of the differences in political and economic systems, level of economic development, and historical issues, regional economic integration lags behind not only the European Union (EU) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), but also in East Asia as a whole. In Japan, with the exception of some academics and concerned people, sufficient interest and resources are not applied to the issue of strengthening the region's development and economic cooperation, despite its significance.

In this sense, it can be said that it is time to urge the region's governments and their citizens to consider the construction of multilateral infrastructure to maximize common benefits and the establishment of the related systems, based on the concept of a Grand Design (GD) for Northeast Asia about which NIRA has been conducting researches.

NIRA positions the research on a GD for Northeast Asia as a prioritized research project in its 5-year Midterm Research Plan commencing in 2005. This research project will be

conducted as a medium-term research project based on the results of NIRA's prior research on a GD for Northeast Asia: Phase I and II, in cooperation with leading Chinese and South Korean research institutes and with the guidance and help of the domestic task force. This year, the project will consider the status, tasks, and problems of current national land development plan in each country throughout the region, and the steps necessary to reflect the GD concept, which integrates those tasks and problems, in each nation's national land development plan and their future directions. It will also present a roadmap towards the regional integration of Northeast Asia. In addition, the project will consider the roadmap by grouping issues into the following five areas: 1) energy and the environment, 2) transportation, physical distribution, and telecommunications, 3) strategic development cluster, 4) eco-tourism, and 5) development finance. Then, it will specify the area(s) that should be prioritized for the near term, and prepare concrete pilot project proposals if possible.

(Naoko Mori, Researcher, NIRA)

Confidence Building in the East Asian Seas

Research term: June 2005 - March 2006

In light of the progress of regional integration as exemplified by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the European Union (EU), it is time for the nations in East Asia to implement substantial regional integration and establish the framework necessary for its implementation. This is considered the task which the region must implement in the early years of the twenty-first century. In order to examine the framework for regional integration in East Asia, a unique perspective based on "the maritime historical perspective" should be applied, rather than the conventional "continental historical perspective." "The maritime historical perspective," which acknowledges that the crucial role the sea plays in trade determines social and economic transformation, can be a good analytical tool for this research, since the target areas are surrounded by several seas. This perspective assumes that the East Asian Seas are "commons" to be shared by the surrounding nations and regions, not dominated by certain powers.

Regarding the strained relations among East Asian nations, which are being aggravated periodically by territorial and

historical issues, the necessity and feasibility of building confidence in the region will be explored, focusing on the sea shared by the nations, together with measures that will contribute to building confidence. This project will provide a venue for discussions in which scientists in the interdisciplinary fields of social science will participate in pursuit of these objectives. In the first year of this three-year project, socio-economic data will be collected from the nations of the region, and then analyzed from a macro-economic perspective concentrating on comparative advantage and interregional interdependency. In addition, micro-data quantitative analyses will be developed using the results of existing opinion polls such as the Asian Barometer. Also a descriptive analysis will be carried out using the secondary-school textbooks of each nation. The target areas of the research include Japan, China, South Korea, major ASEAN nations and the Oceania nations.

(Mitsuhiko Kataoka, Senior Researcher, NIRA)

World Civilization Forum 2005

Toward a New Paradigm for the World

—How to bring young people together to overcome difference in the world—

The National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) sponsored the World Civilization Forum 2005 jointly with the Japan Foundation and the United Nations University on July 21 and 22 at the United Nations University in Tokyo under the theme, “How to bring young people together to overcome difference in the world.” The Forum was also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc., the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd.

Twenty-five specialists from regions around the world participated as panelists in this forum, which was chaired by Professor Amartya Sen of Harvard University. Heated discussion developed during the two-day forum that was composed of a closed conference held on the first day (July 21), participated in by 90 researchers and specialists, and an open conference on the second (July 22) with approximately 490 participants including non-specialist citizens. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi gave an opening address at the open forum emphasizing the importance of holding the forum in Japan.

Purpose of the Forum

The twentieth century was a period of dramatic advancement for human civi-

lization, yet we have weathered various confrontations and conflicts. Presently in the twenty-first century, ethnic confrontations and terrorist attacks still persist in regions around the world. The “confrontation” in the background of these events is deeply rooted in dissatisfaction with and despair about the present world system: justice, fairness and equity are not maintained, and the situation is unlikely to improve in the near future. In fact a number of radical non-national organizations are attempting to establish worldwide networks capable of challenging the existing system by fomenting pessimistic emotions among citizens.

In light of this, the World Civilization Forum 2005 was held to

serve as a venue for dialogue in search of clues to dissolve the existing structure of confrontation and to restore world peace, stability and prosperity.

Forum Outline

In opening the forum, Dr. Amartya Sen, chair of the forum, raised the following issues: this is not a forum held under the premise that “a certain civilization is superior to others”; the forum is not a venue for inter-civilization dialogue; and the difference between the civilizations is not considered in the forum, because there are people connected to several cultures and civilizations. For example, an American citizen of Malaysian decent and Chinese ethnic



World Civilization Forum 2005

origin may well exist. It is also important to be aware that various civilizations share a common heritage. For example, although democracy is considered an idea from Western Europe, Prince Shotoku, who ruled ancient Japan, and King Asoka of India both adopted collegial systems. This forum is not an atlas that illustrates the different civilizations of the world. The focus of the forum is the people.

Session 1:
Partnership for Justice in the Globalizing World

In response to the advancement of globalization, some of the rich have become richer while the poor even poorer. Globalization does not benefit all people equally, but on the contrary, it has widened the gap between rich and poor as represented by such phrases as “digital divide.” The dissatisfaction arising from the widening gap enhances people’s awareness of their identities, and in turn, when this is combined with factors such as the sense of inequity and poverty, conflicts and terrorism are likely to be induced.

Another problem that was revealed as a result of the advancing globalization is the limitation of existing world systems founded upon nation-states. Let us consider the issue of failed states. When a nation fails along with the rule of law, the citizens lose trust in the nation. In response, as shown in a number of cases, it is possible that the nation will massacre its citizens. Once this happens, the conventional principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other nations is non-tenable. At the same time, however, there is no single entity that can serve as a world government. The United Nations is expected to intervene when a nation loses its functionality, but the UN is not capable of overseeing this task even after 60 years of existence. It was stressed in the forum that the UN must

be strengthened in order to maintain global justice.

Session 2:
Development as Capability Expansion: Alternative Paths to Justice, Freedom and Well-being

When we consider the issue of development, it is important not to measure it simply by GDP, but by the quality of life of the citizenry. In some countries, vulnerability and instability were actually aggravated by the advancement of globalization. Therefore, it was emphasized in the forum that not only the national perspective but that of human security is crucial for a nation’s development. In some developing nations, resources, markets, sanitation, education and government are not accessible to citizens. This can become a factor inducing citizen dissatisfaction with the lack of justice and fairness. It is important to provide citizens with opportunities to participate in politics and the economy regardless of economic status. Otherwise it is possible that the young generation, because of this dissatisfaction, will be driven to terrorism or other violent actions. However, it is not appropriate to blindly advocate multiculturalism out of fear of a clash between civilizations. As poverty is a form of injustice, it can become a cause of violence. In light of this and as pointed out in the forum, the eradication of poverty is the prerequisite to implementing world peace.

Session 3:
The Arts in the Age of Globalization
The advancement of globalization facilitated communication and thus, imbued the arts with significant influence. A person living in a remote area can almost simultaneously enjoy the same variety of arts as someone living in an urban area. Yet it is still unknown whether globalization will enhance the fusion of traditional and modern arts or

will instead contribute to the decline of certain types of art. Meanwhile, the boundary between high art and pop art has become blurred. Japanese animation such as the Hayao Miyazaki films and Pokemon have electrified youth worldwide. Will pop culture such as this contribute to linking various societies beyond national borders? Questions were raised as to whether the people, particularly young people, will be able to overcome political differences and become spiritually united through the arts.

Art must not be used for political objectives, and efforts must be made to prevent political imperialism. Arts that can be accepted by any civilization are the true arts of the age of globalization. At the same time, arts that demonstrate uniqueness are the arts that can transcend national borders. It was also pointed out in the forum that innovative efforts must be made to prevent the spread of standardized commercial art by the progress of globalization.

Conclusion

The World Civilization Forum 2005 was evaluated highly for its efforts to realize dialogue without being civilization-specific. It is expected that further discussions on civilizations will develop in the future under a framework free from confrontations.

(Mayumi Bando, Researcher, NIRA)

The Third International Workshop Japanese-German Cooperation in and with Central Asia —Building a New Silk Road and Possible Approaches—

Geopolitically significant and possessing considerable economic potential due, among other factors, to its rich energy resources, Central Asia is a crucial region in terms of global peace and stability. Since achieving independence from the former Soviet Union, the Central Asian nations have emphasized diversity and individuality in proceeding with programs of national development. At the same time, however, they face common problems, including limited water resources and other environmental issues, and political changes resulting from the democratization process. Efforts are therefore being made to establish new forms of regional cooperation.

The Third International Workshop on Japanese-German Cooperation in and with Central Asia, held in Tokyo, followed the previous workshops held in Berlin and Tashkent in providing a venue for discussion focused on these issues. Using the subtitle of “Building a New Silk Road” as a symbol of exchange between nations, workshop participants discussed the forms regional cooperation should take in the future in order to ensure peace, stability and development in Central Asia, as well as the roles to be played in this process by Japan, Germany and the international community as a whole. In addition to researchers from Japan, Germany and four Central Asian nations who specialize in these regional issues, Mr. Zayd Saidov, Minister of Industry of Tajikistan and Mr. Victor Kist, the Deputy of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan Parliament, also took part in workshop discussions that featured vigorous and forthright debates.

The Third International Workshop opened with a keynote speech by Professor Hisao Komatsu of the University of Tokyo. After touching on both Japan and Germany’s ties to the Silk Road, Professor Komatsu went on to point out that the societies of Central Asia have exhibited longevity and endurance in the face of a long history of significant changes. He also stressed the importance of looking beyond considering Central Asia as merely a zone of transit for interaction between the East and West, and the North and South, and recognizing it instead as a region in its own right, shaped by specific historical forces.

The issues and approaches discussed in workshop sessions are outlined below.

Economic Cooperation— Environmental Issues with a Special Focus on Water Resources

Roughly 80% of Central Asia is arid to some degree, and the region’s current water resource-related problems are closely intertwined with the issue of sustainable land use management. The ability of land to retain water, for example, has deteriorated due to overgrazing, slash-and-burn farming and deforestation, practices which have continued since the Soviet Era. Further, contemporary problems associated with “desertification,” such as insufficient water resources, a deterioration in soil quality, salinification and pollution, arise in part due to wasteful practices made necessary by a shortage of irrigation equipment and lack of knowledge of irrigation techniques, as well as agricultural policies based on the single-minded pursuit of

development. These environmental issues do not only result in economic loss; they also cause significant harm to the health of local residents.

Moreover, as policies governing the allocation of resources and regional cooperation mechanisms put in place during the Soviet Era begin to break down, the region now requires new mechanisms to coordinate competing interests. There is a limit, however, to how much can be achieved by setting water prices according to market forces or managing land use by coordinating conflicting national interests. Given this situation, Central Asia requires a comprehensive sustainable development approach that is based on a recognition of the scarcity of water resources in the region and that eschews the single-minded pursuit of development of the Soviet Era.

Session participants offered concrete proposals addressing the subjects of water resources and land use management. Specific issues debated included the importance of changing the way users themselves think about these resources and the need for a comprehensive approach that emphasizes grassroots participation rooted in local communities, as well as ways in which these local practices may be incorporated into sustainable land management at the national level. Discussion highlighted the need for stable economic growth in order to resolve socioeconomic issues and the importance of economic cooperation in and with Central Asia to achieve this growth, in addition to the conflicting interests between the upstream nations, which are focused on energy and industrial development, and downstream nations, which are concerned

about irrigation-based agriculture and serious environmental damage.

Prospects for Regional Cooperation, with a Special Focus on Regional Organizations

This session focused on the importance of regional cooperation in the political and security sectors in working to resolve trans-regional issues such as drug trafficking, the proliferation of weapons, terrorism and common border control policies for customs and immigration. Participants also noted, however, that there are fewer and fewer forums in which Central Asian nations can come together to discuss these issues amongst themselves, while at the same time there is considerable overlap and duplication in the roles played by regional organizations and frameworks.

The session addressed specifics regarding regional organizations that focus on security matters and the process of democratization. While, for instance, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an association with significant potential in terms of its member countries and with regard to population, the organization has grown so large that it is in danger of losing its ability to function effectively. Some participants alluded to potential military alliances in light of the fact that both China and Russia are members, while others suggested that efforts should focus on making steady progress in coordinating border control procedures to counter terrorism.

Against a backdrop of emergent “democracy” movements, nations that deny citizens the right to protest against the government or are intolerant of opposition factions may actually invite instability. Some participants addressed the idea that further democratization is needed to ensure security, while participants from Central Asia

indicated the unique conditions in each of the countries pursuing democratization. A lively debate on the topic of regional organizations emerged, with some participants expressing concern that the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization have served to empower undemocratic governments and other participants advocating greater collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which follows its own principles in providing support for democratization.

Promotion of Cultural and Personal Exchanges: Status and Issues

The Silk Road symbolizes a history of active personal and cultural exchange. In the past, this route brought cultural wealth and material prosperity to many parts of Eurasia, including Japan and Germany. By promoting cultural and personal exchanges with other parts of Eurasia, the Silk Road serves a similar function today for Central Asian nations as they struggle with post-independent nation building and capacity building among their citizens. For these newly independent nations, however, the recently established borders have only served to hamper mutual exchange. Conflicts centering on border control policies are emerging as countries struggle with a lack of experience in balancing the protection of security in border regions with the smooth movement of people and goods across borders.

In light of this situation, session participants noted the importance of comprehensive policies to coordinate investment in trans-national infrastructure and improve border control procedures. The provision of specialized technologies for surveillance and the training required for border management was specifically cited as an issue that demands urgent attention.

Regional cooperation also faces new difficulties as countries place a higher priority on post-independent nation building. The importance of promoting mutual understanding and regional cooperation among Central Asian nations and of providing the education and training to build the capacity among citizens that will lay the foundation for nation building were cited in this context. Concrete support measures, such as the implementation of programs that reinforce bilateral cooperation with a comprehensive perspective on the entire Central Asian region and desirable forms for cooperation among regional organizations, were also brought up for discussion.

Conclusion

The Third International Workshop sessions highlighted the fact that conflicts of national interest are emerging between the nations of Central Asia as the common culture they shared during the Soviet Era fades. Participants noted, however, that Central Asian nations recognize the importance of transcending national interests to promote further regional cooperation. They also cited the need for these nations to take the initiative in developing and promoting frameworks of regional cooperation that will form the cornerstone of future peace, stability and economic development in the region, as well as the importance of promoting increased dialogue among themselves and with countries outside the region in order to achieve this. The workshop ended with participants expressing the hope that Central Asian nations, Japan and Germany will continue to pursue open dialogue, provide further opportunities for “Central Asia + Japan” Dialogue, and take greater advantage of existing regional organizations.

*(Terumi Hirai,
Senior Researcher, NIRA)*

New Publications

World Civilization Forum 2005 Report Toward a New Paradigm for the World

—How to bring young people together to overcome difference in the world—

This book provides a report on the World Civilization Forum 2005 held in July, 2005.

The forum was organized to explore a new paradigm for the world in the 21st century. At the summit of world leaders held in Indonesia to mark the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi stated, "Sixty years after World War II, Japan remains wholeheartedly committed to upholding its Peace Constitution and pledges to continue nurturing relationships of trust with countries around the world and to contribute to world peace and prosperity," and announced that Japan would host the World Civilization Forum to discuss the issues behind contemporary conflicts. Thus, Japan hosted the forum, which brought together experts from across the globe to discuss a civilized and global partnership for developing new 21st century paradigms designed to achieve true peace through the resolution of the conflicts that exist throughout the world today. Participants worked to ensure the forum would produce proposals for initiatives to be submitted to world leaders.

Co-organized by The Japan Foundation and the United Nations University, the forum was held on the United Nations University campus and made possible with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc., NHK, and UNESCO, as well as cooperation from All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd.

The book supplements an executive summary that gives an overview of the forum with issue papers, panelist think pieces, summary records, and

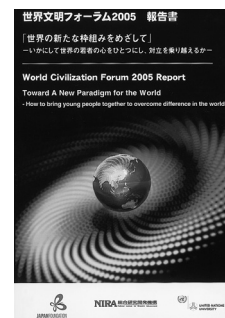
other articles, covering each of the three forum sessions, both in Japanese and English.

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Annex

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Almanac of Think Tanks in Japan 2006 (Available only in Japanese)

Since 1960, when the nation's era of high economic growth was well underway, a large number of think tanks have been established in Japan to meet changing needs, with the full-fledged "age of the think tanks" said to have commenced around 1970. Since shortly after its establishment in 1974, NIRA has carried out an annual survey of think tanks in Japan as part of its commitment to collecting, organizing and making available information on research activities at these institutions. The results are published in the *Almanac of Think Tanks in Japan*. The latest edition (published December 2005) features outlines of 328 Japanese think tanks, and provides information on 4,285 research projects undertaken by these institutes.



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What is NIRA?

The National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) is an independent policy research body established on the initiative of leading figures from Japan's industrial, academic and labor communities. The institute was set up in 1974 under the National Institute for Research Advancement Act and is funded through an endowment of capital contributions and donations from the public and private sectors. NIRA conducts research related to current and emerging issues in many fields, including politics, economics, international affairs, systems of local government and other social issues.

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