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350 Guests Attended the Japan Foundation CGP/ Abe Fellowship Program 25th Anniversary Symposium



Photo: Atsuko Takagi

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) and Abe Fellowship Program marked their 25th anniversary by holding an international symposium “Emerging Futures in a Changing World,” on Tuesday, November 15, in Tokyo at Toranomon Hills Forum. These events were held in collaboration with the Social Science Research Council.

*More information of the symposium can be found at:

<http://www.jpff.go.jp/cgp/e/fellow/abe/news/symposium161115.html>

The Symposium was attended by around 350 guests including diplomats, researchers, and scholars. Fifteen Abe Fellows, experts in fields such as economics and political science, discussed changes that have occurred in governance, security, trade, and international relations over the last 25 years. The recent U.S. elections have highlighted a growing international climate replete with contradictions, disintegration, and misunderstanding and a United States retreating from the international area. Simultaneously, it is also providing an opportunity for Japan to take a leadership role in such fields as trade, security and regional governance.

A reception, following the symposium, was attended by around 200 guests, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and Mrs. Yoko Abe, wife of the late Mr. Shintaro Abe, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. Prime Minister Abe noted that the establishment of CGP envisioned by Mr. Shintaro Abe was based on the ideal that “the U.S. and Japan need to develop an intellectual network for the future and that both countries should work collaboratively to solve the many complex challenges in the world”. He also made known his expectation of further achievements in this regard by CGP and Abe Fellows. The Japan-U.S. alliance, he stated, will similarly address the various challenges facing the international community.

*The full text of his remarks in English, with the video, is on the official website of Prime Minister and his cabinet at :

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/actions/201611/15article3.html

Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz said of Mr. Shintaro Abe in a video message, that he is “a friend” and one with whom “you could discuss with great candor matters of state” and Mr. Abe thought “things through.” This video message aired at the reception celebrating the 25th anniversary of CGP and the Abe Fellowship Program.

Mrs. Yoko Abe noted that “an intimate relationship, forged over time, between counterparts was essential for effective diplomacy as Mr. Abe and Mr. Shultz tackled the challenges of U.S., Japan, and the world. Illustrated, she mentioned, by the fact that Mr. Abe shared a letter containing the concept of the proposed Center for Global Partnership with Mr. Shultz during its establishment phase.

He was presented a “Certificate of Appreciation” from the president of Japan Foundation for his invaluable contributions to the development of CGP as a Special Advisor.

Symposium

■ **Date and Time:** Tuesday, 15 November 2016, 1:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.

■ **Venue:** Toranomom Hills Forum, Main Hall

■ **Program of Symposium:**

【“The U.S.-Japan Partnership in the context of a changing world”】

Keynote Address 1

Yukio Okamoto (President, Okamoto Associates)

“Searching For a New Equilibrium of East Asia”

Keynote Address 2

Gerald Curtis (Burgess Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Columbia University)

“Preparing for an Uncertain Future”

【Expert’s Dialogue】

Akihiko Tanaka (Professor of International Politics, The University of Tokyo)

Sheila Smith (Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations)

Yoshihide Soeya (Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Keio University)

【Panel 1: Shifting Power Relations and Global Governance】

Panelists

Richard Samuels (Ford International Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

“Choices and Changes in Japan’s Security Environment”

Akio Takahara (Professor, The University of Tokyo)

“What China’s Rise Means for Japan and the United States”

Yoshiko Kojo (Professor, The University of Tokyo)

“Clash of Global Public Goods in Globalizing World: State and Private Actors in Global Governance”

Discussant

Muthiah Alagappa (Distinguished Scholar in Residence, American University)

Moderator

Hiroshi Nakanishi (Professor, Kyoto University)

【Panel 2: Transnational economic and financial institutions】

Panelists

Kaoru Sugihara (Professor, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature)

“The Asia-Pacific Economy and the Rise of China: An Historical Overview”

Mireya Solis (Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution)

“The Future of International Trade in an era of Rising Populism”

Saadia Pekkanen (Gertrud Tamaki Professor, University of Washington)

“Asian Governance in the World Order”

Discussant

Takatoshi Ito (Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University)

Moderator

Barbara Stallings (Williams R. Rhodes Research Professor, Brown University)

【Wrap-up Comments】 Yoshihide Soeya (Professor, Keio University)

«The Japan Foundation CGP»

The Center for Global Partnership (CGP) was established within the Japan Foundation in April 1991 to promote collaboration between the people of Japan, the United States, and beyond in order to address issues of global concern.

Both the United States and Japan, through their mutual interdependence, play an important role in international politics and the world economy. However, the people and institutions of both countries need to go a step further in order to create a stronger partnership at the global level, to strengthen the stability of the world and to promote the welfare of human beings.

CGP provides funding for collaborative projects conducted by the people of the U.S., Japan and beyond on global issues, problems common to advanced industrial societies, and other issues that pertain to U.S.-Japan relations.

«Abe fellowship Program»

The Abe Fellowship program, a major pillar of the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) programing, is designed to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. In 1990 the vision of CGP was first put forth by then Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe. CGP and the Abe Fellowship were launched in 1991. Research support to individuals is at the core of the program. The objectives are to foster high quality research that is policy-relevant, contemporary, and comparative or transnational as well as build new collaborative networks of researchers around programatic foci. Similarly, the Abe Fellowship Program for Journalists is designed to encourage in-depth coverage of topics of pressing concern to the United States and Japan through individual short-term policy-related projects.

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