

The 19th Policy Plenary Meeting on “The 10th ASEAN+3 Summit and the 2nd East Asia Summit”

January 30, 2007

The 19th Policy Plenary Meeting of the Council of East Asian Community (CEAC) was held on January 30th at the conference room of Japan Forum on International Relations to discuss how the 10th ASEAN+3 (APT) Summit and the 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS), which were held respectively on January 14th and 15th at Cebu Island, the Philippines, should be evaluated in terms of the future objective of building an East Asian Community. CEAC invited Mr. ATSUMI Chihiro, Director General of Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a reporter in order to have a briefing mainly about these two Summits.

Mr. ATSUMI stated that, taking into account that the EAS adopted the "Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security," EAS should not be regarded anymore as a forum only to discuss abstract matters from a broader point of view. He stressed the importance of developing both APT and EAS as regional cooperation frameworks making use of their respective merits.

Not a few participants (Think-tank Members and Intellectual Members of CEAC), including Mr. KAKIZAWA Koji, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, pointed out the importance of defining the meaning of "Universal Values" in accurate terms as they were envisaged as a basis for Community building in the region. An easy accommodation of different interpretations of the concept of "Universal Values," they said they were afraid, could nullify the achievements of the efforts so far.