

Importance of Human Interaction and Our Economy

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Hello, everyone. I'm Hiroki Tachioka, a student at Aoyama Gakuin University. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Here I'm going to talk about significance of face to face communication.

Currently it seems that Russia Japan relations have been relatively good. However, because of political reasons, the Northern Territories Issue has remained unresolved between the two countries for more than seventy years. According to a data by Pew Research Center, it says about 64 percent Japanese have unfavorable view against Russia. Considering the situation, I can say that we need to establish mutual trust through cultivating personal exchanges to deepen our economic and political relations more. So, in this speech, I would like to talk to you about significance of human interaction as a step to forge interdependent relations between Japan and Russia. After that I'm going to talk about a way to deepen the communication and prospect for long-lasting economic political relations.

To begin with, Face to face human interaction has power to put restraints on conflicts especially use of force arising from political and economic impasses such as territorial disputes because we can avoid miscommunication and misunderstanding messages from other countries. Just only texting has possibility that communication might result in superficial and, in the worst case, having antagonism against others because sometimes we cannot convey messages what we actually want to mean. In the sense, face to face communication between the countries plays an important role. All the more having face to face communication and negotiation regularly are also required so that we can promote confidence-building measures and have negotiations immediately

when unexpected matters happened to solve them peacefully. We should do that kind of communication at some levels ranging from grassroots interaction to high level talk. But we should keep in mind that our aim of face to face communication is not interaction itself, it is one of the measures to build credibility, respect, and eventually create stable economic political reciprocal relations. In order to do that, we need to overcome obstacles step by step. As a result, I would like to emphasize importance of face to face interactions as a measure to achieve mutual trust, strong economic and political collaboration, which can work for restraining confrontation.

Secondly, Face to face communication will get away stereotypes which are defined as “a set idea that people have about what someone or something is like, especially an idea that is wrong.” As I mentioned earlier, it was reported that about 64 percent Japanese has a negative view against Russia. Fortunately there is a data saying that youth who answered that they feel close to Russia has been increasing, for example 29.8% at 20s. This might be because of increase of human interaction among youth through like this youth conference. However some of the people might have stereotypes without knowing. There are some reasons for that. Media coverage has key roles that affect our way of thinking, which is one way meaning passive information. However it's not enough to have better face to face communication and understand others well from only them. So we need to obtain two-way information meaning both knowing others from news information and experiences of face to face communication because medias have only supplemental effect on us. What I want to say is that we need to try to understand others from wider perspectives. In order to do so, we should learn history so that we can considerate others we're talking to. By doing such things, we will be able to contemplate many things fairly and sincerely without looking at them from a biased viewpoint. So I believe that face to face communication break biased way of thinking and contribute to our mutual understanding.

Lastly, I would like to talk about prospect for economic cooperation between us. As I mentioned at the beginning, territorial issues has remained between us for over 70 years for political reasons. However we can collaborate each other in economy even if our political relations are unstable as Japanese Prime Minister Abe and Russian President Putin laid out eight-point plan. And I believe that economic collaborations are not zero sum, but non zero sum meaning our economic cooperation can be beneficial for both of us. So we should emphasize what we can provide the benefit each other, not having squabble over bad aspects so much. Though this is an example, Japan can provide state-of-the-art technologies to Russia and Russia instead can offer natural resources to Japan. In order to create the favorable situations, we need mutual trust through face to face interactions as a prerequisite for strong economic relations as mentioned earlier.

In conclusion, So far I talked about importance of face to face communication, a way to succeed in the communication and prospect for our economic cooperation. I especially want to emphasize significance of direct human interaction like this event. I hope that through this event we can learn get to know and understand each other. Thank you for your kind attention.