

PREFACE

The international symposium “There Goes the Neighborhood: Increasing Tensions in Cooperative Northeast Asia” was held on December 17-18, 2016 at the Kitakyushu International Conference Center (Kokura, Kitakyushu City). This conference was the second event in 2016 hosted by the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center (Hokkaido University) base of the NIHU Area Studies Project for Northeast Asia. During the two-day symposium, we discussed the problems of existing cooperation and the potential conflict in Northeast Asia from a variety of perspectives such as geopolitics, international relations, migration policy, population, and gender. The keynote speech, “International Relations Theory in East Asia,” was delivered by Professor Yong-Chool Ha (University of Washington), who for many years has been making great contributions to the academic field of Northeast Asian community building. In his lecture, Professor Ha discussed what kind of intellectual infrastructure exists in the region and whether it can make a positive contribution to international community building. To explain the peculiar characteristics of East Asian international relations theory, he pointed out how modernization and economic development have evolved at the national level in these countries, and how the traditions and international positions of each country were formed and established. This lecture provided participants with significant issues to be gone over in order to figure out the regional architecture of Northeast Asia.

On the first day, two sessions were held: “Positioning Asia and Kyushu in Shifting Global Geopolitics” and “Integration, Population, and Gender in Northeast & Southeast Asia”. Scholars from Canada, Japan, Russia, South Korea, the UK, and the US discussed the numerous geopolitical and social problems of Northeast Asia. The second day consisted of three sessions: “Sino-Russian Dynamics: The Fault-line of Northeast Asian Competitive Cooperation,” “Migration Policy and the Movement of Peoples in the Russian Far East,” and “Theorizing Northeast Asia: Power, Interests, and Ideology”. At these sessions, scholars from China, Japan, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Korea and the US analyzed the process of formation of regional communities and theory construction from the perspective of bilateral relations in the region. Among the many fruitful discussions, the keynote lecture and the first session were further developed for this publication.

The NIHU Area Studies Project for Northeast Asia of the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center (Hokkaido University) co-hosted this symposium with several different universities and research organizations including the Center for Northeast Asian Studies (Tohoku University), Center for Asia-Pacific Future Studies (Kyushu University), University of Kitakyushu, Kyushu Economic Research Center, Asian Growth Research Institute, Japan International Border Studies Network (JIBSN), academic institutions and organizations of Kitakyushu City, and the West Japan Industry and Trade Convention Association. This project aims to facilitate the inter-university research activities

as well as the interactions between academia, and local government and municipality.



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