

# APEC JAPAN 2010

## Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Political and business leaders from 21 countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific region will gather in Yokohama in November 2010 for a week of active and heated discussion on the future of the region enjoying the most dynamic economic development in the world.

As a host country of this important event not only in the interests of APEC members but also in the global interests, what should Japan try to achieve in this series of APEC Japan 2010 meetings? This is certainly an excellent opportunity for Japan to make a great contribution to getting the world out of the risk of further economic stagnancy, prevailing protectionism, and lingering political and security instability.

This cover feature starts with a succinct overview of what APEC Japan 2010 is seeking to achieve, given by Mr. Hidehiko Nishiyama, a senior METI official acting as chairman of APEC's policymaking Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM). He is followed by a number of globally known pioneering experts on APEC invited by Japan SPOTLIGHT to present their views and expectations on APEC Japan 2010 and on the future of APEC.

Prof. Vinod Aggarwal is one of the most distinguished trade policy experts at UC Berkeley. As an economist, he suggests that APEC incorporate a wider array of stakeholders and identify new areas of cooperation to revitalize APEC and help achieve trans-Pacific economic cooperation and trade liberalization.

Prof. Gary Hawke, Dr. Chulsu Kim, Dr. Zhang Yunling and Dr. Djisman Simandjuntak are all frequent participants in the seminars on FTAs in Asia organized by the Japan Economic Foundation (JEF). They kindly contributed their expectations on APEC Japan 2010 from their perspectives as experts on Asian FTAs.

Dr. Shoichi Hisa, the youngest author on this list of contributors and representing the young generation, presents an economic analysis on the interlinkage between the Japanese and APEC economies.

Outside APEC, an interesting proposal comes from India, one of the most important players in the context of political as well as economic issues. A diplomat-turned lawmaker and former Indian oil and gas minister, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar calls for the establishment of an Asian Oil and Gas Community that he believes more realistic to achieve than APEC-wide cooperation.

From Europe, our old friend, Mr. Régis Arnaud, a French journalist working for the French Chamber of Commerce in Japan, presents his cynical view on APEC and the EU.

The above is a brief introduction of the lineup of our cover story in this issue. Your comments are most welcome.

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