

Conference Overview

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I would like to express my thanks to all those attending the international conference which took place over two snowy days. With everyone's participation and cooperation the conference was successfully completed in such a short time.

- 1 . The financial crisis which originated in the United States has greatly affected all of the countries of Northeast Asia. The effect on Japan has also been great and the GDP for October to December fell 3.3% on the previous quarter. In every country measures have been devised to tackle this unexpected economic turmoil, and new developments are being sought. At just such a time it is necessary to continue to define a vision of the future of Northeast Asia, decide on growth strategies, and implement stimulatory measures.
- 2 . At the Group of Seven meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors (G7) held in Rome on 13-14 February the necessity was stressed of yet further additional investment and containment of protectionism. At the same time great expectations were placed on the second Group of Twenty Summit (G20) to be held in April.
China and Russia are in the G20. Along with those of East Asia, the measures of the countries of Northeast Asia to escape from the current crisis are being watched. To hold the Northeast Asia International Conference for Economic Development at this time is opportune and of great significance.
- 3 . In the keynote addresses the domestic measures of various countries-Russia, China, Japan and others-were introduced and proposals were made for the strengthening of cooperative structures in Northeast Asia. Within them, the importance of fostering a mentality of cooperation with increased trust among all the nations and of the constructing of an intellectual network for the region was discussed. Capturing attention at the conference in particular were: that along with the continuation of the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit being important, it was proposed that in conjunction informal talks between the leaders of countries which comprise Northeast Asia should be organized that include Russia and Mongolia, etc.; and that there was also the statement that an ASEAN Plus Three Plus Three (Russia, Mongolia, and in the future the DPRK) is hoped for.
- 4 . In the sessions, cooperation in the fields of Northeast Asian energy conservation, food security, environmental cooperation, and distribution, and the current situations and challenges thereof, were examined. Many proposals were made looking to the future.
- 5 . As future directions, in each sector-with trade and investment, and finance added to the energy, environment, distribution and tourism, and food sectors-it is important that there is the continuation and development of all of the respective forms of cooperation, energy security, an energy community, the introduction and dissemination of energy-conservation and environmental technology, financial cooperation, food security, the development of Northeast Asian transportation corridors such as the establishment of Japan Sea shipping routes and the construction of a railway in the eastern part of Mongolia, the continuation of the International Forum on Northeast Asian Tourism, and the substantiation of such concepts as the establishment a Northeast Asian development bank; and the formation and development of the Northeast Asian economic subregion are things which depend upon the development of cooperation in these various sectors.
One of the onuses of this conference is that the participants take home with them the concrete proposals made at the conference, report them at each country's governmental institutions and at all forms of meetings, develop them further, and thus result in their implementation.

Amid the financial crisis, the stronger cooperation of government organizations and the private sector in each area is called for. Our international conference, as a conference constituted from "track-two", or the public, private, academic, and economic worlds, is intended to continue strengthening interchange and cooperation in each sector in the future between all of the nations of Northeast Asia, forging links between the governments of each country.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the interpreters for their hard work throughout the conference, and all the persons concerned who cooperated in the progression of the conference.

[Translated by ERINA]