

Exploring Future Relations in East Asia

By Naoyuki Haraoka

We seem to be living now in a more volatile, uncertain and complex world. The United States is not working as a leader of global governance anymore and rising protectionism as symbolized by the US-China trade war is threatening international institutions like the WTO. This trade war may not be limited to ordinary trade friction but expand to a “techno-cold war” between the two nations over new technologies and national security, or even be interpreted as a war to compete for hegemony. Meanwhile, digital technology has an increasing impact on economies and societies. The increase in e-commerce could raise global economic growth potential, but concerns about jobs being replaced by AI or other digital products are also increasing, as well as concerns over national security and infringements of privacy. Both factors are important in thinking about the future political economy but their impacts are often complex and ambiguous.

How can East Asia, often regarded as a locomotive for sustainable global growth in the future, tackle such risks and challenges and take full advantage of the merits of new technology?

Though the nations in East Asia are not all like-minded and in particular do not share common political values, such as respect for fundamental human rights and democratic political systems, we need to explore mutually beneficial and productive relations in this region in order to contribute to the consolidation of global governance against the backdrop of declining US leadership. Long-term thinking is crucial in this regard to make East Asian nations into chief contributors to global peace and prosperity. How can soft power help them to achieve this goal?

I think there is a wide range of ideas which, at first glance, may not appear to be useful in overcoming the political diversity among East Asian nations but which should nonetheless be considered over the longer term. One example of soft power is language. What is not mentioned in the cover story here is the idea of consolidating mutual

language education at schools in East Asian nations. India may not be in East Asia, but could be regarded as such in a broader sense. The Japanese language boom in India could be useful in the future to build good relations between the two countries. Expanding on this idea, might not Japanese schools also adopt either or both Chinese and Korean as subjects for learning, in addition to English?

This issue begins with an interview with Dr. Vinod K. Aggarwal, director of the Berkeley APEC Study Center at the University of California, Berkeley, in which he discusses the implications of US-China rivalry for East Asia. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi and his colleague Dr. Priyadarshi Dash at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), an Indian think tank, in the following article, lead us to Indo-Pacific cooperation, one way to enhance the role of Asia (not only East Asia) in global governance, and then Dr. Claude Meyer, the author of *The West Faces the Rebirth of China* and an expert on Asia, writes about the future of relations between Europe and China.

We then move on to the issue of the increase in e-commerce in the region in two articles, one focusing on South Korea by Dr. Choong Yong Ahn and the other on Taiwan written by Dr. Man-Jung Mignonne Chan. On the issue of soft power, I contribute an article on inbound tourism in Japan partly based on interviews with foreign tourists in the Ginza area where our office is located. This is followed by an interview article about the student discussion exchange program “Jing Forum” between students from Peking University and the University of Tokyo, another experiment relating to soft power.

Finally, we have an article by Prof. Min-Hua Huang and Dr. Mark Weatherall about National Taiwan University’s Asian Barometer Survey, a comparative opinion poll study of Asian countries that attempts to analyze the issue of populism in Asia with the aim of enhancing mutual knowledge and understanding of each nation’s politics.



(Brief Introductions)**COVER STORY 1**

Interview with Dr. Vinod K. Aggarwal, Travers Family Senior Faculty Fellow and Professor of Political Science & Director of the Berkeley APEC Study Center (BASC) at the University of California, Berkeley

US-China Rivalry: Implications for East Asia

By Japan SPOTLIGHT

The decline in US leadership in global governance is a political structural problem. Though it is very difficult to strengthen the WTO, the author believes that its dispute resolution process is better than the competitive liberalization that will be started by the TPP11 and other regional trade arrangements.

COVER STORY 2**Indo-Pacific Cooperation from Indian Perspectives**

By Sachin Chaturvedi & Priyadarshi Dash

A Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision will be a catalyst for balanced regional development, assuming the Indo-Pacific region acquires greater importance as a source of global stability and peace. In this regard, complementarity between different countries in the Indo-Pacific region has to be studied and explored for deeper understanding.

COVER STORY 3**China & Europe: Confrontation or Dialogue?**

By Claude Meyer

Active European-Chinese dialogue could lead to better global governance. Cooperation between the two would be possible in light of the history of cultural exchanges between China and the European Jesuit missions in the 17th and 18th centuries.

COVER STORY 4**E-commerce & ICT Development in South Korea: Prospects & Challenges**

By Choong Yong Ahn

South Korea, a global IT powerhouse, is a key player in e-commerce in East Asia. The role and importance of e-commerce in boosting economic vitality in South Korea may help us predict the future of an IT-dominant economy in Asia. In particular, cross-border e-commerce would be the best way

to foster the growth of SMEs in the light of expanding global value chains.

COVER STORY 5**Out-of-the-Box Consultancy: a Premium Enterprise for Cross-Asia Cultural Exchange**

By Man-Jung Mignonne Chan

The author's company, Out-of-the-Box Consultancy, is contributing to inter-Asian cultural exchanges by helping Asian companies find technical solutions in supply chain connectivity.

COVER STORY 6**Observations on Inbound Tourism — Japan's Soft Power**

By Naoyuki Haraoka

This article addresses the motivations of inbound tourists in Japan and their impressions of the country on the basis of interviews with foreign tourists in Ginza and with the producer of a popular TV Tokyo program, *Why Did You Come to Japan?*

COVER STORY 7

Interview with Yixuan Zhang & Shu Kittaka, Presidents of Jing Forum 2018

Jing Forum — a Venture for Youth Exchanges Between China & Japan

By Japan SPOTLIGHT

Teams of student from Peking University and the University of Tokyo are enjoying their discussions on various issues and hoping these will contribute to stable and peaceful relations between China and Japan.

COVER STORY 8**The Asian Barometer Survey & the Challenge of Populism in Asia**

By Min-Hua Huang & Mark Weatherall

The Fourth Wave of the Asian Barometer Survey tells us that rising inequality is provoking anti-establishment sentiment in Asia as it has already done in Europe and the US.

Naoyuki Haraoka is editor-in-chief of *Japan SPOTLIGHT* & executive managing director of the Japan Economic Foundation (JEF).