

## **The Fifth Symposium on Japan-China Relations (Tokyo)**

The Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS) and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) jointly staged the fifth Symposium on Japan-China Relations, which took place on November 29–30. A 13-member Chinese delegation, led by Mr. Zhao Qizheng, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), came to Japan for the event.

At the opening ceremony on November 30, remarks were first delivered by IIPS President Mr. Ken Sato and CPIFA Vice President Mr. Lu Shumin, on behalf of the host organizations, and then by special guests Mr. Akihisa Nagashima, Assistant to the Prime Minister of Japan, and Dr. Han Zhiqiang, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan.

Chaired by Executive Director of Research at IIPS, University of Tokyo Professor Shinichi Kitaoka, the first session featured reports on the topic "Reflections on Japan-China relations—intensifying the strategic reciprocal relationship," delivered by Professor Ryosei Kokubun of Keio University; Mr. Wang Taiping, former Consul-General in Osaka; University of Tokyo Associate Professor Shin Kawashima, a Senior Fellow at IIPS; and Dr. Li Wei of the Institute of Japanese Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). These presentations were followed by discussion, and there was a lively exchange of views on various topics in regard to the realization of a strategic reciprocal relationship in light of the changes in the bilateral relationship that have occurred over the course of the 40 years since diplomatic relations between the two nations were normalized.

The second session was chaired by Mr. Wang Taiping and featured reports on the theme of "Regional cooperation in East Asia and a new Japan-China relationship in the context of globalization," delivered by Mr. Zhang Yuyan, Director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at CASS; Professor Toshio Watanabe, President of Takushoku University; Mr. Zhang Yufang, Vice Chairman of the Society of China-Japan History; and Professor Akio Takahara of the University of Tokyo. The presentations were again followed by lively discussions on various topics relating to the advancement of the cooperative relationship between Japan and China, and on regional economic cooperation, such as a Pacific Rim partnership.

The third session was jointly chaired by IIPS Special Adviser Yoshio Okawara and CPIFA Secretary-General Huang Xingyuan and featured reports on the theme of "Promotion of mutual understanding at the grass-roots level," delivered by Mr. Seiji Maehara (Democratic Party of Japan), a member of the House of Representatives; Mr. Zhao Qizheng; Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi (Liberal Democratic Party), a member of the House of Councillors; and China Central Television (CCTV) newsreader Sun Baoyin. The presentations were followed by discussion. This session was open to the press and the public. The political, economic, and social dimensions of the Japan-China relationship were comprehensively analyzed, and there were candid exchanges of views (including responses to questions from the floor) on a number of extremely pressing matters relating to the realization of a strategic reciprocal relationship, such as the promotion of mutual understanding at the grass-roots level. Finally, Mr. Yoshio

Okawara, Special Adviser of IIPS, and Mr. Huang Xingyuan, Secretary-General of CPIFA, summarized the proceedings of the symposium as a whole.

Throughout the conference, experts engaged in frank and vigorous exchanges on both the politico-security and economic fronts—not only from a bilateral viewpoint, but also from a regional Asia-Pacific perspective and a global perspective. It also became clear that—given the fundamental premise that a strategic reciprocal relationship between Japan and China must be developed—there are issues relating to the realization of such a relationship.