
POLISH POLITICAL SCIENCE
VOL XXXVIII 2009
PL ISSN 0208-7375

**REPORT FROM THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “THE FACES OF
ASIAN STATEHOOD. CIVILIZATION, CULTURAL,
POLITICAL, LEGAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS”**

by Robert Gawłowski

On the 21st and 22nd of May 2009, an International Scientific Conference “The Faces of Asian Statehood. Civilization, Cultural, Political, Legal and Economic Aspects” was held in Toruń, Poland. The event took place thanks to the joint initiative of the Asia and Pacific Society and its Chairman Adam Marszałek – the main organizing institution, Institute of Political Science & Institute of International Relations – University of Nicolaus Copernicus, Toruń, Poland, as well as local (President of Toruń) and regional (Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region) authorities. Joanna Marszałek-Kawa was the Scientific Manager of the sessions. Members of the Organizing Committee include also Lucyna Osińska, Robert Gawłowski, Joanna Modrzyńska and Mariusz Popławski.

The opening session, which took place in beautiful building of the the Dąbski Palace, in the town centre, was attended by Rector of the University Professor Andrzej Radziwiński, Head of Institute of Political Science Prof. Roman Bäcker and Head of International Relations Institute Prof. Zbigniew Karpus. The Marshalls Office and the Town Hall have had their representatives – Director of International Relations Department of Mar-

shals Office – Denis Dembek and Vice President of Toruń – Zbigniew Fiderewicz. Definitely it is great scientists, who were the most important here. Among them one shall mention Professor Andrzej Antoszewski from University of Wrocław, Professor Ewa Oziewicz from University of Gdańsk, Professor Bogusława Drelich-Skulska from Economic University of Wrocław, Professor Kazimierz Starzyk and Professor Krystyna Michałowska-Gorywoda from the Warsaw School of Economics, Professor Adam Jelonek from Jagiellonian University, Professor Zbigniew Wiktor from Uniweristy fo Wrocław, Professor Lech Wyszczelski from Podlaska Academy and Professor Jacek Sobczak from University of Adam Mickiewicz. Also a numerous delegation of Chinese guests was present, including Professor Miao Huashou and Assistant Professor Liu Jian, Mr. Ding Haijia – Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of Chinese People’s Republic in Warsaw with his wife. Presence of such guests has definitely contributed to the importance of the session.

But it is the presentations which definitely have the greatest value regarding scientific events. Papers given by participants were interesting and rich of unknown facts. It is a positive sign that Polish researchers more and more often make international journals a key basis for their studies. The fact that many of them were or are practitioners, who everyday deal with issues regarding the topic of the conference.

As the event has been organized for the 3rd time it has worked out a good brand and that resulted in extremely, as for Poland, high will of participation among researchers. More than 80 people came to Toruń to exchange their opinions and views. Due to that, organizers had to prepare sometimes even 3 simultaneously conducted sessions, later continued at the building of the mentioned institutes.

During the first Day an interesting paper was given by Henryk Herman from Podlaskie Academy, who was speaking about the security in the Asia-Pacific region in the context of threat of atomic weapons and terrorism. Herman had begun his presentation by emphasizing the socio-economical issue in the region as well as its high position on the global market. He his pointed then the most crucial areas, where the threat is the most possible. It is a kond of a belt, ranging from the Middle to Far East. What was interesting, are the questions state by the presenter. One of these is why the Asia-Pacific region, is the highest-danger area. The explanation was supported by rich data and circled around competitiveness of some of the players. The

result is never-ending race to gain new zones of influence or to undertake more courageous attempts to affect the shape of world security balance.

Also paper given by Professor Miao Huashou has brought listeners' attention. The topic was "30 Years of Economic Development of People's Republic of China after the Reform and Opening up to the outside World"

The main thesis was to present new goals, which has been set by the Republic within last three decades. Among them Miao Huashou emphasized four – to restructure the economy from centrally oriented toward market oriented management, transition from closed and half-closed system towards a fully opened structure, development of various sectors of economy, in which China is high-ranked in the global scale as well as securing and improving the living of conditions of citizens.

A lot of attention was dedicated to the latter two goals. Miao Huashou has pointed out that the construction sector is of the most crucial ones in the economy. He has presented its scale and place of China comparing to the rest of the world, in the terms of GDP, annual GDP growth at rural and urban areas.

The second part of the presentation was on the issue of step-by-step move forward, which, as a part of the reform, has been taken by the PRC. The strategy was designed to solve many problems, which in that time had been present in China. The most bothering was bad situation in the countryside. Level of farming and living there was below any standards, and due to that it was that areas that demanded governments' intervention first. The development disproportions between towns & cities and villages were huge, as well as those regarding coastline and the center of China. Miao Huashou has broadly presented undertaken steps, including no taxes on farmers and subsidies for reform activities.

At the end, in order to compare the changes he got back in memory to 1986, when he was leaving Poland after a longer stay. He was then dreaming to be able to drive along a highway in China, just like the ones he saw in West Germany and through multilevel crossings he saw at Łazienkowska Street in Warsaw. Currently China is on the second place in world rank of length of highways and crossings are much more spectacular than those in Warsaw.

To sum up, I must say that it is impossible to comment on All of the papers, but nearly all among the 80, were brilliant, and I hope that the Con-

ference will be developed and continued next year. It is definitely not only perfect organization but the passion of participants, who often have not just read about Asia, but “experienced” it, that makes this conference so popular. I wish that thanks to my report more international guests will think of being a part of it.