

セッション全体を振り返ると、多国間協力の問題については、個別に努力するのではなく、連携することによって知識や経験を共有したり資源の分散を防いだりすることが必要であるという点でパネリストの考え方は一致していた。また、それぞれパネリストの表現は違うものの、大きな目標を掲げつつ、できることから始めていくというアプローチを採るべきであるという姿勢も共通していたように思う。

開発金融については、インフラ整備の必要な北東アジアでの経済協力を進める上で、これが不可欠の要素であって、多

国間でこの問題に取り組む必要があることが再確認された。

本セッションでは、方針あるいはコンセプトについての議論が中心となったため、「議論のための議論」であったとの感を持った参加者もいたかもしれない。いみじくも、星野コーディネーターが指摘したことであるが、「シンクタンクは議論に酔ってしまいがちで、あたかも新しいことを言っているように思ってしまうことがよくあるが、それでは意味がない」ということを肝に銘じて、議論の内容を検証し次につなげていく必要があろう。

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Special Session Summary

At the Special Session led by Mr. Shinyasu Hoshino, Senior Fellow of the National Institute for Research Advancement, two subjects were discussed. One was the creation of a network among the existing multilateral cooperation frameworks, and the other was a system for development finance, which is necessary for multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia.

As an introduction, some of the existing multilateral cooperation frameworks in the region and the formerly suggested and discussed development finance schemes were reported briefly by ERINA. Then, panelists reported about basic policies for activities, the current situation and issues related to APEC, the Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP), the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Northeast Asia Economic Conference Organizing Committee.

Mr. Ippei Yamazawa, President of the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization, discussed the current status of East Asia and issues related to multilateral cooperation, based on the recognition that it is important to discuss about Northeast Asia in the context of the wider region of East Asia. He pointed out that structural adjustment was extremely important for the East Asian economy, and a multilateral approach, in addition to individual countries' efforts, would be very effective. Although a framework for multilateral cooperation in this issue has not yet been sufficiently developed, it is important to implement activities within a loose cooperative framework in the region. Structural adjustment and measures to promote new information technologies are important also in Northeast Asia. He suggested strengthening relations with APEC and PECC. Furthermore, he showed his recognition that development finance should be introduced besides APEC, due to the special requirements that Northeast Asia has in terms of improving its infrastructure.

Mr. Lu Kejian, Minister-Counselor of the PRC Embassy in Japan, emphasized that the PRC has been making efforts to achieve the goals of APEC - namely the

liberalization of trade and investment, referring to the fact that the PRC is going to host the APEC leaders meeting in 2001. He also reported that preparation has progressed for the summit meeting to be held in Shanghai. The significance of this APEC meeting for the PRC is that it gives opportunities to appeal the PRC's "opening-up" policy widely, reflect the experiences gained through APEC in domestic policies, and to strengthen economic relations, particularly in trade and investment, with other member economies.

Dr. Cho Lee-Jay, Chairman of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, which has been held for the last 10 years, pointed out the importance of a functional approach to multilateral cooperation, starting with what we can do. Regarding development finance, the forum's primary issue (along with energy and transportation), he explained the plan to establish the Northeast Asia Development Bank (NEADB). He is studying this issue jointly with Dr. Stanley Katz, former Vice-President of the ADB, and other people. However, although this research has made some progress, consensus has not been reached among top policy makers in related countries.

The TRADP has also been in operation for 10 years. Tsogtsaikhan Gombo, Team Leader of the UNDP Tumen Secretariat, sees positively the fact that the forum was established to promote cooperation among the related five countries, although the current status is not as satisfactory as the expected vision. Based on this recognition, he suggested the establishment of an inter-governmental mechanism for policy coordination and consultation in Northeast Asia. Also, he pointed out the insufficient commitment of the central government of each country as a problem of the TRADP.

Ramamurthi Swaminathan, Regional Cooperation Advisor (Consultant) for the ADB, emphasized that the ADB promotes the economic development of each country, not only through financing individual developing countries, but also through supporting regional cooperation, e.g. the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). He expressed that the ADB is ready to support regional economic cooperation in Northeast Asia and has already begun to support bilateral cooperation between China and Mongolia.

Mr. Ikuo Hirayama, Governor of Niigata Prefecture, reported on the historical circumstances of the establishment of the Northeast Asia Economic Conference Organizing Committee, considering that the purpose of the Northeast Asia Economic Conference has shifted from mutual understanding towards cooperation to actual cooperation. With expectation that the Organizing Committee will play a role like PECC, he expressed his intention to support the activities of the Organizing Committee, in cooperation with the Northeast Asia Economic Forum and other organizations. Regarding development finance in Northeast Asia, he understands that discussions should be accelerated and related people in each country should approach their central governments to promote inter-governmental discussion in the future.

At the discussion among the panelists, an opinion arose that the roles of local governments are highly significant. There was a question from the audience about the possibility of a customs union between Japan, the PRC, the ROK and Russia. The moderator, Mr. Hoshino, pointed out that multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia should be promoted in both economic and security fields simultaneously. This is a suggestion made in the light of the fact that "nation" tends to be given priority in policy making in each country of the region.

In the session as a whole, panelists shared a common view that, in order to pursue multilateral cooperation successfully, it is necessary to share knowledge and amass and utilize resources through cooperation, not simply individual efforts. Although expressions differed, it seemed also to be a common approach to be followed that we should start with what we can do, with higher goals in mind for realization later.

Regarding development finance, in order to promote economic cooperation in Northeast Asia, a region that requires infrastructural improvement, it was reconfirmed that this is a crucial factor and countries in the region must work together on this issue.

Some participants might have an impression that the discussion was merely for discussion itself, because discussion about direction and concepts were the main points in this session. The moderator, Mr. Hoshino, exquisitely pointed out that think-tanks have a tendency to be elated with their own discussion itself, and think that they are suggesting something new. However, this has no meaning. We must be deeply impressed with this opinion and should take a forward step into the future by thoroughly examining the discussion.

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