

The Geo Political Climate for Climate Change: Time for New Strategies and Tactics

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## I. Introduction

Political dynamics in the international arena have changed radically in recent years. The international landscape is increasingly marked by extensive ethnic and religious conflicts. Drugs, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in certain countries, the emergence of new diseases and increasingly frequent natural disasters due to climate change including: tsunamis, earthquake, droughts, floods, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and typhoons etc.

In 2017 alone, losses caused by natural disasters amounted to 306 billion Dollars according to Swiss Re.

In addition to these global issues, are tangible emerging localised phenomena such as piracy, oil spills, financial instability, cyber terrorism, the scramble for natural resources in sea beds and even in space domain which can jeopardise peace and stability at anytime, anywhere on Earth.

ISIS-inspired violence, combined with political and social uncertainties surrounding Brexit, and other electoral outcomes have the potential to radically change the landscape of the entire world community.

## 2. Preventive Diplomacy

Given these realities, if we are to have any hope of changing the world's historic dependence on war to resolve disputes, it is very important to revisit the concept and value of "Preventive Diplomacy." The prevention of both natural and human-induced disasters should be rooted in preventive diplomacy and predicated on nonviolent means being applied to resolving international conflicts, and these methods should be used whenever possible as a first resort. However, if such preventive measures do not work, it is imperative to have the hard capability and strength required to step in and enforce peace where necessary - as a last resort.

In the case of natural disasters, the application of such preventive diplomacy also provides a platform from which any nation/state is free to choose to cooperate with the global community - regardless of conflicting politics and ideologies - on behalf of their own people who live in local villages and towns, and suffer from disasters that are beyond their control.

Therefore, I believe that **natural and human-induced disaster prevention** should be based on the same principles as **preventive diplomacy**.

In its simplest form, preventive diplomacy can be best explained by breaking it down into in 4 stages:

1. Preventing conflicts from breaking out
2. Preventing conflicts from expanding
3. Promoting ceasefires that stop the conflict to enable recovery
4. Preventing the resumption of hostilities (44% of the current conflicts in the world are recurring)

This same concept can be perfectly applied to Natural Disasters:

1. Preparing for natural disasters before they happen
2. Rescuing victims quickly
3. Recovering from the disaster
4. Focusing on reconstruction that reduces risk in the event of another disaster

I believe in the Japanese saying “**Be prepared and you will have no regrets**” (備えあれば、憂いなし). Therefore, I wrote a book entitled “**Think, or Sink**” arguing **Preventive State Theory**.

3. It is important to recognise, especially at this complex moment in world history, the multifaceted nature of Japan as a nation, and how to make the best use of its attributes in a practical and proactive way. Perhaps the nation can be best described in context of the following five distinguishing features of Japan’s unique characteristics:

① Japan is the only country in the world which has lost hundreds of thousands of lives from atomic bombs. Japan has taken a moral stance to neither create nor possess

nuclear weapons through determined political will, in spite of its technological and financial ability to do so.

② While Japan found itself on the victorious side of the First World War, its resulting arrogance caused it to subsequently suffer a devastating defeat in the Second World War (WWII). With its mainland occupied by the US for nearly 7 years (and Okinawa for even longer), the country's morale took a severe blow and its people suffered, especially women with children to care for while their husbands perished in the war effort. Through these experiences Japan gained an understanding of the mindset of both winner and loser, uniquely equipping it to be a mediator between the victorious and those who have been defeated in current world conflicts.

③ Japan enjoyed a period of radical economic development after WWII to become a member of a small group of rich democratic countries while becoming a model for other developing countries. On the other hand, Japan's dependence on the US for defence and security continues because history took away Japan's right and will to become a militarised country. Therefore, Japan has to consider carefully what our role can and should be on the world stage, especially in relation to global security issues such as terrorism, cyber security, piracy and conflict as a member of the world community.

④ Japan is very unique in terms of its attitudes to religion. Throughout its history, Japan has accepted various kinds of religions such as Confucianism, Shintoism and Buddhism (being the largest), but in addition to these, Christianity and Judaism have also been well accepted; there are also more than 80 Islamic mosques in Japan. There is almost no religious friction in Japan, and it remains free from the religious disputes that plague the Middle East, Africa and Central and South America.

⑤ Japan is a country rich in nature and water, however it is poor in other natural resources. Instead Japan has developed the highest standards of industrial technology and environmental protection. It has historically practiced very sustainable methods to conserve and protect scarce resources to achieve very high agricultural productivity and establish a safe world-class food distribution system. Its network of electrical grids, water and transportation systems are of the highest quality in the world.

#### 4. Natural Disaster Mitigation

When I served as Special Ambassador of Tsunami Awareness Day, I proposed the first corroboration between the Japanese government and UNWOMEN as the international development of WAW (the World Assembly for Women lead by Prime Minister in UNCSW entitled “**Enhancing Resilience of Women for Disaster Risk Reduction**” in March 2017 successfully.

And I learned that the ratio of Commitment Suicide of Male is much bigger than Female after Great East Japan Earthquake.

Therefore, we have to encourage male friends/colleagues to be more resilient as well.

The **problems pointed out** just before 3.11 are as follows:

1. The people forget **dreadfulness of tsunamis** year by year.
2. People have **gotten used to the warning** and do not want to escape immediately.
3. The strong and **huge breakwater seawall** has been established at the coast of frequent tsunami areas makes the residents feel safe and not react to the warning immediately.

We have learned that these are true.

**If we have a glance of Tsunami in the World which covers everywhere.**

- \* BC 2000-3000      NOAH'S ARK
- \* BC 1628          Greece
- \* 1755              Lisbon Earthquake (10,000 died)
- \*1946              Aleutian Earthquake (165 died)
- \*1960              Chili Earthquake (142 died); 22.30 hours later to Japan M9.4
- \* 2004              Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami 34m (250,000 died M9.0)
- \* **2011.3.**          The *East Japan Earthquake Great* 15895 人(2018.3)
- 2018.9.28**        *Sulawesi Island of Indonesia (more than 2,000 dead)*

+Forest fire in California (74 dead and more than 1,000 missing)

As you know well, we suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011.

But we suffered more of the legal bindings at the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake in 1995.

As an elected member of the Japanese Diet, I worked hard to improve various laws such as Quarantine (クアランタイン) detector dogs (6 months), Foreign doctor's medical practice in Japan (originally not allowed), Road Traffic Act to stop private cars in case of disaster (ambulance & fire engines of neighbouring prefectures could not enter), earthquake resistant building standards (as of today 99% of elementary schools have improved) etc.

\*The legal review of each nation/state is required before something happens.

#### 4. **Non-traditional Security**

It is also important for us all to recognise the importance of human security

##### \*Re-definition of **Human Security**

In the context of my speech at the first United Nations Human Rights Council, I would like to propose to review the very definition of human security, to include "responsibility to protect" not only from violence but also to secure the basic rights of human beings as follows.

For example,

##### \* **Security of food**

Food security should not be considered in context of just one country but must be considered from a regional perspective. Japan should work together with our Asian neighbours taking a "bird's eye view" of the situation. Japan's agricultural technology, high productivity, advanced irrigation and food distribution systems have the potential to help in the construction of an Asian food security network that will be able to provide mutual support, if something happens. I believe this concept can also be applied to Africa.

### \* Security of water

In the context of Water security in the Middle East and Africa, Japan's compact water purification systems, desalination facilities, and water treatment systems can all be applied to any place as far as water exists. At the same time, Japan can promote afforestation and reforestation as a preventative measure for desertification in the Middle East, South America, Africa, and, China.

### \* Security of energy

Energy security in the world is a common issue for all. The spread of solar and wind power is gaining momentum, however, less utilised wave power generation and the development of methane sources from the sea can be accelerated by Japan. In addition to the above, Japan's technology can contribute to upgrading nuclear power stations and improving risk management, based on hard lessons learned from the accident at Fukushima Daiichi.

### \* Security of Environment

The Paris Agreement is to be signed in December at Cop24 without the US.

And all the nations led by the UN are working hard for 2030 in the flag of SDGs. But I am a little bit worried because everything is in one package. Sometimes everything means nothing is achieved.

We have to reconsider what kind of lifestyle is the advanced way of living.

The value of lifestyle, that is, way of living can be shifted from big, fast and strong to small, slow and gentle.

## 5. Human development through a Peacebuilding Preventive Diplomacy Training Centre

As Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in Japan in 2007 and after five years of research, I launched a programme called Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding. Half of the participants were Japanese and the other half were from Asian nations, and the training features 3 months of lectures at Hiroshima University, a 6-month internship in UN-related organisations in conflict zones, with a wrap-up in Tokyo.

In 2009, we expanded this programme to the Middle East, or, according to Prince Hassan of Jordan, "West Asia." From a slightly longer-term perspective, within 15 years

or so, those who have been trained at the Centre would conceivably be working in influential positions throughout the region. This human network with its seeds sown by Japan would surely prove a useful and effective tool to prevent conflict from breaking out and/or recovery from natural and human-induced disaster serving as a platform for peace and stability in Asia.

\*Human Development is the key for every strategy and its implementation.

**5. The World Conference on the UN Decade for Women** was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985. Although many NGO representatives attended this conference, one of the highlights was a speech given by Ms Leticia Shahani from the Philippines who recently passed away, then Secretary General of the UN Conference at that time.

She said,

**\*Peace is not a situation where there is no war. It is women who can teach our children the reality of war and peace as genuine teachers.**

**\*True development is social, cultural and political, as well as economic.**

**\*Equality between men and women is not simply the absence of discrimination. Rather equality means granting women the right, opportunity, and responsibility, to take part in their own development.**

Since then, we became very good friends, and worked together on the Women's Vocational Training Centre in the Philippines.

The most popular subject is not cooking, nor sewing but welding. The Filipino women's fine fingers can create a beautiful finishing touch.

\* Vocational training is extremely effective in order to make victims of natural and human-induced disasters to stand on his/her own feet economically.

## **6. Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have to choose our own way and establish networks to walk together wherever we find ourselves and we have to cooperate and work together to build a much safer global community. By providing **education, lifelines and even infrastructure** support we can

make a difference to human security, regardless of any differences in **race, religion, skin colour or nationality**.

We all have much in common strategy to protect the globe, but we also bring very different strengths to the realms of politics, economics, security, society and our collective mentality. In consideration of the above, it is clear that we can find many rich avenues for cooperation that will contribute to raising the consciousness of the world community through this Think Tank Summit from Asia to the World. The issues facing all of us today can perhaps be best understood through the three concepts/key words listed below:

### ① Ensuring Social Resilience

A simple glance at the world map of conflicts leaves most of us simply speechless. At the same time, natural disasters are increasing annually.

Therefore, we have to consider how to ensure the resilience of society - from human beings to infrastructure.

### ② Addressing Common Interests

When we look at trade problems plaguing the world at this moment, most developed nation/states have tried to establish multilateral rules that align with common interests.

But if on the global stage only the strong win at bilateral trade negotiations, no one in this complicated interconnected world will survive. Even the winner will suffer a backlash as common interests reassert themselves in a boomerang effect.

The urgent need to spread the concept of protecting “Common Interests” to everyone who does not yet realise its importance is underlined.

\*Democracy is based on not only rule of law but also common interests, I think.

### ③ Establishing an Age of Balance

I believe it is important to recognise that **the 21st century is the age of balance**. The struggle for balance is being waged on an international, state and individual level, between dichotomies of competing values.



They include:

1. Development vs. environmental protection,
  2. Globalisation vs. regionalisation,
  3. High-tech information vs. individual privacy,
  4. Group orientation vs. individualism,
  5. Work vs. leisure,
  6. Materialism vs. spiritualism,
  7. Male vs. female,
  8. Military solutions vs. non-military alternatives,
- and even
9. National interests vs. international interests (in other words, common interests)

In closing I would like to share with you a quote from late Prof Kenneth Garbureith, Professor of Economics of Harvard University.

1994 as a Professor of Intercultural Studies

‘Akiko, US and Japan have succeeded to produce excellent products. However, it is doubtful if we have succeeded to produce REAL HAPPY PEOPLE.’

1997 as Member of Parliament

‘Akiko, there are three issues in the 21st century:

1. The problem of the rich and the poor
2. The problem of nuclear issues
3. The problem of traditional discrimination such as religion, race, nationality, gender

2001 in a wheelchair at 92 years old, stood up

‘Akiko, Japan should stop following the US but establish your own identity.’

Three times= sounds his Will

Let me walk and work together with you all through our precious Think Tank network to produce REAL HAPPY PEOPLE.

I thank you.