

Event Report

Title: Briefing on Economic Security facing China

Date: Monday, June 5, 2023

On June 5, the Japan office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) had the honor of welcoming **Minister-President of North-Rhine Westphalia, Hendrik Wüst**, to a Briefing on Economic Security facing China. The program was divided into three expert lectures, followed by a discussion with the delegation of the state cabinet and business leaders.

Following the introduction and opening remarks by **Naoki Takiguchi** (KAS) and Minister-President Hendrik Wüst, **Mr. Shigeaki Shirashi**, Senior Research Fellow at Nakasone Peace Institute (NPI) provided the first lecture on economic security vis-à-vis China. A key aspect of his lecture was his definition of economic security as a balance between the logic of the economy and the logic of security. Mr. Shirashi also highlighted the importance of like-minded countries working together to find the right balance in their relations with China, which today is a major power in both the economic and security spheres.

During the second lecture, **Professor Yorizumi Watanabe**, Professor of International Political Economy at Kansai University of International Studies (KUIS), discussed the concepts of de-risking and decoupling towards China. For example, the G7 member countries have agreed to a de-risking approach, meaning diversifying economic relations to create sustainable and resilient economies, which is a fortunate scenario for free world trade. He also emphasized China's willingness to enter and cooperate in global trade networks such as CPTPP. In response, Japan, along with other CPTPP members, should pave the way for China's future CPTPP membership by maintaining high standards and approaching China, rather than against it.

Lastly, in the third lecture **Ms. Mihoko Matsubara**, Chief Cybersecurity Strategist of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT), addressed the issues of German-Japanese cooperation in Cybersecurity. In her lecture, Ms. Matsubara stressed that cybersecurity is crucial in providing society access to a stable supply of resources, resilient critical infrastructures, and competitive advantage through the protection of intellectual copyrights. Establishing reliable cyber security is essential for economic security, especially in the age of globalization and heightened interdependence, where a cyberattack of one nation on another would inevitably damage economies and countries worldwide.

The event was followed by a networking event with prominent guests, including members of the Japanese parliament and experts.