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## REPORTS

**PORTRAITS OF ASIAN STATEHOOD.  
Civilisational, Cultural, Political, Legal, & Economic Aspects.  
The Third International Scientific Conference.  
Torun, 21–22 May, 2009**

*by Daniel Kawa*

It is already the third time when the International Scientific Conference has taken place in Torun, attended by more than 100 scholars from all scientific centres as well as several participants from abroad.

The initiator and scientific manager of all so far conferences has been dr Joanna Marszałek-Kawa, assistant director of the Faculty of Political Sciences of Nicolaus Copernicus University.

The conference was arranged by the Asia – Pacific Society and the Faculty of Political Sciences, Faculty of International Studies of Nicolaus Copernicus University and Polish-Chinese Friendship Society.

Every year the conference enjoys more and more domestic and foreign scholars; the conferences tend to be of more and more interdisciplinary character according to the idea of dr Joanna Marszałek-Kawa. Just like in case of previous conferences, the outcome of this conference, i.e. the speeches, will be published in a few volumes, each will be of a specific character.

The results of the First Conference entitled “Asia – Policy, Economy, Political System” were published in four volumes: *The Aspects of China at the beginning of the 21st century. History. Policy. Society, Meanders of Japanese Policy, The Dragon’s Return. March towards the global superpower*

*standing. The political life of Asia. Realities and aspirations.* They have been completed with a few texts by young research co-workers of prof. Jan Rowiński.

The results of the Second Conference which we entitled “The Role and standing of Asia in the contemporary world”, were also published in four volumes such as: *Japan. History and Contemporary Times, Problems of the development of Asian countries, The meaning of Asian countries in the contemporary world* and *Chinese foreign policy and its conditionings*. This time they were supported by “Japanese” volume and papers by the following professors: Mikołaj Melanowicz and Andrzej Peplowski as well as PhD Ewa Trojnar and Krzysztof Karolczak.

The Third Conference was attended by Chinese scholars including prof. Miao Huashou and PhD Liu Jian from Academy of International Affairs of the prestigious Folk University in Beijing. The present conference was also attended by representatives of the publishing consortium Anhui Publishing Group with President Lin Qingfa.

The conference guests were numerous diplomats from various countries, for example, Peoples Republic of China, Russian Federation, Malaysia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Belarus and many others. We are particularly pleased that there were such eminent scholars in the conference as professors Andrzej Antoszewski from University of Wrocław, Andrzej Chodubski from University of Gdańsk, Edward Czapiewski from University of Lower Silesia, Bogdan Góralczyk from University of Warsaw, Adam Jelonek from Jagiellonian University, Ewa Oziewicz from University of Gdańsk, Jacek Sobczak from Warsaw School of Social Psychology, Maciej Szczerowski from Toruńska Szkoła Wyższa (Non-university vocational school), Bogdan Rok from University of Wrocław, Lech Wyszczelski from University of Podlasie; outstanding authorities on economic matters: professors Kazimierz Starzyk and Krystyna Michałowska-Gorywoda from Warsaw School of Economics and Bogusława Skulska from Wrocław University of Economics.

After an official opening performed by president of the Asia – Pacific Society Adam Marszałek and the speech delivered by chancellor of Nicolaus Copernicus University Andrzej Radziwiński, followed by vice-president of Toruń Zbigniew Fiderewicz, representative of Voivodship

Marshal's Office Denis Dembek and dean-elect of the Faculty of Political Sciences, Nicolaus Copernicus University Roman Bäcker, the merits of plenary session was conducted by Bogusława Skulska from Wrocław University of Economics. There were given seven papers including: *International Business in Eastern Asia in Global Economic Crisis* – prof. Bogusława Skulska, *Implications of the Global Economic Crisis for Eastern Asia* – prof. Kazimierz Starzyk, *Flashback and Prospects in the development of Relations between Peoples Republic of China and USA* – prof. Miao Huashou, *Form of Co-operation between EU and Asian Countries* – prof. Krystyna Michałowska-Gorywoda, *Political Systems of Values: Asian, European and American Systems versus Contemporary Political and Economic Crisis* – prof. Jerzy Sielski, *Poles in Korea* – Andrzej Chodubski.

The other part of the conference session was carried out in panels. The first panel was conducted by prof. Krystyna Michałowska-Gorywoda. There were given nine papers the following of which are worth particular attention: *Safety Problems of Asia and Pacific in context of nuclear weapon and terrorism* by prof. Henryk Herman, *Is China ready to play the role of the Global Military Power?* by prof. Maciej Franz, *Policy of Russia as Power in Asia –historical conditionings* by prof. Edward Czapiewski.

The moderator of the second panel was an outstanding Polish expert in political science prof. Andrzej Antoszewski.

The speeches in the third panel focused on problems concerning international and legal matters. The lecture delivered by prof. Miao Huashou and PhD Liu Jian generated much interest, *30 years' Economic Development of Peoples Republic of China after the Reform and Openness to the Outside World*. The problem of human rights was presented by PhD Mateusz Stępień in his speech about *Western Human Rights against the Confucian Model of the World Interpretation* and PhD Wiesław Waclawczyk – *On Freedom of Conscience in China*.

In the panel held by prof. Henryk Herman there were given seven papers. The first to give a speech was PhD Bartosz Kruszyński who raised the following question *Can USA be victorious in Afghanistan?* PhD Hayssam Obeidat gave a speech about *Determinants of China's Foreign Policy in view of Persian Gulf Countries*. PhD Andrzej Anders analysed *Influence*

*of Political Transformations in the countries of South-Eastern Asia during the first decade of the 21st century on functioning of ASEAN.*

Speeches in the fifth panel, with prof. Jerzy Sielski as the chairman, were commenced with the paper given by prof. Zbigniew Wiktor entitled *Role of Chinese State in Overcoming the Global Crisis*. Other aspects of this matter were discussed by Aleksandra Niemczyńska M.A. – *Chinese Metamorphosis – Tradition versus Revolution*, whereas Karol Kościelniak M.A. gave an account of *The Image of China in Polish Press during Olympic Games Beijing 2008*.

In the panel held by prof. Adam Jelonek, prof. Ewa Oziewicz took the floor as first, and presented *Prospects for Economic Development of South-Eastern Asia Economy against the Contemporary Economic Crisis*. Prof. Jerzy Grabowiecki concentrated on *Japanese Capital-Industrial Groups Keiretsu in the Age of Globalisation*. Thanks to PhD Grzegorz Ronk we became familiar with the issue of *Economic Co-operation between India and Great Britain at the beginning of the 21st century*. *Iran's Economic Standing* was discussed in detail by PhD Bartosz Bojarczyk.

Military problems prevailed in the panel moderated by prof. Maciej Franz, in which the following scholars gave speeches: prof. Lech Wyszczelski with his paper – *Theories of People's War in Mao Zedong's concept*, PhD Andrzej Wierzbicki analysed *Ethnopolitical conflicts in Central Asia (based on the example of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)*. Additionally, it is worth mentioning the speech made by PhD Veronika Belyevy entitled *Asian "State" within Russian Federation. Specific Ethnopolitical Character of the Republic of Kalmykia*.

During the eighth panel, whom chairman was prof. Kazimierz Starzyk, nine speakers delivered their speeches. The first was prof. Grzegorz Piwnicki with his paper – *Arguments about strategic sea waters in Eastern Asia at the beginning of the 21st century*. Prof. Jacek Sobczak presented his paper about *Uyghur People – Chinese Islam Followers*. PhD Marcelli Burdelski focussed on Korean matters in his paper entitled – *Two Korean States – Origin – Structure – Functions – Forecast*. However, the most interesting speech was the one given by prof. Bogdan Góralczyk, who presented *Increasing Role of China in the International Arena*.

The biggest of all was the ninth panel closing the session, in which eleven papers were given. It was the most diversified one in terms of subjects. The speakers included prof. Aleksander Lipatow with his speech *Golden Orda against Moscow State's Political Culture*, PhD Piotr Kwiatkiewicz – *Occupation of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan – multi-aspect outline of the problem*, PhD Natalia Maksymowicz *Mao's People – education issue in the area of Dolpo in Nepal*, col. Tadeusz Krząstek presented the profile of *Brigadier General pilot Witold Urbanowicz. The Hero of the Battle of Britain and China Defender 1940–1945*.

To conclude, it is necessary to point out that the level of the speeches delivered during the conference was predominantly very good.

The outcome of this conference "Portraits of Asian Statehood. Civilisational and Cultural Aspects" will be published by co-organiser of the conference, Adam Marszałek Publishing House.

It is also noteworthy that Torun conferences have become the biggest scientific meeting of experts in the field of history, policy, culture, economy in Poland. The organisers managed to arrange the assembly of the most prominent intellectuals such as prof. Bogdan Góralczyk, prof. Jerzy Sielski, prof. Ewa Oziewicz, prof. Andrzej Antoszewski, prof. Miao Huanshou, prof. Krystyna Michałowska-Gorywoda, prof. Andrzej Chodubski, col. Edward Czapiewski, prof. Adam Jelonek, prof. Lech Wyszczelski and prof. Jacek Sobczak with his young disciples.