

*Shanghai Forum 2015 High-level Dialogue*

# Strengthening Cooperation Between Asian Countries and Maintaining Regional Stability

Masood Khan, *the former Pakistan ambassador to China*

When discussing the confronting urgent security issues of Asia, we should firstly assess the capability that Asian countries have in dealing with security challenges, and based on which we should improve ability of solving problem. At present, there are two trends in Asia countries: one is seeking common ground while the other is representing diversification. In the past few decades, the two trends did exist in both investment and industrial development.

***To Asian countries, the most urgent task is to rebuild mutual trust in between the local region.*** Currently, the United States reveals itself with the tendency of interfering in Asian affairs by restricting China's behaviors and supporting its Asian allies. There are competitions amongst Asian countries, and some of them are able to play a relatively leading role. Besides, the military forces in different countries changes all the time, and conflicts in some major countries still exist. For instance, in Northeast Asia, China and Japan dispute with each other over the issue of Diaoyu Islands. In fact, the conflict between the two countries is more because of historical issues and resource impact than the issue of Diaoyu Islands itself. In addition, the problems in the Korean Peninsula are very serious. Another example comes from Southeast Asia, in which conflicts over the sovereignty of numerous islands emerges now and then. The Asian countries are suffering from a crisis of confidence. In 2013, China and Southeast Asian countries settle disputes mainly through the bilateral coordination mechanism. Meanwhile, multilateral mechanisms and international arbitration are also methods of solving problems.

With the rapid development of China and Northeast Asia countries, the Asian security system develops constantly. More development has proceeded in other fields. For instance, China proposed the idea of the "Belt and Road" initiative in the aspect of infrastructure investment which was responded positively from more than fifty countries. Japan intended to invest billions of dollars to strengthen infrastructure construction. The "Belt and Road" initiative could also be a sound strategic shift towards the entire international situation, to some extent could change the current

## Introduction>>>

Masood Khan, the former Pakistan ambassador to China, analyzed how to promote cooperations between Asian countries and meanwhile maintain the regional stability in three aspects: reconstructing mutual trust in between this area; cooperating with each other via economic ties and formatting Asia security mechanism. He said not only should we base on Asia, but also should we focus on the other parts of the world.

political pattern.

***China is supposed to conduct cooperation with more countries via economic ties.*** The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has benefited both two countries. China also carried out many dialogues with India. For instance, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, has negotiated with Chinese government over the bilateral security policy, which will certainly generate follow-up solutions. Asian countries should promote mutual understanding between each other to further strengthen cooperation.

With much pressure on military and politics, Asia countries with its constantly increased economic strength, strengthened its capability in handling the potential security risks to grasp the future in their own hands. Since Pakistan has a close relationship with China, we believe that the cooperation between the two countries will be very beneficial for both developments. China will serve as the basis of Asia's stability and strengthen the economic ties between the Asian countries for better relationships.

What direct influences of the conflicts between areas like East Asia and the Middle East will exert to China? How will the intervention of the United State affect Asia? The prospect of Asia's future is held in their own hands. We need to cooperate with other countries in order to make a contribution to Asian's stability. The problems of poverty, low education level, imperfect legal system and regional instability existing in Asia cannot only be solved by one country, but need more concern from the international community.

Above all, the construction of Asian security mechanism should be more representative and involve in broader areas. We should not only focus on Asia, but also pay attention to the development of other regions.

*Translator/Liu Ling*