

## Plenary Session

At the Plenary Session, which took place at the end of the Plenary Meeting, the policy proposals were announced, and a panel discussion based upon these was undertaken by the representatives of the concerned nations in Northeast Asia.

The policy proposals, after deliberation by the interested parties at the Economic Development Strategy Session in the morning of the same day, were announced by the Northeast Asia International Conference for Economic Development Executive Committee. The essential features, adding to the proposals from the six sessions of the previous day, were composed of the proposals from *The Vision for the Economic Development of Northeast Asia*, a collaborative effort between the Northeast Asia Development Conference and ERINA, with Ipppei Yamazawa, the former President of the International University of Japan, as its chairperson from 2004 onwards.

The completion of *The Vision for the Economic Development of Northeast Asia* was welcomed at the panel-discussion, which was dominated by calls to actively embrace the policy proposals.

Wang Sengjin, the Vice President of Jilin University, China, praised the objectivity of *The Vision for the Economic Development of Northeast Asia*, jointly compiled by five of the countries of Northeast Asia, and noted the progress on the Tumen River Transport Corridor. In addition, he mentioned the reciprocal action between the policy for the revitalization of the [Chinese] Northeast old industrial base and economic cooperation in Northeast Asia, and looked forward to the furthering of tourism and cultural exchange.

Batsukh Galsan, the Ambassador of Mongolia to China, concurred with the policy proposals, and rated them as a vision towards the formation of a Northeast Asian Community. The seven key areas of *The Vision for the Economic Development of Northeast Asia* coincide with

Mongolia's economic priority areas, and he called for a promotion in cooperation on a transport network extending to the sea, CDMs and Asian dust from among them. Additionally, with consideration towards a Northeast Asian Economic Community, he placed importance on a political thinking to advance the coordination of multilateral policies and the efficacy of bilaterally-based efforts.

Ahn Choong-yong, Chair Professor, Chung-Ang University, ROK, welcomed *The Vision for the Economic Development of Northeast Asia* as a development leading to a Northeast Asian Economic Community. He promoted the Northeast Asian business hub concept which is based on open regionalism, explained the ROK's stance on trying to link up the continental and oceanic economies, and expressed hope for the DPRK's participation in the concept of a Northeast Asian Economic Community. Additionally, he raised, as issues for the policy proposals, examining the substituting of development funding by the attraction of foreign investment, and a public and private sector partnership to take the next step forward.

Vladimir Syrkin, Deputy Chairperson of the Khabarovsk Krai Government, as information pertaining to the direction of development in the Russian Far East and eastern Siberia, brought up the establishment of a national committee for the socio-economic development of the Far East with Prime Minister Fradkov as chairperson, and the program, extended until 2025, of long-term development of the Russian Far East and the Zabaikal region. Amid the fast growth of Russia's economy, he stressed the importance, in the eastern part of Russia, not only of energy development, but also of exploiting the potential of manufacturing industry, and introduced initiatives for the promotion of projects and investment plans to that end.

Takafusa Shioya, the former President of the National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) and the Vice Chairman of the Northeast Asian Studies and Exchange

Network (NEASE-Net), expressed his conviction that a Northeast Asian Economic Community would lead to the formation of a Northeast Asian Community. Among the policy proposals in particular, he anticipated progress in the Tumen River Transport Corridor project and its coming into operation, and he presented a vision of a "Sea of Fertility", with many port-cities linked by Northeast Asian ferry routes.

The moderator, Susumu Yoshida, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, ERINA, brought up, as secondary themes, the issues of agriculture and food supply, and

movement in population and the labor force, and including the additional comments of Messrs Wang and Syrkin, stirred interest for international cooperation in these areas. Lastly, making reference to the roles of the policy proposals, he called for the participants to present the policy proposals in their respective countries, international organizations to start work, and through this process to further strengthen ties and cooperation.

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