

# **Outline of Discussions**

**of**

## **The International Symposium on**

### **“International Order in the Asia-Pacific and Japan-ASEAN Cooperation”**

The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), under the co-sponsorship of S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) of Nanyang Technological University, organized an international symposium on "International Order in the Asia-Pacific and Japan-ASEAN Cooperation" on February 13, 2017, in Singapore.



The symposium, moderated by TAN See Seng, Professor of RSIS, started with keynote speeches presented by the three Japanese panelists, namely, KAMIYA Matake, Professor of National Defense Academy of Japan/Superior Research Fellow of JFIR, KATO Yoichi, Senior Research Fellow of Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation and SAKATA Yasuyo, Professor of Kanda University of International Studies, which were followed by an open discussion among approximately 40 participants in total, including academics, diplomats, journalists etc. They exchange views on the evolving Asia-Pacific order in the light of an increasingly assertive China and the uncertainty of a Trump-led United States, the highlights of which are as follows.

From the Japanese side, Prof. KAMIYA stated that “the Japan-US alliance is indispensable not only for the national defense of the two countries but also for its role as international public good for the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. However, President Trump seems have an old-fashioned concept of an alliance and overlooks the importance of the alliance as international public good. Under the circumstances, engagement of ASEAN countries is called for more than before.” Then, from the Singapore side, such response was made as that “Within 20-30 years from now, China would have become more democratized and the neighboring countries would accept its leadership in the Asia-Pacific region. Should it be the case, the strategy of Japan and the U.S. to contain China would have deemed to be a failure.”

(JFIR Secretariat is responsible for composing this text.)