

【Asia】 May 24,2015

Opening speech by Mr. Komatsuzaki Sakae, President of Japan AALA as the host organization

Revered your Ambassador Excellency, members of the diplomatic corps officials
Distinguished guests of the representatives of organizations
Panelists who are actively involved at the forefront of Asian countries.
Friends who have come from all over the country and bestowed the contribution on a regular basis.
Members of Japan AALA which is celebrating the 60th anniversary.
Ladies and Gentlemen
Good morning.

On behalf of the Japan AALA I would like to sincerely thank you for joining this international symposium from early morning on Sunday. It is my great pleasure to hold this memorial international symposium with your cooperation which I would like to send my applause of thanks and solidarity.

Friends

This year is the milestone of the 70th anniversary of the end of the World War 2, the 60th anniversary of the Asia Africa Conference (Bandung Conference), and the foundation of Japan AALA. The Bandung Conference was held at Bandung in Indonesia in April 1955. The conference adopted the final communique which includes 10 principles AA(Bandung Principles) such as mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, rights of self- determination, no interference in the internal affairs, and settlement of international disputes by peaceful means as well as promotion of cooperation along economic and cultural lines. It must be emphasized that in line with opposition to colonialism, the conference recognized right of auto determination of Palestinian people including national independence. As you know well, this Bandung Spirit was inherited by the Non Aligned Movement and lives on continuously for 60 years and has been acknowledged anew at the latest Asia Africa Conference Commemoration Meeting in April.

Japan AALA was established in October 1955 as Japan Asia Solidarity Committee, in

response to the appeal made by the Meeting of Asian Nations (April 1955 New Delhi) which called for a success of Bandung Conference. As the spirit of the establishment it listed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Ten Bandung Principles, elimination of weapons of mass destruction, opposition to military alliance, military treaty and military bases as well as Okinawa's return to Japan.

Since then, on the basis of these principles, Japan AA solidarity committee has been engaged in contemporary issues and different challenges for 60, such as opposition to colonialism, elimination of nuclear arms and foreign military bases, abolishment of apartheid and racial discrimination. It has carried out many campaigns for solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. war of aggression, the Chilean struggle against dictatorship, the Nicaraguan struggles, and Palestinian people for independence, African National Congress, promotion of the NAM and participation in NA Summit, assistance for struggle against poverty and hunger, opposition to Afgan-Iraq war, and support to the right of self-determination of Venezuelan people. It has expanded activity and developed now into Japan AALA.

In the world, No Nuclear and No Aligned Movement with Bandung Spirit has grown into 120 countries in its membership. Japan AALA is an observer organization of the Summit Conference of the NAM since its first Summit Meeting in 1961. As far as nuclear free is concerned, there are nuclear free zones in the different parts of the world, like Southeast Asia (10 states), Latin America Caribbean (33 nations), South Pacific (13 states), Africa (53 nations) and Central Asia (5 States).

As for building a regional community of peace and cooperation, different regional organization have been established such as European Union (EU, 28 states), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN, 10 states), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC 8 states), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO 6 states), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC, 57 states), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC, 6 states), African union (AU 53 states), and Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC, 33 states). Nations of these communities are working together for regional peace and cooperation even while facing a variety of problem. We can say that creating a regional community of peace and cooperation has become a direction of the world history.

In Asia, the ASEAN countries have developed the Five Principles for Coexistence and the Bandung 10 principles, making the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 1976 in which 31 nations have currently joined. The ASEAN, inviting 8 non regional major countries such as the U.S, China, Russia South Korea and Japan, celebrated the East Asian Summit in 2011 with participation of 18 nations. The summit has confirmed in the declaration the fundamental principles of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and non-interference in each state's internal affairs as well as settlement of disputes by peaceful means and mutual cooperation.

However, it is true that confrontations and disputes have presented themselves in East Asia over territorial issues or recognition of history. Despite small scale, armed conflicts have erupted sporadically. Some people fear that these confrontations and tensions between countries may escalate into a military confrontation or even into war. This concern is even more serious in the North East Asia where there is no such a framework of dialogue and cooperation as ASEAN has established.

On the other hand there are different issues and challenges in this region related to poverty, inequality infectious disease and climate change. In addition, countries are so closely related each other in trade, finance and investment that they need nothing more than peace and cooperation for further development. It is desperately needed to overcome disputes and confrontation and create a regional community.

We think that the establishment of community of peace cooperation prosperity and non-nuclear such as ASEAN and CELAC will help us a lot in addressing this historical challenges. Since last year we have been holding lecture meetings on Asia Africa and Latin America across the country with the cooperation of ambassadors from these countries. We also have been taking part in the peace movement in the country and meeting with diplomats and experts of no aligned countries and organized a group of delegation to visit ASEAN countries. We have carried out an international signature campaign for a petition addressed to EAS leaders, as you can find in the pamphlet in your hands.

Today we expect the panelists to discuss the most actively and freely the prospect of a creation of community of peace cooperation and prosperity in East Asia. Remarks from the floor are also welcomed. We would like to make the most of all of them for our future activities.

To conclude, I would like to express my profound gratitude for everyone's support both materially and spiritually for this event. I thank all of you present here for cooperation until the end to get this symposium succeeded in answer to great expectations.

Thank you so much.