

Afterword

At the beginning, I was bold enough to venture that responsibility for making this symposium a success lay half on the shoulders of the audience. You have been superb – listening attentively and asking numerous, insightful questions – and while we have had only half a day, I believe the session has been substantial and engaging.

I would like once more to express my deep gratitude on my part as an organizer to you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come here and participate so actively. The word “participation” here is important: while your attendance alone is of course most welcome, I was hoping that you would come not just to attend but to actively participate, thereby increasing the quality of discussion. Meaningful participation on your part is key to the success of the symposium. Today’s symposium has been absolutely wonderful, for us included.

Today’s symposium has included discussions on such topics as immigration, refugees and human rights. Turned inside out, this is not so much an issue of grappling with and responding to the contradictions within international society, such as those we see appearing in remarks made by Trump, the US Presidential

Candidate, so much as it is a matter of placing oneself where possible on the outside and considering what we would not like visited upon ourselves.

Rather than attempting to respond to or solve the various issues of internationalization in an international or multi-national (multilateral) manner, there is a trend of falling into isolationism and considering what we should do by ourselves only. The narrow-minded nationalism and furthermore jingoism found in the “America First” and “Japan First” ideologies has reached remarkable proportions over the past year. Unfortunately, the Trump phenomenon shows no signs of abating, and we will likely see other Trump-like phenomena pop up one after the other.

In that sense, when talking about the issue of immigration it is highly important to consider the matter of how to assimilate those who come from elsewhere and are different to ourselves. At the same time, if we can touch on the impact on the international community without dealing properly with the state of our own countries and, as someone mentioned earlier, when we consider Japan’s role in all of this, as someone said earlier, without being able to

respond properly to our own fundamental domestic issues, then our response will naturally be strongly distorted. It is highly lamentable that such problems are appearing in the USA, the world's greatest superpower, and means that it is also time for individual countries, organizations, universities, international bodies and NGOs to seriously consider what they can do.

Apathy is not the only problem; if we do not do as today's participants have done, and do not contribute and connect in various forms through our work and our actions, then the world is likely to change in the future in truly unforeseeable ways. The word "unexpected" has been around for some years now, but the world is going to an unexpected place, and we are not preparing for it.

The Korean Peninsula is the same. Everyone talks about their grave concerns, but when it comes to actively dealing with

this, I see no hint of proper preparation or of a proper response.

I think that the issues of refugees and immigration discussed here today have raised questions that, if we are not careful, we will turn our backs on, with grave implications for the future.

This symposium was held in the belief that we are part of these global discussions, and as such should be participating in them. Behind the success of today's symposium lie the contributions of all those who participated. Once again, I would like to thank you with the sincerest gratitude. We hope to see you at future symposiums. Thank you very much.

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