

The 6th U.S.-Japan Youth Forum

(2010年12月7日 日本外国特派員協会)

“East Asia ~Youth meeting its future challenges~”

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第六回日米ユースフォーラム実行委員長

As a returnee student from an international school in Beijing, where students from more than 60 countries attended, I have always sought for means to nurture better relationships between individuals with different backgrounds. Through my experiences in the international school and cultural exchanging activities such as Japan-America Student Conference, I have realized that exchanging honest opinions and not giving evasive answers to questions is important in forming true relationships.

The 6th U.S.-Japan Youth Forum was very successful in prompting youngsters to do just that and provided a perfect opportunity for participants to develop one's thought on East Asia. The presentations from the panelists were not based on news articles but were based on their own experiences and feelings. The panelists gave the audience pieces of their minds which allowed the audience to engage in the animated discussions about East Asia as well.

What is more, though the forum is called “U.S.-Japan” Youth Forum, we were honored to have panelists and audience from more than just those two countries, including China, Korea, Singapore and the United States. The 6th Youth Forum was not merely a bilateral exchange of opinions but multilateral approach to East Asian region.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to note that it was a great pleasure to host an event filled with passion and enthusiasm to foster better relationships between East Asian countries. We would like to continue providing opportunities for students to exchange opinions about various issues and broadcast their messages to the world, as a grass-roots effort to build a more prosperous future.

御挨拶 神馬光滋(Koji Jimba) 国際基督教大学 教養学部

ユースフォーラム・ジャパン (学生担当理事)

Amazing, is what the forum can be described as. An atmosphere of concentration and deep thought was gradually built through the presentations and panel discussion, which was followed by insightful comments and speeches respectively from Mr. Ukeru Magosaki and H.I.H. Takamado. Even with different standpoints and views of the issues surrounding East Asia, a holistic agreement to co-create a progressive East Asia was evident.

It was fortunate for the U.S.-Japan Youth Forum again to be gifted with motivated participants, supportive guests and sponsors, talented panelists and a good organizing team; which are the primary reasons why this forum has been and will keep worth being continuing.

Throughout the organization process, I believe it was through the unbiased dialogue between youth and professionals including advisors and sponsors which made the forum as polished as it was, with diverse critics and improvement beforehand. As one of the representatives of the youth side, I must show my deep appreciation for the professionals being patient, supportive and fair in making the forum together.

Next forum will again be on a hot topic surround Japan and the globe with outstanding youth panelists and committed organization, and I look forward to your participation and our meeting at the forum again.

第1部の総括 司会安川瑛美 パネリスト6名

Moderator: Emi YASUKAWA / MA Hitotsubashi University

Comment:

Given the contentious and well-debated theme “East Asia”, it was my task and panelists’ to deliver something slightly unconventional. Particularly what we as youth can offer was expected. In this sense, I am afraid that I have to say the forum fell in short. Reason being, some of the audience might thought what they’ve heard during the forum were already been discussed. Interactionism in economic transactions, significance of cultural understanding and human mobility and security in East Asia are not so much fresh to our ears.

However, we did prove a point during the discussion. It was a consensus that we want prosperous future in Asia, and it cannot be achieved by isolation of your country but by interaction and cooperation. The forum did provide the youth perspective of what we want in Asia collectively. It showed that in our mind, economic growth and cooperative approach in international arena is not mutually exclusive, these two are rather correlated. Now the question is how we can actually make Asia more prosperous. Although we couldn’t discuss enough about this part, it surely is our generation’s task to make steps forward.

It’s important that we continue holding on our vision of prosperous Asia, rather than exclusively thinking of prosperous Japan. Youth Forum is a great platform for youth to build such international/multinational point of view through dialogues.

Panelists



Singapore Soh Jiaying Jane

*4th year (Honours) student at the National University of Singapore
double-majoring in Japanese Studies and English Literature.*

Jane has spent a year in Japan immersing herself in its culture and lifestyle and this has driven home the importance of first-hand experience in truly understanding the culture of a country.



the United States Dillon Svec

*junior at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln
pursuing a triple major in the fields of International Studies, Political
Science, and Psychology*

American Delegate for the 62nd Japan-America Student Conference (JASC)

Interested in the role that cultural exchanges play in international relations, he interned at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln's International Affairs Office before leaving to studying at Toyo University in Tokyo, Japan, for one year. His main interest in the field of politics is the political landscape of Eastern Asia with China as an emerging superpower, and the role Okinawa plays in Japanese-American relations.



China Zhao Shanshan

Double Degree Student of Keio University in Japan, MA/ Graduate School of Media and Government, and Fudan University in China, MA/ Graduate School of International Relations and Public Affairs.

With the educational background of international politics, she focuses her research on WTO and trade policy, and also East Asian integration during her master study. She participated in the World Model United Nations (MUN) Conference held by Harvard University in 2009 and also founded a MUN association in Nanjing University of China.



Korea Han Jihoon

Junior at Aoyama Gakuin University, International Politics and Economics, Global Governance

Member of tutor in Aoyama Gakuin University (supporting foreign students as a volunteer work)

Studied in Taiwan Tamkang University in the period of 2010 summer vacation

As the globalization proceeded, East Asian countries need to cooperate each other much more. But there are so many things to overcome difficulties such as historical and territorial problems. In the process of discussion, he wants to show the effective ways to promote mutual exchange with his experience and idea.



Japan Oi Yoshiki

Junior at University of Tokyo, majoring in Economics

He has been working basically in the area of international migration and international finance. In international migration, he has been working on such issues as the economic impact of Japanese migration before World War II, and prospects on the contemporary immigration policy of Japan. As for international finance, he has been working on such issues as the process and the impact of Plaza Accord and Louvre Accord. Overall, his researches are aimed at analyzing the modern economy from the historical perspective.



Japan Kurihara Ryutaro

Sophomore at Keio University majoring in law

He had lived in Beijing, China for four and a half years during elementary and middle school, which got him interested in China and its relationship with other countries in the world, especially Japan and the U.S. He wishes to share the experiences he had in Beijing as a clue of how countries could improve their relationship with each other.



Moderator Yasukawa Emi
MA in Sociology at Hitotsubashi University focusing on
immigrant/refugee entrepreneurship and community
development.

She conducted a research in US on how promoting immigrant entrepreneurship could give positive influence in vitalizing community, and currently writing a graduate thesis. She worked as an executive committee for 61st Japan America Student Conference, particularly worked closely with Nagano prefecture and the city to host a forum discussing "globalization and regional branding" and with Obuse town to host a forum in "finding and leveraging local assets".

パネリストの総括とコメント Summary & reflection of panelists

1. Ryutaro Kurihara / Sophomore at Keio University

Title: “To Understand Other Culture: From Personal Experiences”

Presentation summary:

How can we “understand” different cultures? He elaborated his experience of living in China during the anti-Japanese demonstrations. The media exaggerated the situation as if all the Chinese people were against Japan, but in reality his life did not change even a single bit. He concluded that living in the country is important to sufficiently understand the culture and people.

Comment:

The 6th U.S-Japan Youth Forum was a brilliant opportunity for me. The importance of cultural exchange has long been claimed by governments, the media, professors, etc, and it was my intention in this forum to share my experiences in Beijing as an evidence of that claim.

Although we could have touched many other ways of interaction during our panel discussion, I was glad that we focused on a few basic areas – cultural exchange, economic interactions, and security issues. It allowed us to have an honest and deeper discussion of the topics.

It was also great that we were able to discuss what common values we have in East Asia, because common values allow us to interact easily. I think we have accomplished our goal of sharing what the youths honestly feel about East Asia today, and I feel honored that sharing my experiences contributed



to making that happen. Thank you very much to all the panelists, moderator and those who made this forum possible!

2. Yoshiki Ooi / Junior at University of Tokyo

Title: “Role of Economic Relationship in the Regional Security of East Asia”

Presentation summary:

From the viewpoint of economy, he elaborated why strong economic relationship in East Asia matters in building regional peace. Regardless of political tension between Japan and China, interdependency in economic terms of those two countries is growing fast. Role of government in activating business transactions among countries is highly expected than taking protective stance in economy.

Comment: I would like to express my greatest gratitude for providing us such a fantastic opportunity. First, it was the first time for me to have a discussion in such a formal occasion and with students from various counties. As my career plan, I would like to be a scholar on economics and I will surely have discussions like this, but we don't have so much chance to

have this kind of experience when we are students. It goes without saying that this opportunity was a great step toward my future career. Second, it was so nice I could exchange opinions with people with various backgrounds. One thing I cannot forget during the panel discussion and Q&A session is when I mentioned “money” as our common value. When I have discussions in my economic classes, almost no one even doubt this. However, during this panel discussion, some opposing opinions were casted and that became a very interesting discussion. Also, my presentation topic was the vision of “economic peace” theory, and that is related to my research at college. I was so fortunate that I could exchange opinions to my presentations with many participants even during the reception. That surely helps me brush up my research. It is unfortunately true that college students in Japan, including me, don't have so many opportunities to have discussions like this. I firmly

Japan-China Economic Relation (3)

• **Strong economic interdependency goes on regardless of political tension.**

• There has been little decline in business after the territorial incident in September 2010.

• Some even recorded the highest sales in China in September and October.



What can be done?

• **Firms, individuals:**

Seeking profits regardless of national borders.

• **Governments:**

- Maintaining the environment to encourage the smooth international business activities.

- Separating political tensions from business activities.



believe that providing students with more of this kind of opportunities will surely enlighten them and ultimately have great effects on Japanese society.

3. Jihoon Han / Junior of Aoyama Gakuin University.

Title: “East Asia – Mutual Cooperation”

Presentation summary:

Are today’s Japanese youth really introverted? Less people are studying abroad compared to other Asian countries, less are willing to work abroad. He discussed how Japan can internationalize itself in terms of human resources. Pointing out the significance of localizing human resources in extending businesses abroad, the active role of business sector in accumulating local knowledge through mutual understanding is already witnessed in competitive multinational companies.

Comment:

I greatly appreciated that I could participate in the Youth Forum. First, to speak my opinion about East Asia in front of students and spectators from all over the world was very impressive. In participate, I talked about necessity of globalization in Japan. Actually, there are so many problems in East Asia. For example, territorial disputes are exists even now. But, If we realize globalization with the cooperation of economy, military tension will be released. So, we need to cooperate each other much more in the field of economy or culture. I think that power-point was helpful to understand my presentation. I used picture and graph to emphasize my opinion. But, I spend much more time than regulated time to say my opinion. And, we couldn't have enough time to discuss each opinion much more. Entirely, I think we need to say much more about own opinion to audience. I was little nervous. But, everyone could understand our panelist's opinion. Also, chairperson Emi and other staffs helped very much to make good progress.

Number one is India
Japanese students are fewer than Korea and China.

Concerned Points
1. Lack of Communication Skill
2. International mind, thinking, technology
3. Decrease of Japan's influence

◆ Aging Society - Japan's GDP is decreasing - Balance of Power threatened
 How Japan cope with rising power of China? (International Cooperation)

Two Aspects of Globalization in East Asia

1. Respecting and Understanding the Culture of Local Countries
2. Making Multinational Company (Fashion, Car, Food etc.)
 - UNIQLO LEXUS

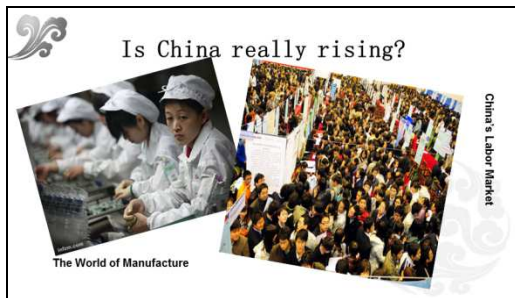
Borderless of Economic, Cultural Relationship
 Acceleration of mutual exchange among East Asian nations also connected development of military and political cooperation (EU)

4. Zhou Shanshan / Double Degree of Keio University and Fudan University in China

Title: “China’s Rising: From the Perspective of Chinese Youth”

Presentation summary:

Questioning whether China really is rising, she provided her perspectives in how to see and understand China. For better understanding of China, she particularly pointed out the significance of understanding the diversity within China (central and peripheral area) as an important variation.



Is China really a threat to the World?

- *Does China still focus on its economic development?*
- *Does China enquiry resources in the world properly?*
- *Does China take its international*

responsibility?

Comment:

All of the pre-forum and forum discussions are impressive. The only pity is, actually at this forum, there is no “result” from it. Maybe the presentation and discussion themselves are aims of the forum, but if there is anything can be preserved as “results” of Japan-U.S. Youth Forum every year, that will be better. The results can be a joint document or presentation which can show the core positions of the panelists about the topic. Of course it’s very difficult to get any result from such a broad topic like development of East Asia, but if the topic can get a balance between specific and interesting, (ex. The common values of East Asia), that will be helpful for discussion and getting some results. And also, our pre-forum discussions were very interesting. Therefore, my proposal is, we can prepare some joint document which contains our positions during pre-forum discussions and handout to the audiences.

And then, the aim of forum discussion is enriching this document, like highlighting some common points, compromising on different opinions if possible or adding in some important views from audiences. The mediator can coordinate the panel discussion and also the discussion with audience, since no matter how specific a topic is,

we can come up with lots of perspectives when we are absorbed. In that case, the discussion will be more concentrated and result-oriented.

5. Dillon Svec / Junior at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Title: “The Role of US in Asia”

Presentation summary:

As political geography of Asia changes, security in East Asia is the one contentious issue to be discussed. US’s diplomatic efforts are made to strengthen relationships with Asian countries bilaterally and multilaterally.

Comment:

Overall, I think the forum was amazing. I was able to meet with and discuss topics of interest with people from both sides of the Japanese-American relationship, and I was able to present to them my thoughts on issues facing the bilateral relationship.

I do feel, though, that the forum can be improved for next year. First and foremost, I feel that the panelists should have more time to present their speeches; the main goal of the forum is the presentation of the panelists opinions, and I feel that if each speaker were to have more time, and more comprehensive view can be given. Aside from that, I think that more time could be added to the question and answer portion of the forum. I think that the question and answer portion is the best opportunity for the panelists to express their opinions on a broad number of topics (whereas the speech is more of a medium for them to discuss one issue at some length) and the best opportunity for them to interact with the audience as a whole.

Other than that, I feel that the forum was a great success. Other than one ill-lengthed and somewhat confusing question in the question period (that all panelists may remember), I thought that the forum was very well timed (meaning that all of the portions of the forum were well organized). I look forward to seeing what the Youth Forum can do in the future, and hope that it continues its goal of providing students a medium to discuss Japanese-American relations.



6. Jane Jiaying Soh / Senior at National University of Singapore

Title: “Individual Consciousness in Our Modern Society”

Presentation summary:

Information is flooding, and we are losing control over it. Youth particularly could be relatively more sentimental in reacting toward information. She pointed out the necessity of critical point of view in judging information.



Do We Access Information? Or Does Information “Access” Us?

- Youths need to be more conscious of the things they hear and the things they do.
- Question things enough to make any action we take a responsible, well thought out one.

Comment:

I thought the forum was well-planned and well-executed by the committee in charge. A lot of effort had clearly been put in to ensure the forum ran smoothly--which it did. The audience was impressively international, with foreign and local students, journalists and intellectuals voicing opinions asking questions, and giving comments. The guest-of-honor, Princess Takamado even suggested that her speech portion of the forum be omitted from the following year onward due to the sheer number of people who had wanted to but had not managed to ask their questions by the end of the question and answer segment. Her insights and opinions however were definitely worth hearing and I hope that she will continue to speak in the forums to come.