

Eighth Japan-Singapore Symposium

25-26 April 2011 • Singapore

Four Seasons Hotel Singapore

Organised by

Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore and
The Japan Forum on International Relations, inc.

PRESS RELEASE

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The Eighth Japan-Singapore Symposium (JSS) was held in Singapore from 25 to 26 April 2011. It was attended by policy makers, academics, representatives from business and the media. **Mr ZAINUL Abidin Rasheed**, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs led the Singapore delegation. **Mr Yutaka BANNO**, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs led the delegation from Japan. The Co-chairmen of JSS are **Professor Tommy KOH**, Special Adviser, Institute of Policy Studies and Chairman, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, and **Mr Shotaro YACHI**, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The leaders of the two delegations reaffirmed the strong ties between Japan and Singapore. Senior Minister of State Zainul Abidin Rasheed emphasized the strong *kizuna* (ties) between the two countries, and was confident that Japan would emerge stronger from this trial. (See Annex 1) State Secretary Yutaka Banno acknowledged with deep appreciation Singapore's contribution to Japan in the wake of the 3/11 earthquake. (See Annex 2)

In the closed-door discussions of the symposiums, three topics were discussed:

- a) The discussion on "Relations Among the Major Powers" were led by **Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI**, Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, and **Ms Keiko CHINO**, Columnist and Editorial Writer for the Sankei Shimbun, Japan.
- b) The discussion on "Regional Economic Integration" were led by **Mr Manu BHASKARAN**, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and **Professor Masahiro KAWAI**, Dean and Chief Executive Officer, Asian Development Bank Institute.
- c) The discussion on "Evolving Regional Architectures in East Asia" were led by **Associate Professor Simon TAY**, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs and **Professor Yuji SUZUKI** from the

Faculty of Law, Department of Global Politics at Hosei University,
Japan.

On 26 April, a public forum was held to enable the participants to share their views with the public and the media on the issues discussed at the symposium. In addition, the Director for Special Duties of the Singapore Red Cross, Mr Benjamin William, gave a presentation on the overwhelming support which the people of Singapore has given to support the victims of the earthquake and tsunami, and to help in the reconstruction of the affected areas.

About the Japan-Singapore Symposium

The Japan-Singapore Symposium began in Japan in 1995 as a round of talks between Japanese and Singaporean government and business leaders and scholars, focusing on business and economic cooperation and bridge-building between the two countries. It was initiated by then Prime Minister of Japan, **Mr MURAYAMA Tomiichi** and then Prime Minister of Singapore, **Mr GOH Chok Tong**. The meeting has been held biennially since 1995. The last Symposium was held in Japan in 2009.

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