

Opening Remarks

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Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon!

It's indeed a great honor and privilege to have finally come to this very gorgeous campus of Soka University for a visit. Let me first take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Japanese friends, especially President Suzuki and Professor Tamai for organizing this great event.

I would also like to congratulate the three universities, Soka University, Kyungnam University, and my own Chinese Culture University for bringing the conference series into its third round. This year celebrates the seventh anniversary of the trilateral peace forum.

The wave of globalization starting in the early 1990s has immensely broadened our perspectives on interdependence.

Interdependence as we understood it has gradually been expanded from economic division of work to security to environment and even breaking the cultural and religious barriers that have existed previously.

Although unprecedented the expansion was nevertheless reserved to like-minded countries with similar political and social value systems. But nowadays countries could be interdependent not only with different ideologies and belief systems but they can also harbor hostile intentions against each other. Politically hostile countries could very much be economically interdependent.

This is a totally new situation and Taiwan and mainland China are just one of those cases. The two are locked in ideological and political rivalry but there is an economic interdependence from across the Taiwan Strait.

Facing this new situation new solutions must be found and fast. I've learned a great deal from the forum in the past and I'm sure I will continue to benefit from the wisdom generated by these meetings of great academic minds.

Thank you once again for the invitation and I'm looking forward to hearing your opinions.

Thank you!