

**Research Report on International Economy and
Foreign Affairs**

(Excerpt)

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Foreword

The Committee has been active for three years, with “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region” as its research theme. Since its establishment in September 2016, the Committee has strenuously discussed political and economic relations between Japan and major countries in the Asia Pacific region; the current situation of cross-border issues in the region and the challenges for their solution; initiatives for building confidence, which is closely related to the peace and prosperity of the region; the state of the foreign policy implementation structure necessary for the improvement of diplomatic capabilities and strategy; and other relevant topics. In the two interim reports, the stances of the Committee were presented in the form of a summary of issues and recommendations.

In the third and final year, the Committee focused on the “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs), global development goals to secure social, economic, and environmental sustainability, which are essential for realizing the peace and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region. In relation to the SDGs, the Committee also focused on the Paris Agreement, an agreement to address escalating climate change. Initiatives that Japan should take and the implementation structure necessary for the resolution of such issues have been discussed. In addition, the Committee conducted research on ways to assess and use Japan’s soft power, including culture, in foreign policy and other fields to promote confidence-building initiatives for realizing peace, in light of a recent increase in interpersonal exchanges, such as the increase in international visitors to Japan.

Japan will host its first ever G20 Summit this year. In the third year of the research, the Committee dispatched its members to Osaka Prefecture and Kyoto Prefecture to conduct a survey on ways to take advantage of opportunities to host international events, such as the G20 Summit and Osaka-Kansai Expo. This is because initiatives at the frontline, such as those by local governments, are expected to be enhanced to increase the viability of culture and people to people exchanges. Another reason for the dispatch is that Japan is expected

to play a leading role in these discussions in the international community by communicating Japan's initiatives toward the resolution of international challenges, such as the achievement of the SDGs. The outcome of the survey is included in this report.

This report, which is the final report of the Committee, summarizes the outline of the discussions, mainly on the research conducted in the third year, and makes recommendations. It must be reiterated that the fundamental essence of the report is based on the detailed discussions held during the past two years under the late KONOIKE Yoshitada, the former Chairman of the Committee, who passed away on December 25, 2018 without having fulfilled his goals.

I. Research Process

The House of Councillors establishes Research Committees to conduct long-term and comprehensive research relating to fundamental matters of government. For the purpose of conducting long-term and comprehensive research on the international economy and foreign affairs, the Research Committee on International Economy and Foreign Affairs was established on September 26, 2016, during the 192nd session of the National Diet.

At the beginning, at a Board of Directors meeting on December 14, 2016, the Committee decided on “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region” as the theme for this three-year term’s research. The Committee also adopted five subsidiary research themes: “Current Situation of Cross-Border Issues and Challenges for Their Solution,” “Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace,” “Challenges for Initiatives to Enhance Diplomatic Capabilities and Strategy,” “Challenges for Confidence-Building Initiatives to Use Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges,” and “Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the Paris Agreement.”

In the first year, after conducting a general review, the Committee listened to opinions of testifiers and asked them questions with respect to “Challenges for Initiatives to Enhance Diplomatic Capabilities and Strategy” and “Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace,” and Committee members exchanged views with each other. Subsequently, the Committee finalized the research report (interim report) on May 31, 2017 and submitted it to the president.

In the second year, the Committee covered the “Current Situation of Cross-Border Issues and Challenges for Their Solution” and “Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace” and listened to opinions of testifiers and asked them questions. In addition, Committee members received reports from delegations of lawmakers dispatched abroad, listened to explanations from the government, and exchanged

views with each other. The Committee also visited relevant organizations in Yokohama City and Tokyo and Committee members exchanged views. After going through these processes, the Committee finalized the research report (interim report) on June 6, 2018 and submitted it to the president.

For its research in the third year, which is the main focus of this report, the Committee selected “Challenges for Confidence-Building Initiatives to Use Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges” (February 27, 2019) and “Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the Paris Agreement” (April 17 of the same year) from among the five research themes in the 198th session of the National Diet and listened to opinions of three testifiers on each time and asked them questions. In addition, the Committee dispatched its members to Osaka Prefecture and Kyoto Prefecture to conduct a “Situation Survey on Initiatives for and Challenges for Using Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges and Initiatives to Promote International Commitments Including SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) by Hosting International Events, etc.” (February 20 and 21 of the same year). Finally, Committee members exchanged views with each other on the subsidiary research themes of “Challenges for Confidence-Building Initiatives to Use Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges” and “Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the Paris Agreement” among other topics under the main theme, “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region” (April 17 of the same year).

II. Research Outline

1. Challenges for Confidence-Building Initiatives to Use Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges

Amid the rapid globalization of the international community and increased complexity of the situation in the Asia Pacific region, Japan is expected to enhance its diplomatic capabilities to promote diplomacy and facilitate the shaping of international opinion. It has become important to recognize, among possible diplomatic capabilities, the potential of soft power and take advantage of it. In addition, the state of soft power including culture and people to people exchanges and promotion of public diplomacy using soft power has become an extremely important issue in light of confidence building in the Asia Pacific region in the future.

Driving forward confidence building has been a challenge, especially in East Asia, where the international situation, including the national security environment, has become increasingly tense in recent years. In particular, building a relationship of trust at the grassroots level is an important challenge.

Against the background of such international situation, it is necessary to consider the forms of culture and people to people exchanges required for confidence building in the Asia Pacific region and the roles Japan can play, based on a renewed look at the attractiveness of Japanese culture as a source of Japan's soft power, forms of cultural exchange that may lead to confidence building, and the role each actor, such as the government and private sector organizations, should play.

Therefore, the Committee listened to opinions of testifiers and discussed with them the current situation pertaining to the sharing of Japanese culture through actual cultural exchange initiatives; the significance of culture in international relations and roles of the state, civil society, and other actors in cultural exchanges; the necessity of cultural diplomacy strategies; and other relevant topics.

The points of discussion included the following matters: the source of Japan's soft power and the foundation of Japan's diplomacy; renewed recognition of Japan's soft power; rediscovery of Japanese culture and specialty products that may attract attention from overseas; the key to spreading Japanese culture around the world; points to be noted in cultural exchange; roles of the state and civil society in cultural diplomacy; significance of communication by the state about the necessity of continuous cultural exchange; necessity of overseas locations that introduce Japanese culture and institutions that cultivate familiarity with the Japanese language; necessity of mutual intellectual exchange through TV broadcasting, etc.; impact of media on national sentiments and challenges for public relations; independence of NHK from the government and ways to enhance international broadcasting; measures to cultivate familiarity with Japanese-style food culture; response to cultural differences for which gaining overseas understanding can be difficult, such as whaling and consumption of whale meat; importance of food education in cultural exchange; ways of providing state support to facilitate international exchange led by the private sector; importance of understanding not only the culture but also the actual situation of other countries; necessity of expanding exchange programs of universities, etc. under the credit transfer system; setting discussion topics for Japan's Friendship Ties Programs; ways to export kimono culture; how the KIMONO Project gained the cooperation of kimono artisans; vision of the KIMONO Project toward the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and afterwards; vitalization of the regional economy and increase in demand for kimono through initiatives to spread kimono culture to the world; appeal of kimono and current situation of kimono artisans; implications of kimono rental businesses targeting tourists for the kimono industry; expansion of overseas kimono sales channels through overseas Japanese restaurants, etc.; reasons for which Japanese culture is especially widespread in France; cultural PR activities by France; necessary initiatives on the Japan side for a good Japan-South Korea relationship; and cultural diplomacy of Okinawa Prefecture with foreign countries.

(1) Outline of Statement of Opinions by Testifiers

(Omitted)

(2) Main Points of Discussion

(Omitted)

2. Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the Paris Agreement

The “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs), which were agreed upon at the United Nations Summit in 2015 as goals to be achieved by 2030, and the “Paris Agreement,” an international framework concerning climate change, are important outcomes of the international community squarely facing serious issues that threaten not only the stability and prosperity of states but also the sustainability of human beings and the earth. Securing the survival, livelihoods, and dignity is becoming increasingly important in achieving sustainable development and realizing peace, as various factors that threaten peace are complexly intertwined with each other. Under such circumstances, Japan has been focusing on such initiatives based on the concept of human security.

Although the role of government is still important in today’s international community, as shown by the consensus process for both the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, various actors, such as civil society as represented by NGOs, private enterprises, and local governments, have come to play a significant role in working to resolve cross-border, global issues. Close coordination between such actors is becoming increasingly necessary in driving forward effective initiatives.

As efforts to realize peace in the Asia Pacific region stand on the premise of resolving such challenges, it is important for Japan to make further contributions to their resolution. For this purpose, discussions are required on the ways to build a more appropriate domestic scheme for implementation.

Therefore, the Committee listened to opinions of testifiers and discussed with them initiatives by the Japanese government, such as those by JICA, and challenges for the realization of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, the domestic pervasiveness of the SDGs and challenges for the enhancement of the promotion system, Japan’s challenges for realizing the Paris Agreement in light of the handling of coal-fired power plants, etc., and

other relevant topics.

The points of discussion included the following matters: characteristics of the SDGs and challenges around increasing citizens' level of familiarity with them, etc.; ways to communicate Japan's initiatives concerning the SDGs to the international community; relationship between resolving various challenges embodied in the SDGs and conducting research; initiatives by overseas youths against climate change; challenges for transforming the targets in the SDGs into Japan's challenges; measures to involve the private sector; using SDGs for vitalization of local communities; significance of the National Diet's resolution for promoting the SDGs; contents of the basic SDGs law; summary of revision of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles; concerns over the "virtuous circle for environment and economy" theory; problems of overseas cooperation with regard to coal-fired power plants; using forests to achieve Japan's targets set by the Paris Agreement; using forests as a resource alternative to coal; specific measures for Japan to realize a decarbonized society; significance of ODA and concerns amid the spread of national particularism; response to domestic criticism against ODA; roles of civil society in resolving international challenges; and importance of discussing desirable societies with a focus on human rights.

(1) Outline of Statement of Opinions by Testifiers

(Omitted)

(2) Main Points of Discussion

(Omitted)

3. Dispatch of Committee Members

(Omitted)

4. Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region (“Challenges for Confidence-Building Initiatives to Use Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges,” “Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] and the Paris Agreement,” etc.) (Exchange of Views among Committee members)

(Omitted)

III. Recommendations

The Committee makes the following recommendations, mainly with respect to “Challenges for Confidence-Building Initiatives to Use Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges” and “Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the Paris Agreement” under the main research theme for the current three-year period, “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region,” while keeping in mind the research conducted in the first and second years and taking into consideration the results of the questioning of testifiers in two sessions, exchange of views among Committee members, and dispatch of Committee members in the third year.

1. Basic Stances on Japan’s Public Diplomacy

Due to diversity of political and economic system, stages of economic development and cultures, as well as historical background and other factors, the Asia Pacific region is lagging behind in institutional regional integration compared with other regions in the world. The complexly intertwined interests of each country sometimes make it difficult to coordinate those interests, and confrontation between nations entails a risk of causing military conflicts. Amid concerns over friction among individual countries caused by the issue of North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs and China’s assertive foreign policies, the role of diplomacy has become increasingly important in realizing peace in the region.

Dialogue, which is the starting point of diplomacy, aims to overcome differences in values among the different countries. Considering that the culture of each country is closely related to the values of its nationals, exchanges between different cultures can be considered exchanges of values. From such a standpoint, cultural diplomacy, which is central to public diplomacy, directly reaches out to the citizens and public sentiments of other countries and plays an important role in confidence building and the realization of peace.

Taking such factors into account, the spreading of the image of Japan as a stable and peaceful nation should be the foundation of its cultural diplomacy. Owing to its long history, Japanese culture spans a wide variety of forms, from traditional culture to pop culture including comics and cartoons. In recent years, Japanese culture has been attracting increased attention from other countries. Considering the boom in related events and increasing number of tourists from abroad, Japan should enhance initiatives to maintain the momentum into the future. In addition to continuity, building the image of a peaceful nation in a firm context is important in such initiatives.

When considering culture as a soft power, the special characteristics of Japanese culture tend to be emphasized as constituting its appeal. It is, however, important to demonstrate distinct characteristics within the scope of universality. In cultural diplomacy, initiatives are expected to be based on the underlying common standards. In addition, initiatives should not be implemented aimlessly. Rather, targets of the initiatives need to be considered in detail, and evaluations as well as responses need to be carefully reviewed. Moreover, gaining sufficient knowledge on the characteristics of the society of each country leads to a true understanding of different cultures. Intellectual exchanges in social science and other fields should therefore be promoted as well.

As public diplomacy reaches out to people from other countries directly, boosting familiarity with the Japanese language is important. Current initiatives, such as dissemination activities in local areas, should therefore be enhanced. In doing so, attractive content that audiences need knowledge of the Japanese language to enjoy should be used actively, just as comics and cartoons have been directing attention to the Japanese language.

2. Promoting People to People Exchanges for Confidence Building as the Foundation of Peace

The international community founded the United Nations to realize peace after World War II and also established the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a specialized agency, paying attention to the role played by

cultural cooperation and exchange.

While states still play a role as leading actors in today's international community, the roles and influence of various actors, such as private enterprises and civil society, are expanding as a result of economic and technological development, increased interdependence, social advancement, and other factors. In being free from narrow-minded nationalism, overcoming confrontation and exclusion, and realizing peace, promoting people to people exchanges mediated by culture, etc. is more urgently required now than at the time of UNESCO's founding. It is also required in tapping into the potential of civil society and other actors.

Cultural exchange is a positive force that creates something new through the exchange of inspirations and can be a foundation to develop outlooks open to different ideas. Positive public sentiments should be generated by promoting such cultural exchanges at the grassroots and building relationships based on trust among people. To achieve the expected results, it is important that exchanges are carried out freely. The state should mainly play the role of offering support from behind the scenes, such as creating an environment that promotes exchange and eliminating constraints.

As can be seen in the Japan-South Korea relationship, political confrontation and the deterioration of national sentiments are often found between neighboring countries. Based on the fact that an increase in "visible" friends at the grassroots level contributes to a smooth resolution at times of confrontation, the importance of continuous exchanges in the private sector should be independent of political issues and be sufficiently communicated, and necessary efforts should be made to avoid discouraging initiatives by local governments, private sector organizations, and other actors. It should be recognized that culture is a significant soft power for Japan and a decrease in people to people exchanges mediated by culture undermines Japan's national power.

When it comes to specific exchange opportunities, mutual understanding between young people, such as university and graduate school students, can be the foundation of peace in local communities as they are likely to be open-minded. The realization of systems

that facilitate studying abroad and student exchanges on both sides, such as credit transfer systems, should therefore be pursued. In addition, themes should be set carefully, and discussions should proceed in an appropriate direction when sharing views at exchange events, so that the discussion can be developed to consider fundamental issues for mutual understanding, such as culture and ethnic groups.

Interpersonal exchange is essential not only at the grassroots level but also between governments to enhance mutual understanding. As knowledge of the Japanese language is important for deeper understanding of the intent of Japan's policies, the thinking and culture of the Japanese people that underlie the policies, and Japanese society, opportunities to attend Japanese language training for foreign diplomats, etc., such as training programs currently offered by the Japan Foundation, should be expanded in terms of both quality and quantity.

3. Initiatives to Use Culture as a Part of Soft Power

The remarkable development of information and communication technology and means of international transportation as well as increased convenience in the movement of people, such as in tourism, have enabled people today to readily access different cultures. In other words, contact with different cultures is becoming an everyday affair. In light of such situation, the value of culture as a source of soft power is increasing more than ever before.

In facilitating understanding of Japanese culture and effectively communicating its appeal at such times, increasing importance is attributed not only to exhibitions and other events organized by the government but also to cultural activities and exchanges at the grassroots level led by various actors in the private sector, such as private enterprises and civil society.

In introducing culture and promoting cultural exchange, it is vital to avoid being obtrusive and to respect the culture of the recipient. Initiatives in which people with different cultural backgrounds exchange views to work toward a shared goal or organize an event

facilitate the building of relationships based on deep confidence and serve as the foundation of long-lasting, as opposed to transient, relationships. Exchanges in the private sector also derive their strength from such perspective, and it is necessary to support such initiatives.

Meanwhile, initiatives by the private sector face challenges in terms of sustainability due to a weaker financial base and other issues. Some initiatives have been successful as a result of high aspirations and steady efforts, despite having been unable to receive support, such as subsidies, from the government at the beginning. A scheme should be developed to identify such initiatives and offer support from the public sector. In doing so, it must be noted that a virtuous cycle of production and consumption is essential in maintaining culture in a self-sustaining manner. Coordination with industrial policies is important on the premise that the intrinsic value of culture is not undermined.

In addition, Japanese-style food represents core elements of the spirit and sensitivity of the Japanese people through the seasonality expressed and serving dishes used and is often considered a comprehensive representation of Japanese culture. Promotion therefore requires efforts to facilitate understanding of such background. Meanwhile, the food cultures of Japan, China, and South Korea share the idea that a balanced diet leads to a healthy body. Taking this into consideration, it is important to drive forward confidence-building initiatives through food education.

Each region of Japan has a unique and prominent culture, which can also serve as soft power. To maintain and develop such cultures, it is important that Japanese people take a renewed look at their own culture, properly appraise its value, and show respect to bearers of the culture. Further efforts should be made to raise the awareness of citizens through education and other means.

4. Initiatives Taking Advantage of International Visitors

In recent years, the number of international visitors to Japan has been increasing steadily, exceeding 30 million for the first time in 2018. While “consumption of goods” by international visitors, typified by so-called “shopping sprees,” mainly by Chinese tourists,

initially attracted attention, it is said that “consumption of services” has recently been on the rise. This reflects the fact that people from other countries now have an increased interest in and high regard for Japanese history, society, culture, nature, etc. Such trends should be taken advantage of to communicate the appeal of Japan more effectively.

An increase in the number of international visitors and long-term non-Japanese residents facilitates mutual understanding between different cultures through interpersonal exchange and may lead to the development of citizens who have international outlooks and broad perspectives. Meanwhile, contact with different cultures may involve the risk of triggering various issues of concern as well as religious and cultural frictions. Careful responses by the state, local governments, and other relevant entities are therefore expected.

Firstly, any influx of terrorists, criminals, prohibited goods such as drugs and firearms, and infectious diseases, which can result from the increased movement of people, must be prevented at the border as a prerequisite. For this purpose, enhanced initiatives should be implemented by establishing CIQ systems at international airports, ports, and other necessary locations across Japan as soon as possible. In doing so, a balance should be sought between smooth and strict control and inspection procedures by implementing effective and efficient measures, such as active introduction of cutting-edge technologies, information exchange and cooperation with relevant institutions of other countries, and assignment of necessary personnel. At the same time, the improvement of working conditions of relevant employees should also be kept in mind.

To host international visitors without causing difficulties and foster mutual understanding, long-term, steady initiatives on the Japanese side are also expected. Local governments and other relevant actors should host attractive exchange events at tourist sites, etc. so that an increase in non-Japanese people does not result in the alienation of Japanese people or deterioration of public safety. Through such events, they should also drive forward initiatives to familiarize non-Japanese people with Japanese culture, including etiquette. In addition, the government should start collecting and providing good practices and enhance necessary support to realize a diverse multicultural society, taking advantage of the

characteristics of each local community. Through education and other means, it is necessary to explain the significance of multicultural coexistence in detail and foster better understanding, so that local governments and residents can welcome long-term non-Japanese residents as actors in the local community and economy and regard multicultural coexistence as a positive idea.

5. Enhancement of Communication and Diplomatic Capabilities through Hosting International Events

In 2019, Japan will host important international conferences, such as the G20 Summit in Osaka and relevant meetings and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7). International events will be held in the future as well, with the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and Osaka-Kansai Expo scheduled for 2020 and 2025, respectively.

These international events, especially international conferences, serve as important opportunities to present Japan's awareness and values to the world, since decisions on the main agenda and themes reflect the interests of Japan, the host country. In light of this, Japan should proactively host relevant international conferences and exercise leadership for problem-solving, especially in fields where Japan has knowledge and experience. In doing so, it is necessary to provide logical explanations about the universality of the Japanese model based on clear corroboration and gain understanding.

Meanwhile, a large number of ordinary people are expected to visit Japan from all over the world for events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Expo. Taking advantage of such opportunities, Japan is expected, not least from the perspective of public diplomacy, to introduce the appealing features of the country and to increase the number of people with fond feelings for Japan. In doing so, it is important that we Japanese have a sufficient understanding of our own history, culture, etiquette, society, etc., which constitute the appealing features of Japan, so that we may introduce them with confidence and pride. Further initiatives through school education and other means are required in this respect. In

addition, initiatives are necessary to understand, through interviews, etc., the specific interests of foreigners from countries that are the sources of large numbers of visitors to Japan and to utilize the findings for cultural diplomacy, etc. in the future.

Furthermore, it is necessary to send a message in an effective way about how Japan's communication through those events is relevant to overcoming challenges, such as the SDGs, that the international community faces today, based on the characteristics of the targets of the message and a clear context.

6. Role of Japan in Resolving Global Challenges

Today, the Asia Pacific region, which includes the three largest countries in terms of population and economy as well as a number of other rapidly growing countries, is not only a driving force of the world economy but is also becoming increasingly important in the realization of world peace and stability. Meanwhile, the rapid progress of globalization and deepening of economic interdependence have caused broad economic and social distortions in individual countries. As the negative impacts have spread not only domestically but also across borders to become a global challenge, initiatives to resolve this challenge are required in the region.

The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, focusing on economic, social, and environmental sustainability among many global challenges. The basic philosophy of the SDGs is to leave no one behind, whether in a developed or developing country. This is akin to the idea of human security, which Japan has been promoting, and initiatives concerning the SDGs are also essential for realizing peace in the region.

Through various means of international cooperation, such as ODA, Japan has contributed to the resolution of various challenges in developing countries, mainly in the areas of health, education, the environment, and infrastructure development. To achieve the SDGs, it is necessary to continue to drive initiatives forward in fields of international cooperation where Japan has knowledge and strength. For this purpose, Japan should

enhance both the quality and quantity of its ODA. In addition, notwithstanding that Japan should also promote initiatives in fields included in the SDGs, its domestic initiatives have not necessarily been sufficient, such as in relation to gender equality and public-private partnerships.

Furthermore, climate change, which threatens the continued existence of human beings and the sustainability of the earth itself, is an important global challenge closely related to the SDGs. The Paris Agreement is the key worldwide initiative to resolve the issue. It is necessary for the entire international community to tackle climate change through steady initiatives by each country, including Japan, to achieve the goals set by the Accord.

In particular, initiatives in the Asia Pacific region, which includes the two countries emitting the largest amount of CO₂ from energy use, are key to any success. Japan should promptly develop the long-term strategies called for in the Paris Agreement to indicate at home and abroad the direction it will take toward the realization of a decarbonized society, and strive to steadily implement various policies while encouraging citizens, private enterprises, and other relevant entities to change their way of thinking. At the same time, Japan should be a driving force in the region for realization of the goals set by the Paris Agreement, by sharing with developing countries through international cooperation, etc. knowledge, technology, and know-how that it has cultivated in various fields including energy-saving technology, technology for renewable energy, and forest conservation.

7. Building Domestic Schemes for Promoting Sustainable Development Goals

To achieve the SDGs and goals set by the Paris Agreement, extensive economic and social reform is necessary. It is therefore essential to gain the understanding of citizens as to the background and significance of the initiatives to achieve the goals and to ask for their cooperation in implementing the initiatives. The concept of sustainability, which is the foundation of such initiatives, is linked to Japanese culture, which cherishes coexistence with nature and regeneration. As this indicates that Japan can lead the initiatives in the international community, the country is expected to steadily drive current domestic

initiatives forward.

Looking at the domestic situation, an increasing number of large companies and local governments have come to recognize the SDGs, compared with the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While this is as a result of active PR activities by the government, the international ESG investment trend, and other relevant factors, the SDGs are not sufficiently known among small and medium-sized enterprises and the general public.

To ensure widespread understanding of and broaden support for the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, what is required is a review of the purposes of and approaches toward familiarization in accordance with the targets, such as the general public, educational institutions, private companies, the media, and local governments. At the same time, not only the executive branch but also the legislative branch need to demonstrate the government's willingness to drive forward the initiatives in earnest for the promotion of the SDGs. For this purpose, the National Diet, which represents the citizens of Japan, should engage in lively discussions on specific measures for the SDGs as a national strategy, propose a desirable state of Japanese society in line with the SDGs, and consider the enactment of basic legislation for promotion of the SDGs, resolutions, and other measures to establish schemes to enable the participation of diverse stakeholders in the process of developing and implementing the initiatives to achieve the SDGs.

8. Initiatives for Effective Cooperation with Multi-stakeholders including NGOs

Due to the active movement of people, goods, money, information, etc. that supports globalization, the capabilities and influence of a diverse range of actors other than the state, such as private enterprises, local governments, civil society, and individuals, are increasing. The role of these actors has become increasingly important in resolving various global challenges facing the international community.

Specifically, NGOs, etc., which represent civil society, play a large role in the consensus process and implementation of international treaties to ban anti-personnel mines

and nuclear weapons, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, etc. As shown by the increasing importance of ESG investment, which takes environmental, social, and governance factors into consideration, international norms and frameworks born amid such a trend not only regulate the behavior of states as signatories but also create an opportunity for investors, private enterprises, and individuals to take ownership of the issues and act. In addition, fine-tuned initiatives to resolve challenges, implemented by NGOs at the grassroots level in the field of international cooperation, play an essential role in realizing the philosophy of the SDGs, which is to leave no one behind.

Meanwhile, it has been pointed out that challenges faced by Japanese NGOs include smaller-scale activities and fewer personnel compared with international NGOs due to financial constraints, etc., as well as the government's process for making policies, such as policies to achieve the SDGs and tackle climate change, being unable to sufficiently reflect the discussions voiced by citizens through NGOs, etc., due to how members of deliberative councils are selected and how the councils are administered.

As it is impossible to resolve increasingly serious international challenges by national initiatives alone, coordinating and sharing roles with multi-stakeholders including NGOs is essential. For example, opportunities to consult with NGOs, etc. with a view to policymaking should be enhanced in terms of both quality and quantity, and personnel exchanges between government institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and NGOs as well as funding for NGOs should be conducted with more flexibility. Systems to encourage more interaction between the legislature and NGOs as well as to introduce the views of NGOs to the legislature should also be considered to effectively promote such coordination, etc.

Afterword

The Committee was established in September 2016, when the issue of North Korea's nuclear and missile programs was becoming increasingly serious and tensions between China and neighboring countries due to China's assertive foreign policy had been destabilizing the international environment in the Asia Pacific region, where Japan is located, and had made the realization of peace a significant challenge. While the international situation in the region, such as tensions between the U.S. and China, has been changing since its establishment, the Committee continued to engage in candid discussions about what Japan can and should do to resolve this difficult challenge.

This three-year term's research reaffirmed the importance and vulnerability of the Asia Pacific region in today's global political and economic landscape. The Committee members shared the recognition that confidence building and regional cooperation are key to ensure the sustainable peace and prosperity of the region.

When driving such initiatives forward, a better bilateral relationship would effectively be established by taking advantage of the outcome of initiatives to create common interests through multilateral cooperation. This is because multilateral cooperation to resolve regional or global challenges is more beneficial and potential than bilateral initiatives, which are more easily affected by the power balance between and interests of the countries involved, the historical background, and other factors.

For confidence building, multi-layered initiatives, such as those between governments and between citizens, are necessary. While the government is expected to enhance the foreign policy implementation structure in terms of both quality and quantity, it is essential that the National Diet, which represents the citizens of Japan, and multi-stakeholders including NGOs play a role by taking advantage of their strengths and characteristics. In addition, building trust at the grassroots level has become increasingly important amid the spread of democracy and increased influence of the middle class and media in each country. As people's thoughts can be bound by their own culture and mutual understanding between

different cultures is important, initiatives that take advantage of Japan's soft power through culture and people to people exchanges are effective.

Following the summary of issues and recommendations in the two interim reports, the Committee has made recommendations including specific measures in the final report. Realizing lasting peace has been an everlasting challenge for humanity since ancient times. And it is a difficult challenge for which the international community today, despite its rapid globalization and integration, still has not found a fundamental solution. The Committee hopes this report will be of help to the international community, of which Japan is a member, as it works on resolving this difficult challenge.

(Voluntary testifiers)

TAKAKURA Yoshimasa

Representative of Directors of Imagine One World (General Incorporated Association)

KONDO Seiichi

Director, Kondo Institute for Culture & Diplomacy
Former Commissioner, the Agency for Cultural Affairs

WATANABE Hirotaka

Professor, Graduate School, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

- April 17
- Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] and the Paris Agreement” regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

KITAOKA Shinichi

President, Japan International Cooperation Agency
Emeritus Professor, the University of Tokyo

KUNIYA Hiroko

Project Professor, Keio University
FAO National Goodwill Ambassador

ASAOKA Mie

	<p>President, Non-Profit Organization, Kiko Network</p> <p>Attorney at law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of views between Committee members (“Challenges for Confidence-Building Initiatives to Use Soft Power Including Culture and People to People Exchanges” and “Challenges for Building Domestic Scheme for Promoting and Implementing International Commitments Including SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] and the Paris Agreement” among other matters regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)
May 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision on the research report and its submission to the President of the House of Councillors • Decision to offer the report at a plenary meeting

(The second year)

Diet session and date	Outline
194th September 28, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignation of a director and the election of a new Director to fill the vacancy
195th	(Only procedures related to the end of the Diet session)
196th February 7, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of new Director to fill vacancy • Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Current Situation of Cross-

Border Issues and Challenges for Their Solution” (“Initiatives to Realize International Peace”) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

YAMADA Yoshihiko

Professor, Department of Maritime Civilizations. Tokai University

KAWASAKI Akira

Co-representative of nongovernmental organization Peace Boat and a member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

KAWAGUCHI Takahisa

Senior Consultant, Tokio Marine & Nichido Risk Consulting Co., Ltd.

February 14

• Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Current Situation of Cross-Border Issues and Challenges for Their Solution” (Response to Environmental Problems, Climate Change, etc.) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

EMORI Seita

Head, Climate Risk Assessment Section, Center for Global Environmental Research, National Institute for Environmental Studies

KANEKO Hiroshi

Representative of Directors, JEAN (General Incorporated Association)

Director, Non-Profit Organization, Partnership Office

HAMADA Masanori

Chairman, Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Professor Emeritus, Waseda University

- Receiving reports from lawmakers dispatched abroad and explanations from the governments and exchanging opinions.

February 21

- Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace” (Japan-ASEAN relationship, Japan-Russia relationship, etc.) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

HYODO Shinji

Director, Regional Studies Department, The National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense

FUKUNAGA Masaaki

Visiting Professor, The Center for South Asian Studies, Gifu Women’s University

	<p>KUMAOKA Michiya</p> <p>Professor, Japan Institute of the Moving Image</p>
February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Survey on Initiatives for Confidence Building and Regional Cooperation to Realize Peace in the Asia Pacific Region and the Roles of Local Governments in Solving Cross-Border Problems, etc. (Inspection) <p>(Locations)</p> <p>Yokohama Port; Yokohama City; The Japan Foundation; JICA Research Institute; JICA Global Plaza</p>
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace” (Role of Multilateral Frameworks of Cooperation, etc.) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”) <p>(Voluntary testifiers)</p> <p>OBA Mie</p> <p>Professor, Tokyo University of Science</p> <p>ISHIDO Hikari</p> <p>Professor, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Chiba University</p> <p>MASUYAMA Mikitaka</p> <p>Chair of Masters' Program Committee; Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies</p>

April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing opinions of voluntary testers and conducting a question and answer session (“Current Situation of Cross-Border Issues and Challenges for Their Solution” (Initiatives to Realize International Peace) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”) <p>(Voluntary testers)</p> <p>SUZUKI Kazuto</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Professor, Hokkaido University Public Policy School</p> <p>ABEKAWA Motonobu</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Professor, College of Risk Management, Nihon University</p> <p>OSHDARI Kenro</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Former Asia Regional Director for Asia, World Food Programme</p>
May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Directors • Exchange of views between Committee members (“Current Situation of Cross-Border Issues and Challenges for Their Solution” and “Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace” regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)
June 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision on the research report and its submission to the President of the House of Councillors • Decision to offer the report at a plenary meeting

(The first year)

Diet session and date	Outline
<p>192nd</p> <p>September 26, 2016</p> <p>September 29</p> <p>December 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Research Committee on International Economy and Foreign Affairs • Election of the Committee Chairman (KONOIKE Yoshitada (LDP)) • Election of Directors • Decision on the research theme (“Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)
<p>193rd</p> <p>February 8, 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of new Director to fill vacancy • Hearing opinions from voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”) <p>(Voluntary testifiers)</p> <p>SHIRAISHI Takashi President, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies</p> <p>UMADA Keiichi Professor Emeritus, Kyorin University</p> <p>SAKAKIBARA Eisuke Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University</p> <p>NIWA Uichiro</p>

Chairman, Japan-China Friendship Association

- February 15
- Hearing opinions from voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Challenges for Initiatives to Enhance Diplomatic Capabilities and Strategy” (Initiatives to Improve Government’s Foreign Policy Implementation Structure and Communication Capabilities) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

FUJISAKI Ichiro

Professor, Sophia University

KAWATO Akio

Ex-Ambassador to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

KAWABATA Kiyotaka

Professor, Faculty of International Career Development,

Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University

- February 22
- Hearing opinions from voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Challenges for Initiatives to Enhance Diplomatic Capabilities and Strategy” (Collaboration with Various Organizations like NGOs) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

OHASHI Masaaki

Professor, University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo
Board Member, Japan NGO Center for International
Cooperation

OSA Yukie

Professor, Graduate School of Social Design Studies,
Rikkyo University
President, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan

ONISHI Kensuke

Co-Chairpersons, Japan Platform
Chief Executive Officer·Chairperson, Peace Winds Japan

- April 12
- Hearing opinions from voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Challenges for Initiatives to Enhance Diplomatic Capabilities and Strategy” (Parliament’s Roles in Diplomacy) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

KAWAGUCHI Yoriko

Fellow, Meiji Institute for Global Affairs

SAALER Sven

Japan Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

SUGAWARA Schu

Journalist

April 19 • Hearing opinions from voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace” (Japan-China and Japan-U.S. Relations) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

ITO Tsuyoshi

Professor, Department of Political Science, Meiji University

Glen S. Fukushima

Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

TAKAHARA Akio

Professor, Graduate School of Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo

April 26 • Hearing opinions from voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Initiatives and Challenges for Building Confidence and Realizing Lasting Peace” (Japan-South Korea and Japan-North Korea Relations) regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

KOHARI Susumu

Professor, Faculty of International Relations, University of Shizuoka

	<p>LEE Young-hwa Professor, Faculty of Economics, Kansai University</p> <p>HIRAIWA Shunji Professor, Department of Policy Studies, Nanzan University</p>
May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of views between Committee members (“Challenges for Initiatives to Enhance Diplomatic Capabilities and Strategy” and “Challenges for Initiatives to Enhance Diplomatic Capabilities and Strategy” regarding the research theme of “Desirable Way for Realizing Peace, Regional Cooperation and Japanese Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region”)
May 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision on the research report and its submission to the President of the House of Councillors • Decision to offer the report at a plenary meeting

Reference 2 Summary of Issues (First Year) and Recommendations (Second Year) in Interim Reports

(Omitted)

Reference 3

List of Committee Members

Chairman	MIZUOCHI Toshiei (LDP・VP)
Director	ONODA Kimi (LDP・VP)
Director	HORII Iwao (LDP・VP)
Director	MARUYAMA Kazuya (LDP・VP)
Director	MAKIYAMA Hiroe (CDP)
Director	KOGA Yukihito (DPFP-SR)
Director	MIURA Nobuhiro (KP)
Director	ISHII Mitsuko (JIP・TPH)
Director	TAKEDA Ryosuke (JCP)
	INOUCHI Kuniko (LDP・VP)
	IMAI Eriko (LDP・VP)
	IWAI Shigeki (LDP・VP)
	OHNO Yasutada (LDP・VP)
	KOZUKI Ryosuke (LDP・VP)
	SAKAI Yasuyuki (LDP・VP)
	FUJIKAWA Masahito (LDP・VP)
	MIKI Toru (LDP・VP)
	MIYAJIMA Yoshifumi (LDP・VP)
	OGAWA Katsuya (CDP)
	KAWADA Ryuhei (CDP)
	ITO Takae (DPFP-SR)
	KIDOGUCHI Eiji (DPFP-SR)
	TAKASE Hiromi (KP)
	YOKOYAMA Shinichi (KP)
	IHA Yoichi (OW)

Note: LDP·VP: Liberal Democratic Party and Voice of The People
CDP: The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and Minyukai
and Hope Coalition
DPFP-SR: Democratic Party For the People and The Shin-Ryokufukai
KP: Komeito
JIP·TPH: Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party) and The Party of Hope
JCP: Japanese Communist Party
OW: Okinawa Whirlwind

First Special Research Office

Research Committee on International Economy and Foreign Affairs

House of Councillors

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