# NORTHEAST ASIA IN A NEW CONTEXT

ZHANG YUNLING

ACADEMY MEMBER, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES PRESIDENT, INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SHANDONG UNIVERSITY

#### NORTHEAST ASIA

- Northeast Asia covers China, Japan, ROK, DPRK, Russia and Mongolia by the geographical definition.
- After WWII, the region has experienced great changes, the most important change is economic rise
- Japan(1960-1970s)-ROK(1980s-1990s)-China(1990s-2010) increasing growth waves
- The largest economic group in the world

## **ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

- China's opening and reform leads to CJK economic networking
- China continues to rise and becomes the largest economy of the region and the second largest in the world, and may be the largest by 2035
- CJK cooperation emerges based on the economic integration from "ASEAN+3" framework to CJK framework in 2008 with a supporting trilateral secretariate
- CJK signed a investment agreement and an ongoing FTA negoataion

#### CHALLENGES

- Escalating Sino-US relations as China is identified as a strategic rival to the US, with trade sanctions, high-tech decoupling
- CJK normal economic and high-tech relations have been seriously effected by the US policy
- The COVID-19 has serious impacts on economic and social activities and economic and social network
- Security (economic security, social security)becomes a key factor, with complex effects

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- China's effective control of the pandemic and economic recovery provides a positive role
- Signing of RCEP gives a strong signal
- The Change of the US administration-may move to a manageable Sino-US relationship and a positive policy to the multilateral as well as regional approach
- CJK FTA can move faster

#### CHINA

- · China will hold its commitment of insisting the peace and development road
- China's rise is a good thing, not a threat
- Chinas' new policy of "dual circulation" create more opportunities
- We all need and expect a stale and cooperative North East Asia
- Community for a shared future provides a forward looking strategy

### COOPERATION

- Northeast Asia has two major emergent tasks now:
- The COVID pandemic and cooperative agenda
- Rebuild the stable economic supply chains, especially for an open digital network
- We need a new mind set:
- For Northeast Asia, cooperation is the key for peace, security and welfare

