
Opening Speech

Kenji Sumida
President, East-West Center

Governor Cayetano, Governor Hirayama, Governor Ishaev, distinguished representatives of participating institutions, ladies and gentlemen: Aloha! Welcome to the East-West Center, the city of Honolulu, and the state of Hawaii.

I am particularly pleased to be welcoming the Sixth Meeting of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum to the East-West Center. I had the privilege of attending the Fifth Meeting of the Forum which was so superbly hosted by Governor Hirayama's administration and the Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia in Niigata. I was deeply impressed then, as I am now, with the boldness and breadth of the agenda, the quality of the participants, and the visionary ideas and concepts flowing out of the discussions.

One of the basic objectives of the East-West Center is to act as a catalyst to bring together educators, government officials, business executives, scholars, and other professionals to exchange information, share ideas and views, and jointly address common challenges and opportunities. This Northeast Asia Economic Forum is one of the best examples of the kind of activity that advances the basic mission of the East-West Center, which is to promote better relations and understanding among the peoples and countries of Asia, the Pacific and the United States. Although you are all here in your individual capacities, you share a common bond in desiring peace and prosperity for the region. I am very gratified and proud that the Center is associated with such a noble effort and pledge my continued support for your activities. Indeed, I am pleased to announce that the secretariat for the Forum is now housed at the Center under the chairmanship of Dr. Lee-Jay Cho. There is no doubt in my mind that this Forum will lead to increased cooperation and mutual support for development of the Northeast Asia region.

You have a very busy schedule for the next three days of informative presentations and stimulating discussions. If there is anything that the East-West Center can do to make your stay here more pleasant, please do not hesitate to call on me or any of my East-West Center colleagues.

In closing, may I offer my best wishes for a most fruitful conference. Thank you.

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Lee-Jay Cho

Chairman, Northeast Asia Economic Forum

On behalf of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, I would like to join Governor Cayetano and President Sumida in extending a warm "Aloha" to all of you, especially those who have traveled thousands of miles to participate in the Sixth Meeting of the Forum.

In the early days of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, we anticipated the global trends of the opening of economies and the erosion of national boundaries, which have been directly and indirectly fostered by the recent revolutions in communications and transportation. We began our work of promoting regional cooperation through dialogue and thinking together, especially about the rich factor endowments that spread across national and provincial boundaries in Northeast Asia. Our goal has been to pull them together for the mutual benefit of all the countries in the Northeast Asian region. In this regard, it is gratifying that governments at both national and provincial levels, as well as international organizations and the private sector, have responded to this initiative in various concrete terms. Some significant examples in which their responses are manifested include the UNDP project for the development of the Tumen River area, the establishment of a free economic zone in the Rajin-Sonbong area of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the proposal for the Northeast Asian Development Bank, and others.

The Northeast Asia Economic Forum has already completed one series of meetings in the region surrounding the sea that is encircled by Japan, Korea and Russia. Borrowing the first syllable from the name of each of these three countries to coin an appropriate name for this sea, I have often referred to it as the Jakoru Sea. The series of Forum meetings held in that region included the major cities of Changchun, Pyongyang, Vladivostok, and Yongpyeong, and it was completed by the successful Fifth Meeting in Niigata, which is appropriately on the eastern shore of that sea. I am pleased that representatives of the hosts of those previous meetings are with us this morning.

Today, we are holding our Forum meeting in the middle of the Pacific Ocean—a great ocean basin that is destined to become the leader of the world's economy in the twenty-first century. This is also a site that may help us to view the Northeast Asian region from a different perspective and to look at it from a new horizon. The East-West Center embodies Hawaii's

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