

## International Symposium

### *“Comprehensive Study on Modern China’s Growing Global Impacts”*

Organized by

International Center for Chinese Studies, Aichi University

Center for East Asian Media Studies, Hokkaido University

#### I Purpose

On December 19th and 20th, 2009, International Center for Chinese Studies (ICCS), Aichi University and Center for East Asian Media Studies (CEAMS), Hokkaido University will hold the next annual international symposium “Comprehensive Study on Modern China’s Growing Global Impacts” at Nagoya Campus of Aichi University (Miyoshi-cho, Aichi).

Interest on this theme and the progress rate of the current study depends on each field of study. This symposium searches for the background, actual situation, and future trends of modern China that makes foreign advancement by considering the following six areas: economy (agricultural economy and international management), politics and diplomacy, media, environment, culture, and social factors. Given that, we would like to discuss China’s impacts on the international community and how international collaboration should be formed.

Discussions about the expansion of the international influence of modern China can occasionally be found in individual fields of study. However, the characteristic of this symposium is to discuss a diversity of fields in order to try to consolidate the discussion in a comprehensive way.

The following sections give simple descriptions of the background in establishing this theme.

#### Economy

China has kept a high economic growth since its reform and opening-up. Attracting international interest as a leading force in the global economy on both production and consumption, China has taken over the lead as the world’s second largest trading country following the United States (enjoying the greatest value in exports). The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) that China conducted in 2008 reached 40.6 billion dollars (excluding finance). This shows a rapid expansion just as we have expected, as a result of our studies. In the year 2008, capital flew out abroad due to the global financial crisis with a significant impact on China. However, as a general trend, this basic direction will not change in the future.

China will probably deepen its cooperation with other foreign countries based on its ample funds, and there is a strong possibility that China will increase its international influence on the global economy also with manpower and products as well as funds.

#### Politics

On the stage of international politics, China is increasing its voice day by day in the United Nations, Asia-Europe Meeting (AEM), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Although China is not a formal member of the G8 summit, it has become the essential country representing the BRICs. As the host country of the six-party talks, China has also made efforts to ease the confrontational composition of the relationships between Japan, Korea, and the US with North Korea in order to advance consultations. Additionally in the U.S.-China Strategic Dialogue conducted in July, both countries confirmed each other's importance in the world.

Such movements undertaken by China have become the background for the production of discussions related to how the international community positions the existence of modern China, attracting a high international interest in this issue.

There are also concerns within the international community's opinion. The defense budget of China for 2009 reached 48.06 billion yuan (approx. 6.9 trillion yen, as announced by The National People's Congress). This is 14.9% more than the previous year's budget. This amount significantly exceeds the defense budget of Japan for the same year, which was 4.7028 trillion yen. Ensuring transparency has become a major issue for China. The fact that such an issue is raised shows the increasing influence of China in the international community.

#### Media

Information for each field of study about modern China gets around the world through a wide variety of media such as TV, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet. This contributes to providing an understanding of the actual conditions in China. On the other hand, China is also required to take necessary steps to secure accurate reporting and to prevent misleading information propagation.

As for the major media outlets, China Central Television (CCTV) produces international broadcast, and there are international editions of The People's Daily and The People China. These outlets currently distribute information about China and most of them are immediately available in various languages via the Internet.

In addition, there is not only the so-called official information provided by the government or broadcast stations, but there is also such a wide variety and diversity of fresh opinions provided by the people. Now we can see through the media, the

methodological practice of conforming international public opinion regarding modern China and expanding international influence. We can also observe the formation of opportunities for exchange with the international community by the world's largest Internet population.

### Environment

The carbon-dioxide emission of China is 56.49 billion tons, which is almost comparable to 56.97 billion tons of the United States. For reference's sake, the emission of Japan is 12.13 billion tons for the same period (values of 2006, based on IEA CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion, 2008).

There is a view that China has a per capita emission of one-third less than that of the United States, and the accumulated emission value should be of less significance. However, China is expected to be the world's biggest emitter of carbon dioxide in the future, overtaking the United States in the aggregate emission value.

In addition, there have been reported considerable situations about yellow sand and the influence on global warming due to the expansion of green land desertification, and the pollution of international rivers and the coastal ocean.

Many of these environmental issues have arisen and stemmed from China. Identifying the actual condition by means of field surveys, while at the same time paying attention to their international impact has become a major issue.

### Culture

The widespread of diverse culture of China can be observed in world history. Such culture has spread as it was taken along by ethnic Chinese and their descendants, or diffused and assimilated through active learning by foreigners. The forms by which culture is spread have still taken on a basic pattern, but some movements reflect the national intention of China as shown in the policy for international diffusion of Chinese words lead by the Confucius Institute. Chinese movies and Chinese pop music have attracted much attention in Asia, which seem to be a constant movement. We can see that these cases have financial characteristics of the private sector, and China is now standing at a turning point to recast its old image.

Culture includes multiples of content and complexity. However, such movements can be considered as natural trend based on changes in image and recognition the international community has towards China. Interest has increased on this point as to what meaning such cultural influences of modern China has on the international community.

## Social Factors

It is an extremely difficult issue to clarify on what modern China has the international influence. When international influence given by American society is taken as an example, we can clearly find the difference. Modern American society sets the so-called American standard as the international standard in many fields from its political systems to business management, and to life style. The government itself even tries to take lead in applying and spreading their standard in order to Americanize developing country's societies.

The mass-consumption society, material civilization, and the American democratic idea exist behind everything as the background. Modern China society is also accepting parts of this influence. It is practical for us to consider that China takes a passive approach rather than actively providing its unique ideas and culture in an external way. There is an aspect that modern China itself has caused various increasing social pathological phenomena along with its modernization.

Is there any existing social factor in modern China that has international impacts?

It is possible that emigration of students overseas and workers promoted by the public and private sectors of China is one of the social factors that give diversity of influence on host countries. We can also say that China has diffused the Chinese society itself as well as its culture in the process of accumulating historical experiences by ethnic Chinese and descents over 1000 of years. Chinatowns and Chinese communities existing in many countries show this evidence.

In cases other than Chinese, as a whole, commonality that is on-site localization can be observed. In this regard, Chinese have also tried to realize localization in countries like Thailand and Mexico. However, they are in a different situation from the world's largest group of immigrants by number, the Irish, along with Indian and Japanese nationals.

Note: We here use the expressions "culture" and "social factors" in a general meaning. See the following descriptions for reference.

Culture: Things acquired by humans as members of a society, such as knowledge, faith, religion, social psychology, art, law, moral, common practice, folkways, formality, and life style.

Social factors: Mutual communication activity among social members, maintenance of mutual communication activity, organization of social members, and those things what form or undermine the boundary between social members and non social members.

## II Vision of the Symposium

In this symposium, individual reports in each field of study are given referring to previous studies that were conducted, with considerations to the following visions. A

plenary session roughly consolidates discussions.

- (1) The actual conditions and direction of the expansion of international influence of modern China (this is an attempt to recognize the actual conditions of each field of study and to understand the characteristics of each field of study in perspective)
- (2) From a comprehensive perspective, how to determine the position China plays as it increases its international influence on the international community (including the examination of research methods)

### III Outline of the symposium

#### 1. Program

#### **December 19 (Sat)**

10 : 00—10 : 05 Welcome By SATO Motohiko (President, Aichi University)  
10 : 05—10 : 30 Opening Remarks TAKAHASHI Goro ( Director, ICCS, Aichi University)

10 : 45—11 : 15 Panel Discussion 1

11 : 15—11 : 45 Panel Discussion 2

11 : 45—12 : 15 Panel Discussion 3

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13 : 00—13 : 30 Panel Discussion 4

13 : 30—14 : 00 Panel Discussion 5

14 : 00—14 : 30 Panel Discussion 6

14 : 30—15 : 00 Panel Discussion 7

15 : 00—15 : 30 Panel Discussion 8

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15 : 45—16 : 15 Panel Discussion 9

16 : 15—16 : 45 Panel Discussion 10

16 : 45—17 : 15 Panel Discussion 11

#### **December 20 (Sun)**

10 : 00—10 : 30 Panel Discussion 12

10 : 30—11 : 00 Panel Discussion 13

11 : 00—11 : 30 Panel Discussion 14

11 : 30—12 : 00 Panel Discussion 15

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13 : 00–14 : 30 General Discussion (Overview of the Panel Discussions)

14 : 00–17 : 00 General Discussion (Q & A, summarize)

17 : 00–17 : 05 Closing Remarks

## 2. Language

Japanese and Chinese

## 3. Panelist

ICCS (International Center for Chinese Studies), Aichi University 12-13 persons

CEAMS (Center for East Asian Media Studies), Hokkaido University 5

Guests from Japan 4

Guests from overseas 4

Applicants (Applicants from overseas are also welcomed) 4

## 4. Approach

By Two Panel Discussions (Details will be forthcoming shortly.)

14-15 panelists for the first panel discussion

14-15 panelists for the second panel discussion

## 5. Venue

AICHI UNIVERSITY, Nagoya Campus

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