

Recent JEF Activity



Asia-Japan JEF Forum in Taipei on Oct. 12 Stressed Catalyst Role of Taiwan in Trade Liberalization Efforts in Asia

JEF, in cooperation with the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER), organized its annual conference with leading Asian trade thinkers in Taipei in October, 2011. Many of the participating panelists were the distinguished authors of articles for *Japan SPOTLIGHT* including Dr. Mignonne Chan, one of our most frequent columnists, who is Executive Director of the Chinese APEC Study Center and our co-organizer.

This was the 10th conference since 2003 and the participants' passion and enthusiasm finally made it possible for us to gain an overall view of the ultimate Asian regional trade liberalization. As shown in the title of the conference, "Seeking a New Balance in the Regional Integration of the Asia-Pacific Region," we could see a new balance in Asia after evaluation of the development of the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA), Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA), China-Japan-Korea FTA, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), a variety of increasing FTAs in Asia. This new balance should be seen from the perspective of supply chain connectivity and disaster resilience, a national security concern, as well as from the viewpoint of the economic policy concern. All the participants agreed that Asia should be at the center of global trade liberalization, performing as a resisting countervailing power against a possible drastic increase in protectionism in Europe and the USA in the midst of the economic and budget crisis. In this regard, the role of Taiwan is very important, in particular after having been successful in switching its cross-strait relations with China from confrontation to cooperation by concluding the ECFA. Taiwan is surely capable of greatly contributing to cohesion within East Asia by implementing the ECFA. In the light of this, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the mechanism of regional integration of the Asia-Pacific region.

List of the participants

AUSTRALIA	Dr. Andrew ELEK Visiting Professor Australian National University
CHINA	Prof. ZHANG Yunling Director Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)
INDIA	Dr. Biswajit DHAR Director-General Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
INDONESIA	Prof. DJISMAN Simandjuntak Executive Director Prasetya Mulya Business School Chairman Board of Directors, CSIS Foundation
JAPAN	Mr. Noboru HATAKEYAMA Chairman and CEO Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) (Former Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Japan) Mr. Naoyuki HARAOKA Executive Managing Director Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) Amb. Shinichi SAITO Executive Director International Affairs Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) Prof. Shujiro URATA Professor of International Economics Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies Waseda University
KOREA	Dr. Chulsu KIM Chairman Institute for Trade & Investment (ITI) Lee International (Former Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea)
MALAYSIA	Mr. J. Jayasiri Senior Director Economic and Trade Relations Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia
NEW ZEALAND	Prof. Gary HAWKE Emeritus Professor Victoria University of Wellington
PHILIPPINES	Dr. Thomas G. AQUINO Senior Fellow Center for Research and Communications University of Asia and the Pacific (Former Senior Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Philippines)
SINGAPORE	Dr. Hank LIM Senior Research Fellow Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) Prof. Simon SC TAY Chairman Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)
TAIWAN	H.E. Mr. Vincent SIEW Vice President Dr. Ping-Kun CHIANG Chairman Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Mr. Francis Kuo-Hsin LIANG Vice Minister of the Ministry of Economic Affairs Dr. David S. HONG President Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER) Dr. Mignonne Man-jung CHAN Executive Director Chinese Taipei APEC Study Center Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER) Dr. Samuel S.G. WU Professor Department of Public Administration and Policy Taipei University Ms. Jen-ni YANG Deputy Chief Representative Office of Trade Negotiations Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA)