



Opening Remarks by ZHANG Yunling

Professor and Director of International Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

“Meeting Challenges in Northeast Asia”

Northeast Asia

- ◆ Dual feature of Northeast Asia:
- ◆ --As economic center, close economic ties, but lack of close cooperation
- ◆ --Peace secured, but tension and confrontation exist—still living in the past
- ◆ Need new mindset: community for common destiny

New Changes

- ◆ Economic structural changes:
- ◆ China becomes the largest economy, double size of Japan in GDP, the gap will be wider further
- ◆ China-Japan market dependency overturns
- ◆ China-ROK economic relations may overpass China-Japan

New Challenges

- ◆ US pivot Asia strategy changes the regional environment
- ◆ Japan's politics and policy trend worried
- ◆ Uncertainty of N. Korean policy and danger of its nuclear armament
- ◆ No vehicle for pan-Northeast Asia dialogue

Cross Road

- ◆ CJK made a big step forward in 2008 when starting the formal summit process-never happened in the history
- ◆ Real progress seems very limited due to the uncertain political relations
- ◆ Reconciliation needs responsible politics
- ◆ Wisdom: seeking the commons and defusing the differences

Meeting Challenges

- ◆ Economics: CK FTA, CJK FTA –for restructuring and new dynamics
- ◆ CJK summit-depending on the will of Japanese political leader
- ◆ Rebooting 6 party talks-need a new approach
- ◆ Initiating a pan-Northeast Asia dialogue for economic cooperation with connectivity as a key agenda

Think-tanks

- ◆ CJK cooperation needs support of CJK think-tank network
- ◆ Hundreds of think-tank meetings between China-ROK, but few either between China-Japan, or among CJK
- ◆ The trilateral CJK think-tank networking is highly needed
- ◆ China's new effort on think-tank