

India-Korea-Japan Trilateral

Session 3: “India-Japan-South Korea Trilateral: Prospects and Challenges”

Remarks by Session Chair Amb. H.K. Singh

- Evolving Asian Security & Economic Architecture
- Prospects and challenges for Trilateral Cooperation

I. Economic Architecture

<u>ASEAN-led</u>	<u>US-led</u>
ASEAN Community 2015	TPP - Now 11 countries:
ASEAN +1 FTAs	- Goods and Services
China-Korea-Japan FTA	<u>plus</u> IPRs, labour standards,
APT-EAFTA/CEPEA	environmental standards,
<u>RCEP</u> (CJK 12 May Summit confirmed	government procurement etc.
RCEP as regional framework)	
- Region-wide market	Leading to APEC-FTAAP
- Regional production networks expansion	<u>Non-trade issues:</u>
- Region-wide infrastructure development	China, India, Indonesia and Japan
	unlikely to join

Q1: Parallel and complementary or competitive models?

Q2: China-Korea-Japan Trilateral and APT process: largely supportive of ASEAN-centred integration

II. Security Architecture

North East Asia (6 Party Talks) *vs.* EAS (ASEAN + 8)

- Different political systems
- Different security affiliations
- Unsettled historical legacies and territorial disputes
- China’s military rise
- North Korea: China’s buffer, 38th parallel
- Challenges for US-Korea and US-Japan alliances
- Rising Chinese power will create further complexities

Conclusion: Northeast Asian regionalism is unlikely to compete against ASEAN-led structures like EAS, ARF, ADMM+

III. India-Japan-Korea Trilateral Prospects

- Free market democracies
- Complementary economies, growth potential, reducing over-exposure to China
- Bilateral CEPAs
- ASEAN-led economic integration model
- Marginalising North Korea’s proliferation and destabilization activities
- Similar approaches on China’s rise/engage but hedge against overly assertive and hegemonic China
- Continued dependence on US for security (Japan, Korea)
- Japan-Korea: despite differences, more likely to converge over long run
- Supportive of US “rebalancing” towards Asia (India, Japan, Korea)

IV. Convergences

- ASEAN-led CEPEA/RCEP
- EAS as security forum
- Shared maritime security interests
- Prospects for defence industrial cooperation
- Stabilising influence on region
- Increasing contributions to Asian security from Western Pacific to IOR
- Upgrade to Track I Trilateral