

# Good Global Governance in Japan's Pursuit of Enhanced Partnership with the Global South

By Naoyuki Haraoka

Against the background of increased geopolitical risks, such as the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East and rising protectionism among the superpowers, we need to strengthen our efforts to stabilize the global economy. The economy is faced with a serious risk of inflation caused by high tariffs due to the US trade policy and rising energy and food prices triggered by wars. Under such circumstances, we need international cooperation on economic policies, as no single country in this globalized world can enjoy the fruits of economic growth and prosperity merely by itself. A country can only gain these through international mutual dependency built up through trade and investment. Though it is true that there are negative aspects to globalization, such as increased income inequality, globalization has contributed to economic growth and prosperity overall.

Therefore, to cope with the risk of inflation, we will need international rules in trade policy to avoid protectionism such as high tariffs and we will need to take into consideration a country's fiscal and monetary policy's impact on the rest of the world. Or, in order to cope with common challenges like the global environment, we will need to pursue cooperatively a balance between economic growth, energy security and the environment. However, today, this international cooperation mechanism does not seem to be working well. The United States has been seen as a global leader in this international cooperation mechanism, in other words good global governance, during the post-World War II era, but it has ceased to be so during the past few years due to domestic political issues, rising nationalism and anti-globalization. Whether or not this domestic political situation continues, as many nations increase their weight in the global economy through their high growth benefitting from globalization and innovation, we will need a new global governance mechanism that does not depend so heavily on the US.

With the growing weight of the developing economies, their responsibility in global governance is also increasing. Most of these economies are part of the so-called Global South today, and include ASEAN, India, and the Middle East, African and Latin American nations.

Developed nations must attract these growing nations to good global governance, but this is not so easy. Many of the Global South nations were former colonies of some of the developed nations in the past, and may find it difficult to trust the West. We will need to find common economic interests among all nations, whether they are developed or developing, but in real politics, economic interests alone may not be enough to win trust.

Japan has the potential to win trust among the Global South, thanks to its peace-loving foreign economic policy. Could Japan be in good position to mediate the Global South and the West? Rather, should Japan be more active in doing so? In order to achieve this, the Japanese must first start learning about the Global South, not only their economies and politics but also their history, culture and languages. Japanese universities should accept more students from these nations and also provide their language courses in their curriculum.

This issue, apart from this fundamental challenge to Japan, highlights policy proposals prepared by JEF's Global South Research Group, a voluntary study group consisting of experts on various economies, clarifying a co-creation path for Japan and each region of the Global South. Commonalities of such co-creation paths are first, Japan's contribution to their job growth and second, innovation through technology cooperation, in particular in the domain of the environment and energy. Japanese contributions to their economies would make Japan an invaluable partner for them and win trust.

Following these policy proposals, there is a roundtable discussion article among experts on the issue. We were also lucky to have an interview with the Ghanaian ambassador to Japan, H.E. Mrs. Genevieve Edna Apaloo, which highlights the ways in which trust can be created between Japan and the Global South. We are thankful to Prof. Mukesh Williams for his help with this interview.

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