

**The 33rd Policy Recommendations of
The Japan Forum on International Relations**

Prospects and Challenges for the Acceptance of Foreign Migrants to Japan



November 2010

**The Policy Council
The Japan Forum on International Relations**

Greeting

The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) organized the Policy Council within itself immediately after it was founded in 1987, and has since publicly announced a series of policy recommendations approximately on a biannual basis (see Appendix at the end of this booklet). The Policy Recommendations on "Prospects and Challenges for the Acceptance of Foreign Migrants to Japan," which we hereby present, is the 33rd in such a series. If Japan wants to survive in a globalised world economy and to advance her integration with the burgeoning East Asian economy, she essentially has no other choice but to accept foreign migrants, while making full use of domestic human resources. A key question is not whether we should accept foreign migrants or not, but how we should accept them.

With this awareness in mind, the Policy Council of JFIR started deliberations in its first meeting on this theme on July 21, 2009 and adopted them in their final version at its fourth meeting on September 28, 2010. During this time, the Task Force, headed by Prof. IGUCHI Yasushi, Professor of KwanseiGakuinUniversity, assisted the Policy Council in its deliberations on this theme until the third meeting of the Policy Council on April 26, 2010. However, this Task Force was dissolved after the third meeting of the Policy Council. And Amb. HIRABAYASHI Hiroshi, Vice-President of JFIR, and Prof. IGUCHI Yasushi, Professor of KwanseiGakuin University, were newly appointed Drafters of the Policy Recommendations. Accordingly they jointly undertook the task of drafting the final text of the Policy Recommendations. After the final version was approved in the fourth meeting of the Policy Council, it was sent to all the members of the Policy Council, of which 87 members agreed to its contents and signed the Policy Recommendations.

In line with the tradition, the full text of this set of Policy Recommendations, both in Japanese and in English, was submitted to the Prime Minister of Japan, released to the press, distributed to opinion leaders both at home and abroad, and made accessible at the website of the Japan Forum on International Relations, <http://www.jfir.or.jp/e/>. In addition, in view of the importance of the issues raised in this set of Policy Recommendations, we decided to appeal directly to the public at large by running a half-page opinion advertisement of the Policy Recommendations in the November 25 issue of; The Sankei Shimbun, The Asahi Shimbun and The Nikkei.

We take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to Mr. TSURUNEN Marutei, Member of the House of Councilors (DPJ), for his valuable opinion expressed at the second meeting of the Policy Council on October 27, 2009. The objective of JFIR is to encourage its members to discuss, study and propose ideas on matters of foreign policy, thereby enlightening the public in and out of Japan. In doing so, however, JFIR as an institution neither takes nor rejects any specific positions on matters of foreign policy. The responsibility for the contents of these Policy Recommendations lies solely with those Members of the Policy Council who signed them. JFIR as an institution and the officers and members of JFIR as well as other parties to JFIR who did not sign them are exempted from any responsibility for the contents.

November, 2010

ITO Kenichi
President
Chairman of the Policy Council
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Introduction

In contrast to the European and the U.S. economies which had been heavily bruised by the global economic crisis in the autumn of 2008, East Asian economy has now entered a new phase of self-sustaining development enabled by rapid economic recovery, through dynamic restructuring of production, sales and business networks within the region initiated by newly emerging economies. It is worthy of note that intra-regional human mobility has been increasingly accelerated, notwithstanding the aftermath of the global economic crisis, the residual Cold War security concerns and the threat of global terrorism. Especially, short-term human mobility within the region for such purposes as business and sightseeing has rapidly regained momentum.

Besides short-term foreign visitors, the number of long-term foreign residents in Japan, most of whom come from other Asian countries, reached 2.18 million as of the end of 2009, which is approximately 1.4 times the number compared to that of ten years ago. The settlement of foreigners in Japan is well underway and more than 940,000 foreigners already hold permanent residence status. Even if the current conditions for acceptance of foreigners to Japan are to be maintained, the number of foreign residents in Japan is expected to be on the steady rise in parallel with the progress in economic integration in East Asia.

This ongoing process of settlement of foreigners in Japan is reminiscent of the cases of European countries in the mid-1980s. European countries, in those days, were inclined toward optimistic support for “multiculturalism,” and adopted rather liberal admission policies for foreigners. However, in the 1990s, those countries witnessed formation of ethnic clusters and ghettos, which generated social splits and communication gaps within local communities. Also, the number of illegal immigrants had increased. In France, practice of some Muslims wearing Burqa in public schools is considered to undermine the constitutionally guaranteed principle of secularism or separation of state and religion, and thus elicit severe backlashes by right-wing political parties.

Learning from such experiences of Europe as described above, Japan should recognize that easy admission of foreign migrants would not only dilute social and

cultural cohesion in the host country but produce severe strains in terms of politics and security, and therefore must take necessary measures. Meanwhile, whereas the majority of immigrants in Europe come from Muslim countries, who sometimes cause frictions with the Western civilization based on Christianity, most of the prospective immigrants to Japan would be those from China which is rising as a major power with a considerable demographic pressure, as well as those from the Korean Peninsula with whom we have old historical ties. Though extending local suffrage to permanent foreign residents is now in discussion, this idea requires careful consideration, as it is probably unconstitutional and might also lead to grave political consequences.

Learning these lessons of European experiences in accepting foreign migrants, we should nevertheless face squarely to the fact that Japan essentially has no other choice but to accept them, while making full use of domestic human resources, in order to survive in a globalised world economy and to advance her integration with the burgeoning East Asian economy, thereby yielding synergy effect. A key question is not whether we should accept foreign migrants or not, but how we should accept them. In other words, we must consider seriously what sort of institutions we should design and what sort of social arrangements we should prepare.

Then, exactly how should we accept foreign migrants? Since the latter half of the 1990s, European countries have embarked on a “selective immigration policy,” which imposes criteria for selection of migrants in line with the interests of receiving countries, rather than those of sending countries or migrants themselves. This policy advocates principles of social integration of migrants into the receiving countries as well as of expected contribution of migrants to the receiving countries. From this standpoint, several conditions are imposed on candidates, including a certain level of proficiency in the language of receiving country. We believe that Japan should also adopt these principles in accepting foreign migrants.

When it comes to migrants’ acquisition of the language of the receiving country, European countries, learning from their own experiences of disenchantment of multiculturalism once advocated in the 1980s and drawing on the experiences of the U.S. and Canada which have accepted permanent foreign migrants, proactively

provide foreigners with opportunities to acquire the language of the receiving country. It is by now a commonly shared view in Europe that provision of language education to foreigners is an investment to maintain social cohesion of the receiving country, to prevent marginalization of foreign residents, and to reduce such social costs as pervasive poverty and deterioration of local security.

Facing a gradual decline in population, Japan can no longer hope for robust growth of the domestic market, and therefore explores new possibilities in development of the human resources in the region and orderly flow of the human resources within the region, amid the progress of regional integration in East Asia. With a view to recruiting human resources who bridge Japan and other Asian countries, it is imperative that we enhance acceptance of competent students from abroad and to provide them with career support. For those municipalities seeking to revitalize their local communities, it is essential to accept not only immigrants of Japanese descent or Technical Intern Trainees but foreign workers and their families. For, it is estimated that 18 year-old population will drop sharply from the present 1.3 million to 1.1 million or below after 2017. Besides, resulting from the outflow of the younger generation to large cities and the successive rise in the university-going rate, decline in population especially in younger generation is most likely to accelerate in most local cities in Japan.

It is also important to ensure that the right of foreign workers in Japan to family reunification is guaranteed. Currently, foreign workers residing in Japan account for more than 30% of the total foreign residents in Japan, whereas immigrants for family unification account for only about 10%. However, in European countries and the U.S. immigrants for family unification account for more than half of the total foreign residents. With the increase in the number of the total foreign residents in Japan, the proportion of family immigrants should also go up higher. On this premise, preparation should be made to accept family immigrants. As for assistance for refugees, Japan started the third-country resettlement program in September this year. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Japan should steadily improve systems for provision of assistance to refugees.

November 2010

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Policy Recommendations

Recommendation 1 While Admission of Temporary Foreign Visitors with Sightseeing and Business Purposes Should be Encouraged to the Extent Possible, Foreigners with the Purpose of Long-Term Residence Should be Accepted Selectively in Line with Japan's National Interest.

Japan is one of the few countries in Asia that are fully developed in enjoying high income level, high-quality medical services, and well-maintained public safety. Also, fundamental human rights are respected and religious tolerance is prevalent. If the restrictions on the entry of foreigners were fully removed, a massive influx of immigrants would be inevitable not only from neighboring countries but from across the globe. If this should happen, the prosperity and serenity taken for granted by the Japanese today, together with the underlying social infrastructures, would be irreparably destroyed. Unlike the case of admission of foreigners temporarily visiting Japan for purposes of sightseeing and business, the case of admission of foreigners coming to Japan for the purpose of long-term residence needs to be carefully examined on the basis of comprehensive and selective judgments of factors not only in social and economic fields but in those of national security, public order and national integrity(or identity), etc.

In East Asia, wounds of wars in the past have not been completely healed. Countries in the region are significantly diverse in the degree of acceptance of such views as democracy and fundamental human rights, as well as of stage of economic development. Such political, economic, social and cultural cohesion and homogeneity as are observed among European countries are absent among East Asian countries. Besides, a number of territorial disputes still remain unresolved. Taking into account all these points, we should give careful consideration to acceptance of foreigners coming to Japan for the purpose of long-term residence.

Recommendation 2 Give Priority to Highly-qualified Human Resources in Accepting Foreign Migrants and Develop Conditions for Them to Move Freely in and outside Japan to Work at Their Will.

Under the selective immigration policy, priority should be given in accepting foreign migrants to such highly-qualified human resources as scientists,

researchers, highly-skilled workers and business managers, who can contribute intellectually and/or technically to science, technology and industries to which Japan attaches strategic importance. Highly-qualified human resources is characterized by their free cross-border movement in search not only for good working environment and opportunities which enable them to perform at their full potential but for appropriate environment in which they can stay with their families. Japan should, therefore, develop conditions in which highly-qualified human resources can form a regional network in the Asia-Pacific region centering on Japan in which they can operate. Government, municipalities, universities, research institutes and corporations should not only adopt the principle of national treatment but grant some privileges to them in the provision of medical services, social security, working opportunities for their families and education for their children. For those foreign students studying at universities and graduate schools in Japan, systematic and practical support systems, covering the entire period of their stay in Japan from arrival and enrollment to employment, should be established so that they can make an effective use of their stay in Japan.

As for granting permission for permanent residence to foreigners, the minimum required period of residence of 10 years in principle has been shortened to 5 years or less for highly-qualified human resources and spouses of a Japanese national etc. However, Japan's existing system of granting permission for permanent residence for foreigners is still not appealing as compared to that of U.S., U.K. or Singapore. For highly-qualified human-resources, the existing Guidelines for Permission for Permanent Residence should be replaced by a "point system," which is designed to grade candidate foreigners in Japan based on certain criteria for evaluation according to profession types including scientists/researchers, business managers and professional engineers, and to give extra premium to those candidates who contributed to local development in Japan. By introducing this system, granting permissions for permanent residence to highly-qualified human resources should be facilitated.

Recommendation 3 While Giving Careful Consideration to Acceptance of Narrowly-defined Unskilled Foreign Workers, Identify Sectors of Labor Market Hard to Fill from Domestic Labor Supplies and Accelerate Human Resource Development and Acquisition of Qualification in Those Sectors.

In recent years, the number of either unemployed or inactive persons in

Japan not only among the elderly but among the youth has been significantly high. Unskilled jobs which require no specific skills or experiences are indispensable for the abundant stock of such Japanese to reenter the labor market, and therefore should not be fully opened to foreign workers.

On the other hand, there are increasing types of occupation and industry, which find it difficult to find successors among the Japanese youth. And yet aging of workforce is progressing. Under such circumstances, the sectors in the labor market, where not only domestic but foreign labor supplies are trained and utilized, should be expanded from nurses and care workers to include others under the tripartite agreement among government, labor and management. On that basis, companies and universities in Japan accepting foreign human resources should make industry-wide efforts to take measures to facilitate human resource development and acquisition of qualification and promote them with governmental assistances.

Recommendation 4 Flexibly Apply Conditions for Acceptance of Foreign Workers Defined in Economic Partnership Agreements and Take a Phased Approach in the Expansion of Sectors of Industry for Employment of Foreign Workers.

In the acceptance of foreign nurses and care workers through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) which Japan has concluded, foreign applicants are required to pass the Japan's national exam. But this condition needs to be relaxed. Essentially, it would be against the policy of EPAs which stipulated the acceptance of foreign nurses and care workers if we disregard the qualified status of those foreign applicants, which they acquired overseas, and prevent them from passing Japan's national exam due to their insufficient knowledge of the Japanese language. Japan's national exam should better be revised to allow applicants to take it in English as well, and the Japanese language test should be focused on practical linguistic skills required in carrying out their professional duties.

The Japanese government should not only flexibly apply conditions for acceptance of foreign workers defined in EPAs thereby facilitating acceptance of qualified foreign workers, but introduce programs to newly train qualified foreign workers both in and outside Japan. Also, the Japanese government should request the countries of origin of foreign workers to make institutional arrangements to guarantee portability of professional qualifications acquired in Japan so that such

qualifications are recognized and validated in those countries. This would make it possible for foreign workers to work both at home and in Japan as he or she wishes with one and the same qualification, thereby contributing to smooth flow of people within the region.

Recommendation 5 Adopt Social Integration Policy as the Second Pillar of Japan's Migration Policy and Establish Effective Implementation System through Coordinated Efforts between National and Local Governments.

One of the reasons for the failure of migration policy in Europe was its failure to fully implement the social integration policy which was necessary for integration and co-existence of migrants in the host country. The Revised Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of 2009 and the Basic Resident Registration Act of 2009 provide that the Alien Registration System be hereafter incorporated into the Basic Resident Registration System, which had by then been applied to the Japanese nationals only. This is a step forward, but it is still a small step from the point of view of respecting the rights of foreigners and ensuring their implementation of duties. Therefore, we would like to propose that the clauses related to the management of foreigners residing in Japan in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act be so improved that they become the grounds for promotion of the social integration policy as the second pillar of Japan's migration policy in tandem with another pillar of the immigration control.

On that basis, the following four measures are proposed to be taken.

- (1) Municipalities and government ministries concerned should introduce effective and fair system of information sharing between them for the purpose of respecting the rights of foreigners and ensuring their implementation of duties.
- (2) The national government in close cooperation with local communities and municipalities should implement measures for Japanese language training, school education and employment etc. for foreigners.
- (3) We should develop specialized human resources who are tasked with coordinating communal issues with a view to creating an environment in which foreigners and Japanese can live together in harmony.
- (4) Outposts of the national government and local municipalities should institutionalize an effective one-stop service in order to strengthen such social safety net for foreigners as employment and medical services.

Recommendation 6 Make Institutional Arrangements for Foreigners with Insufficient Japanese Proficiency to be Guaranteed Opportunities to Study Japanese in Local Communities.

In the acceptance of foreign migrants, we must see to it that they do not form ethnic clusters within local communities thereby generating communication gaps, misunderstandings or hostilities in their relationship with the Japanese society or other groups of foreigners. In the acceptance of foreigners, who hope to reside for a long term in Japan, it is on one hand advisable to ascertain the level of Japanese proficiency of the candidate foreigners prior to their arrival, but it is on the other hand equally important to make institutional arrangements for those foreigners, who have already entered Japan legally and are expected to stay beyond a certain length of time, to be encouraged to study Japanese and even to be guaranteed such opportunities. To begin with, the government should define criteria to determine the minimum Japanese proficiency required to live, work or study in Japan, and introduce a scheme with which to measure the Japanese proficiency easily.

Besides, municipalities and other institutions concerned should direct those foreign residents who fail to have Japanese proficiency required for daily life, if within a designated period of time since arrival—3 years for example, to take Japanese courses and provide them with opportunities to master practical Japanese with minimum financial burden. If foreign employees of companies or organizations are directed to take Japanese courses by the municipalities, those companies or organizations should take appropriate care of the working hours of such employees. Also, measures should be taken for the children of foreign residents to take special supplementary Japanese courses so that they may familiarize themselves quickly with local primary schools they attend.

Recommendation 7 Enact “Employment of Foreign Nationals Act” and Conclude Bilateral “Labor Agreements” for the Orderly Acceptance and Protection of Foreign Workers.

In Japan, the conditions of employment and labor of foreign workers are stipulated by the two separate legal systems of the labor related laws and immigration control related laws. Moreover, these two legal systems are not necessarily consistent with each other. Further, corporate compliance with these

laws leaves much to be desired. In order to remedy the situation, Japan should conclude with neighboring countries bilateral “Labor Agreements” which define respective share of duties and roles of each party in realizing orderly acceptance of foreign workers, thereby guaranteeing protection of foreign workers effectively. In this case, in order to secure the domestic enforcement of such “Agreements” enactment of “Employment of Foreign Nationals Act” may become necessary in Japan. Mandatory reporting system on employment of foreign workers by employers based upon Employment Countermeasures Act should be transferred to “Employment of Foreign Nationals Act.” And schemes for prompt provision of legal remedies to infringement of rights should be worked out. Through these measures, immigration control administration and labor administration should work in collaboration with each other to establish a system for the enforcement of the Act.

While atypical employment is increasing, social safety net for their health and unemployment risks is not functioning well. In view of this, employment of foreigners who do not have social and labor insurances must be prohibited and penalties be imposed on violators. Also, strict control should be exercised in cooperation with neighboring countries over recruitment and employment of undocumented foreign workers and trafficking of foreigners.

Recommendation 8 Promote Conclusion of “Social Security Agreements” and Establish Social Security System Friendly to Those Japanese and Foreigners Who Move Freely within and without Japan.

Although Japan has concluded “Social Security Agreements” with such developed countries as Germany, U.S., U.K., France, and Canada as well as with Brazil, negotiations for “Social Security Agreements” with China, South Korea, Southeast Asian countries, India, etc. where human mobility is expected to rise are behind the schedule. Japanese nationals and companies located in those countries with whom Japan has not concluded the Agreement yet suffer a loss of duplicate payments of social security premiums.

When it comes to foreign workers in Japan, on the other hand, such issues as lump-sum payments for withdrawal from the public pension and non-refundable premiums for the basic pension paid by foreigners staying in Japan for more than 5 and less than 25 years remain unresolved. And this situation heavily undermines incentives of foreigners to get enrolled in social insurance program and thus

results in the increase in the number of foreigners uncovered by health insurance program which is to be enrolled concomitantly. Therefore, in order to improve the health insurance coverage rate among foreigners, it is important to reduce the required length of enrollment in the program from 25 to 10 years and to concurrently adopt the policy of counting the required number of years enrolled in the program in the aggregate through the period of stay both in Japan and in the partner country. The Japanese government should accelerate conclusion of “Social Security Agreements” with developed and developing countries in order to remedy as soon as possible the situation which is detrimental to the interests of both Japanese working abroad and foreigners working in Japan.

Recommendation 9 Granting of Local Suffrage to Permanent Foreign Residents Needs to be Deliberated Carefully, as It is Probably Unconstitutional and May Also Lead to Grave Political Consequences.

The number of “Registered Foreigners” in Japan is 2,180,000 as of the end of 2009, of which that of “Permanent Residents” residing in Japan for more than 10 years is 940,000. Of the total “Permanent Residents,” 400,000 are “Special Permanent Residents,” who are either those who have lived in Japan since before 1945 or their descendants and the remaining 530,000 are “Ordinary Permanent Residents.” 99% of “Special Permanent Residents” are Koreans. The biggest group in “Ordinary Permanent Residents” is Chinese, whose number has quintupled during the last decade. Brazilians, Filipinos and Koreans follow Chinese in this order in the size of the group.

As for granting of local suffrage to permanent foreign residents, the body of a Supreme Court ruling in 1995 clearly stated, “the concept of ‘residents’ (who are granted local suffrage) by Article 93 Section 2 of the Constitution shall mean Japanese nationals whose domicile is registered within the local municipality concerned.” Separately from the body, there is an obiter dictum offering a different view, but it is legally not binding. Granting of local suffrage to permanent foreign residents needs to be deliberated carefully as it is not only probably unconstitutional but may also affect the course of events in territorial and security problems if they wish to do so with the leverage of local suffrage. Needless to say, however, foreigners who have acquired Japanese nationality are entitled to the right to vote as well as to the right to run both nationally and locally.

Appendix

Introduction to The Japan Forum on International Relations

[History]

The Japan Forum on International Relations, Inc. (JFIR or The Forum) was founded on March 12, 1987 in Tokyo on the private initiative of Dr. OKITA Saburo, Mr. HATTORI Ichiro and 61 other independent citizens from business, academic, political and mass media circles of Japan. They agreed that a policy - oriented research institution in the field of international affairs independent from the government was most urgently looked for in Japan because the world now wanted to know not only what the Japanese government spoke about but also what the Japanese people thought about. They were also convinced that Japan was now expected not only to think about its own role in the international community but also to contribute to breaking new ground in the search for a new world order.

[Purpose]

The Forum is a nonprofit and nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to improved understanding of Japanese foreign policy and international relations. The Forum takes no institutional position on issues of foreign policy, though its members are encouraged not only to analyze but to propose alternatives on matters of foreign policy. Though the Forum helps its members to formulate policy recommendations on matters of public policy, the views expressed in such recommendations represent in no way those of the Forum as an institution and the responsibility for the contents of the recommendations is that of those members of the Forum who sign them alone.

[Organization]

The Forum is a private membership organization. There are four categories of membership in the Forum; corporate membership, associate corporate membership, individual membership and associate individual membership. The Forum as a whole is governed by the Board of Directors, which is in charge of the management, and is supervised by the Board of Trustees, which is a consultative body. The Board of Trustees elects Directors and Auditors and advises the Board of Directors on such important issues as the adoption of an annual budget and an annual work program. Chairman, President and Vice President, are elected for a term of two years by the Board of Directors and are eligible for reelection.

[Activities]

The Forum conducts a variety of activities hosting conferences, organizing research programs, and publishing research reports and policy recommendations.

(A) The most significant of such activities of the Forum is carried out by the Policy Council, which is engaged in policy research and helps its members to produce Policy Recommendations. A list of the 32 sets of "Policy Recommendations" which have so far been adopted by the Policy Council, presented to the Prime Minister of Japan and published is as follows;

- (1) *"The Structural Adjustment of Economies of Japan, U.S. and Asian NICs"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. WATANABE Toshio (March 3, 1988)
- (2) *"Long-term Political Vision for Stabilization and Cooperation in Northeast Asia"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. KAMIYA Fuji (March 15, 1989)
- (3) *"How to Best Utilize Economic Resources of Japan for Development of World Economy"* by the Task Force headed by Mr. KANAMORI Hisao (July 25, 1989)
- (4) *"Japan, the United States and Global Responsibilities"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. INOUCHI Takashi (April 5, 1990)
- (5) *"Stabilization of the International Monetary and Trade Systems"* by the Task Force headed by Mr. MANO Teruhiko (August 14, 1990)
- (6) *"Japan's Response to the Changing Soviet Union"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. TAKUBO Tadae (April 10, 1991)
- (7) *"For a More Open Market in Japan"* by the Task Force headed by Mr. TAKENAKA Ichio (failing to be adopted by the Policy Council on February 27, 1992)
- (8) *"The Strengthening of the U.N. Peace Function and Japan's Role"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. SATO Seizaburo (October 7, 1992)
- (9) *"Japan's Response to the Transformation of Socialist Economies in Asia"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. SATO Tsuneaki (June 8, 1993)
- (10) *"Political Cooperation with Europe: Japan's Agenda for 21st Century"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. NAKANISHI Terumasa (November 16, 1993)
- (11) *"The Future of Regionalism and Japan"* by the Task Force headed by Mr. KOBAYASHI Minoru (June 17, 1994)
- (12) *"The Future of China in the Context of Asian Security"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. KOJIMA Tomoyuki (January 25, 1995)
- (13) *"The Essence of U.S.-Japan Economic Conflicts and Japan's Response"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. SHIMADA Haruo (August 3, 1995)
- (14) *"The Perspective of Security Regimes in Asia-Pacific Region"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. WATANABE Akio (June 5, 1996)
- (15) *"The WTO System and Japan"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. SAKAMOTO Masahiro (November 27, 1997)
- (16) *"Japan's ODA in the 21st Century"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. KUSANO Atsushi (March 5, 1998)
- (17) *"Japan and International Society in the Age of Information Revolution"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. KUMON Shunpei (August 24, 1998)
- (18) *"Japan's Initiatives towards US, China and Russia"* by the Task Force headed by Prof. ITO Kenichi (April 19, 1999)

- (19) *“Economic Globalization and Options for Asia”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. TRAN Van Tho (May 27, 2000)
- (20) *“Towards Collective Human Security: A New Internationalism and Japan”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. INOUCHI Kuniko (July 6, 2001)
- (21) *“Japan’s New Initiative for Global Environment”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. YAMAMOTO Ryoichi (October 24, 2001)
- (22) *“Building a System of Security and Cooperation in East Asia”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. TANAKA Akihiko (December 18, 2002)
- (23) *“Japan’s Initiative for Economic Community in East Asia”* by the Task Force headed by Mr. YOSHIDA Haruki (June 20, 2003)
- (24) *“New World Order of No-War Community and Future of Japan-U.S. Alliance”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. ITO Kenichi (April 28, 2004)
- (25) *“Japan’s Place in the World: The Strategic Value of Culture and Education”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. HAKAMADA Shigeki (December 13, 2004)
- (26) *“Emerging New Threats and Japan’s National Security”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. SASE Masamori (August 10, 2005)
- (27) *“The Establishment of an International Energy Security System”* by the Task Force headed by Mr. NAITO Masahisa (May 18, 2006)
- (28) *“Japan and China in the Changing Asia”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. KOJIMA Tomoyuki (October 30, 2006)
- (29) *“India’s Leap Forward and Japan”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. SAKAKIBARA Eisuke (September 5, 2007)
- (30) *“Nature of Russian State and Japan’s Strategy towards Russia”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. HAKAMADA Shigeki (February 20, 2008)
- (31) *“Japan’s Strategy for its Agriculture in the Globalized World”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. HONMA Masayoshi (January 14, 2009)
- (32) *“Positive Pacifism and the Future of the Japan-U.S. Alliance”* by the Task Force headed by Prof. ITO Kenichi (October, 2009)

[Note] Currently under deliberation in the Policy Council is the set of policy recommendations on *“Japan’s Response to Global Terrorism.”* Prof. YAMAUCHI Masayuki and Prof. MIYASAKA Naofumi help the Council as its Drafters.

(B) In tandem with the core activities of policy recommendations, another important pillar of the Forum’s activities is the **BBS “Hyakka-Seiho”** (<http://www.jfir.or.jp/cgi/m-bbs/>) which started on April 12, 2006. The **BBS “Hyakka-Seiho”** is open to the public, functioning as an interactive forum for discussions on foreign policy and international affairs. All articles posted on the BBS are sent through the bimonthly Japanese e-mail magazine *“Meru-maga Nihon Kokusai Fōramu”* to about 10,000 readers. Furthermore, articles worth attention are translated into English and posted on the Forum’s English website (<http://www.jfir.or.jp/e/index.htm>) under the headline of **“JFIR Commentary.”** They are at the same time sent through the Forum’s bimonthly English e-mail magazine **“JFIR E-Letter”** to about 5,000 readers worldwide.

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