

# **The 6<sup>th</sup> Policy Plenary Meeting on “Political, Social, and Cultural Cooperation”**

November 19, 2004

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was held under the theme of "Political, Social, and Cultural Cooperation in East Asia" on December 15, in the Conference Room of the Japan Forum on International Relations. The meeting began with keynote speeches from the two council members, WATANABE Akio, President of the Research Institute for Peace and Security, and Professor YAMAKAGE Susumu of the University of Tokyo, and from KONDO Seiichi, Director-General of the Public Diplomacy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. WATANABE, speaking on political cooperation in East Asia, analyzed that, "In the fields of both economics and security, a regional order without the United States is inconceivable, and China also has to be duly considered. Japan should keep its anti-terrorism policy line."

Prof. YAMAKAGE, speaking on social cooperation, emphasized that, "Is a 'vow of pacifism' possible in East Asia? To what extent will differences in political systems become an obstacle? Will a feeling of fellowship be born from just economic rationality?"

Mr. KONDO, speaking on cultural cooperation, noted that, "In Asia, beside function and rationality, emotional factors are more important than in Europe. The keywords are youth and contemporary culture."

The Council Members had lively discussions with the following comments being made: "The US reaction this time is different from its reaction to the EAEC. Today the US does not have the choice of separating Japan from Asia." "Community building must be based on the member countries adhering to such values as fundamental human rights, the right to vote, and freedom of thought." "If democracy takes root in China, the outbreak of war in Asia will become inconceivable." "With regard to mutual benefits and common values, it would be necessary to wait for the discussions to converge in due course."