

Key Features of a New Partnership Between the Global South & Japan

By Naoyuki Haraoka



Cover Story I: In current times, when the United States is not as active in playing a leadership role in global governance, geopolitical risks are increasing around the world. These risks are not limited to the Russia-Ukraine war or turmoil in the Middle East, but include many countries' aggressive foreign policies influenced by growing nationalism and anti-globalization sentiments. Nobody imagined 20 years ago that skepticism about the merits of globalization would grow so rapidly that trust in international organizations such as the UN and WTO would be lost. Optimism about globalization seems to be prominent now only in Asia, the supposed locomotive of global growth that has benefitted most from a rules-based order initiated by the US. But without US leadership in global governance, it is increasingly difficult to achieve coherence on the basic principles of peace and prosperity. We are now increasingly faced with a wide array of views on geopolitics and geoeconomics, and we increasingly need to pursue alliances and partnerships with specific nations, issue by issue, to achieve economic and security stability. The Global South, in particular the Asian element, would in this regard be good candidates as Japan's new partners in contributing positively to global governance, from both historical and

geographical perspectives.

The Cover Story includes contributions by authors from such new partner countries and describes how these partnerships look today and what the future may hold. Following a Roundtable discussion on future relations between Japan and the Global South, moderated by our Chairman Masakazu Toyoda, we have articles by members of JEF's organizing committee for our annual conference on trade and economic policies, the Japan-Asia Pacific Forum: Dr. Vo Tri Thanh from Vietnam, Jayasiri Jayasena from Malaysia and Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich from Thailand. APEC Secretariat Executive Director Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria also kindly spared time for an interview on this issue.

In addition to ASEAN nations, India and Africa are important constituents of the Global South, since their explosively growing populations could raise their status to major powers in a few decades. In this regard, we highlight an interview with the Ethiopian ambassador to Japan by our editorial committee member Prof. Mukesh Williams, and another interview with Prof. Pema Gyalpo, an expert on international relations among the Asian nations particularly interested in the role of India in future global governance. Overall, they provide us with



positive views on the role of Japan in future global governance in collaboration with the Global South.

The world today does seem to be closer to the world of the 19th century or early 20th century when no particular country was in the driver's seat in regime setting and there was wide diversity among the nations' economic development stages and national interests. We will need to be very careful in diplomacy to achieve friendship with all nations with such different backgrounds, giving due attention to each nation's interests and geopolitical or geoeconomic position.

We also include in this issue, due to a delay in translation, our **Cover Story II**, "Policy Recommendation for Rebuilding the International Order", which was to be part of our cover story in the July/August 2024 issue.

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