

from Northeast Asia as guests. The "East Asian Summit" is a meeting where all leaders in this region join and talk on equal basis.

The attempt to set up a kind of multilateral collaborative regime is not only seen in Southeast Asia, but also now expanding into the East Asian region as a whole. This expansion has accelerated the new trend in Northeast Asia, where no scheme for multilateral collaboration has existed at all. Now, the quest for such scheme has finally been taken place in this region. The first North-South summit meeting was held since the disintegration of the Korean Peninsula, and reached an agreement of peaceful coexistence between the different regimes while having the national integration as a long term goal. As for multilateral collaboration in the Northeast Asian region, Japan, China and South Korea have consented the regularized summit meeting of these three countries and the implementation of "People's Exchange Year" among three countries in 2002.

Furthermore, such multilateral collaboration in East Asia is now applying not only to the economic sphere but also to the security one. This region has the ARF to deal with security issues. Countries outside this region are among its members, however. On November, 1999, a talk on security issues within this region was decided in the summit meeting of "10 " at Manila. The Manila summit declared that this summit would talk on security as well as economic cooperation, though having reached an agreement on the establishment of the "East Asian Forum." This Singapore summit reached a basic consensus on setting up the "East Asian Summit," where regional security as well as economy could be discussed without countries outside the region.

In order to facilitate such movement, Japan and China must play a more active role. The expectation to Japan's contribution appears much higher than the past among the region, especially Southeast Asia. This high expectation seems to stem from Japan's achievements having aimed at "security and prosperity" in the East Asian region. The recent example of its achievements could be seen in its decisive role in the process to overcome the monetary and financial crisis in this region. China, too, made a significant contribution including more than 6 billion dollars and its strong stance to keep the stable exchange rate of Chinese currency (renminbi). However, it is only Japan that provided more than 100 billion dollars to cope with this regional crisis. The "Miyazawa New Plan" with 30 billion dollars with no conditionality to provide countries in economic difficulties is highly praised as the support that "Japan's face can be watched." Thai's prime minister has mentioned, " No one in Bangkok does not know the name of Miyazawa, for his plan has provided more than 150 thousands' citizens with jobs."

China, too, seems to become positive towards multilateral collaboration in this region, and appears to accept Japan's role in this collaboration. Back to three years ago, China was not in favor of Japan's proposal to set up the AMF (Asian Monetary Fund) along with the United States. Such passive stance has already been changed. President Jiang Zeming showed his positive response to Premier Mahathir's proposal for the East Asian Monetary Fund in September, 1999. China joined in last April the agreement for swap scheme to cope with another monetary crisis. Towards the FTA (Free Trade Agreement), too, China has begun to show its positive stance. It has proposed the FTA with ASEAN at this summit meeting. As for the "East Asian Summit," China seems not to accept completely this proposal, but has agreed to discuss its concrete content in a working group. As long as the economic development would remain long as the top priority for the "Great revival of Chinese Nation," China requires the peaceful environment at the surrounding region and the multilateral cooperation from the region including Japan.

Such change of China's stance is undoubtedly due to its own decision, and yet some influence would come from Japan's engagement policy towards Japan having lasted for more than 20 years. Japan's engagement policy has been to support China's stable development and China's responsible power to take responsibility for peace and development in the East Asian