

JEF's Recent Event

On Feb. 26 and 27, the Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) and the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) jointly held the JEF-AEI Meeting in a conference room at JEF's headquarters. AEI, established in 1943 in Washington D.C., is one of the most prestigious think tanks in the United States. Around 20 participants from Japan and the United States, representing the governmental, academic and industrial sectors, actively exchanged views during the two-day event.

Presentations were held on four topics, with each presentation followed by a Q&A session. The topic for Session 1 was *"Political Outlook in Japan and the United States; Key Challenges,"* focusing on the fate of the present Japanese government and administrative reform, and political analysis and prospects in Japan and the United States. In Session 2, the topic was *"Economic Outlook in Japan and the United States; Global Economic Crisis."* A detailed analysis was given on the current state of the Japanese and US economies and what the United States could learn from Japan's long post-bubble downturn. Session 3, titled *"Trade Issues: WTO Round, Regional Economic Integration in Asia Pacific,"* looked into the current state of Japan's EPA/FTAs, Japanese and US trade policies, Asia's regionalism and other matters. *"Geopolitical & Strategic Implications of the Global Economic Crisis"* was the theme for Session 4. In this session, opinions were exchanged on matters such as the future of the Asia-Pacific region, the relationship



Photo: JEF

between Japan, the United States and China, and the current state of Northeast Asia as seen from demographic statistics.

Many participants remarked that the discussions were very interesting because opinions were expressed in an informal and frank manner. The theme of global aging featured in this magazine's March/April issue caught the attention of the US participants, and the sight of participants turning the pages of *Japan SPOTLIGHT* during coffee breaks left an impression on me.

Please access the JEF home page (<http://www.jef.or.jp/>) for details of the joint meeting such as the names of the participants.

We are currently renewing our website. Please visit our site for information on JEF-sponsored meetings, seminars and other events.

M. Watanabe

Answer a questionnaire & get a gift!

We need your suggestions to help make our magazine a better publication. Please fill out the questionnaire inserted in the current issue and send it back by fax (+81-3-5565-4828) or by e-mail (japanspotlight@jef.or.jp). For e-mail correspondence, either scan the paper and attach it or just write all question numbers and your answers. Both Japanese and English answers will be accepted.

10 winners selected from among respondents in a lucky draw will receive a "Kenzo" mini leather wallet each.

Your entry must arrive not later than June 30, 2009 (Japan Time).

The readership of *Japan SPOTLIGHT* is spread all over the world. Please tell us in which country and place you read the bimonthly magazine and how it interests you. We are looking forward to hearing from you. (*Editor*)



"Kenzo" mini leather wallet (9 x 7.5 x 2.5cm)

