

Outline of The Japan Forum on International Relations' 30th Anniversary Symposium “Japan’s Diplomacy in an Era of Power Transition”

In commemoration of its 30th anniversary, the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) convened Anniversary Symposium under the general theme of “Japan's Diplomacy in an Era of Power Transition” at Hotel Okura Tokyo on November 1, 2017. The Symposium was attended by 193 participants from within and outside of Japan, and lively discussions were held. An outline of the symposium is as follows:



<<Opening Session>>

The symposium started with an opening speech by ITO Kenichi, Chairman of JFIR. In his speech, he stated, “Before making individual approaches such as Japan-China relations and Japan-US relations, it is important to grasp comprehensive and overall picture of the mega-trend of current international society as a whole. JFIR has collected wisdom to contribute to this end.”

On the day of the Symposium held the 195th Special Diet session, where ABE Shinzo was appointed as the 98th Prime Minister. He sent a special address congratulatory message to the Symposium, reading, “It is JFIR that has advocated the diplomatic philosophy of ‘proactive contribution to peace,’ which the government upholds, as a private organisation from an early stage. I expect useful recommendations from today on as well.” Also, KONO Taro, Minister for Foreign Affairs, also sent congratulatory message to the Symposium, reading “I expect JFIR to pursue unfettered discussions on the ideal of Japan’s diplomacy based on the spirit of ‘Hyakka-Seiho (Hundred Flowers in Full Bloom)’ as in the name of the JFIR’s e-forum.”

<<Main Session>>

Moderated by TAKANA Akihiko, Supreme Councilor of JFIR, the Main Session consisted of, in order of the programme, keynote presentations, leading comments, and free discussions. As keynote presentators, four Superior Research Fellows of JFIR gave presentations: KAMIYA Matake on “China Risks and China Opportunities,” WATANABE Hirotaka on “Eurasian International Strategic Environment in Transition and Japan’s Diplomacy,” KAWAI Masahiro on “Japan’s Economic Diplomacy in the Era of ‘Geo-economics,’” and ITO Go on “New Maritime Strategy of Japan.”

The subsequent leading comments contributed by INOBUCHI Takashi, Councilor of JFIR, TAKUBO Tadae, Director of JFIR, OHYA Eiko, Trustee of JFIR, MORIMOTO Satoshi, Director of JFIR, and MIYAKE Kunihiko, Member of JFIR included such comments as “Determine the true nature of the increasingly isolationist U.S. as a state,” “Japan should become ‘wise’ in the international society, not just acting straightforwardly,” “Japan should contribute to maintaining and developing the existing international order,” “Make the Indo-Pacific the real center for development,” and “Do not fail to pay attention to the drastically changing situation of the Middle East.”

Besides, at the Symposium, “Footsteps of the Japan Forum on International Relations: 30th Anniversary Issue,” an introductory pamphlet of JFIR which was refurbished to attribute to the Symposium, was distributed to all the participants in the Symposium. The entire “Footsteps” is available on the JFIR website.