

East Asia: The next Superpower

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The Undiscovered Unity

The East Asia region has shown distinctive economic growth characteristics in recent years. The countries in the regions have shown fast growing recovery in the beginning of this new millennium, even though they were suffered due to the infamous economic crisis awhile back.

There is none to argue that with China's awakening economic power, the world has seen another gigantic potential power, which may become a determining factor to the global livelihood.

Japan has always been considered as one of the strongest economy leaders.

The fact that other countries in the region namely South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, and others (apologies for those not mentioned) have also reflected massive potentials in the economic sector.

These countries in the regions have enjoyed shares in good economic relationships. However, such relationships have not progressed further into firmer stages. Differences and turbulence in the regional Geopolitics have highlighted most of the recent regional affairs.

Some would say that the vested interests of the "West" in the region have become of an Importance, more than ever. Especially, after the fall down of the Soviet Union just before the new millennium commenced. Surely, the West will never allow a bunch of economic potentials to exceed their proclaimed hegemony. Thus, they will do anything to protect these potentials to become united.

This is why that the East Asia region needs to find a way of

reconciliation towards unity in order to rediscover further tremendous potentials not only in economy but also in political power and cultures.

The World of No Racism

One would still wonder what happened to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Did Japan really deserve to be the target of the "Fat Man" and the "Little Boy"? Why did not Hitler's NAZI get the same treatment? Just to remind readers that the NAZI also did significant damages during World War II.

Historically and culturally, the East Asia Region never recognised the concept of racism. Surely, there have been wars and differences among regional ethnics in the past. However, they were not driven by skin colours and ethnicity issues. They were mostly related to the fight for resources. Economic strength has always been the most valued element in this regional culture. They respect most the one that controls economy. Most of the regional ethnics also show they bear significant hungers towards economic certainties. This is one of the key elements of the recent regional economic revival.

If such element is combined with greater political endeavour, it will result in an unimaginable supremacy. The West very well understands this fact, and unquestionably they will prevent such combination to co-exist.

Racism is a western artefact, which infiltrates the eastern norms for eradications.

No wonder the eastern point of view towards the Hiroshima-Nagasaki bombing is solely based on racial-prejudice and not as a "pearl harbour" pay back.

The East Asian Dream

The regional economy, as one of the most sought-after element in the east, still needs to be repositioned. Multi-lateral economic relationships are required to be encouraged towards healthier

competitions and partnerships. One way to achieve it is by establishing an independent exclusive regional economic boundary. Abundant natural resources, great human capital, gigantic market and strong currencies would be the potential foundations towards an independent regional economic zone, which can be very exclusive for the East Asian people to enjoy. This hypothetical state would be difficult to realise in this current regional environment. We have witnessed unnecessary hurdles in the past few years among East Asian countries. These definitely become drawbacks of what would be the writer would call the "East Asian Dream". The East Asian Dream is about harmony among the nations within, which shares common economic privileges to realize prosperity, welfare, economic justice and improved social security. The region has still mountains to climb to get rid of such drawbacks.

Towards The World's Superpower

Wikipedia states that Superpower means a country that has the capacity to project dominating power and influence anywhere in the world, and sometimes, in more than one region of the globe at a time, and so may plausibly attain the status of global hegemony.

China has always been predicted to be the next world's superpower and jointly sharing such exclusive title with the United States.

The writer sees that China on its own will face steep hills in order to attain such title.

Japan-China saga, China-Taiwan differences and including North Korea affairs are summed up into more complex situation towards China's title pursuit. The sleeping giant has yet a lot to prove that it can spread its influences in the region especially in sorting out the mentioned issues. In addition, even though China's position is well supported by the overseas Chinese, still it has some barriers in terms of global linguistic communications.

The East Asian people should take European Union as a good example. Having a massive common economic boundary, which consists of various

economic potentials, has proven to be advantageous in strengthening its regional economy. As a reminder, Europe never has the luxury of exploiting abundant natural resources. However, they successfully structure their economy with a strong regional market, strong capital resources, technology product oriented, stable fiscal policy, low credit interest and low inflation. This proves further by the fact that EURO has beaten US Dollar in terms of Foreign Exchange.

Imagine if there is another Regional Union, The East Asian Union (EAU). This would definitely result in an unbelievable impact in the World's economy. With one Currency of EAU, the Union will be lead by its economic champions, China and Japan. The rest of the countries of course must support them and together work hand in hand in establishing stronger independent regional market, improving value added technology products, exploiting sustainable natural resources efficiently, and expanding capital network. These can only be done in harmony socially and politically. Then, The East Asian Dream will become a reality.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the super-potential East Asia region is undoubtedly to be unchallenged by others, should the region become united economically, politically, socially and culturally. However the Undiscovered Union must focus on consolidation efforts to overcome differences, dis-integrity, disparity, and destabilisation among the countries within. On the other hand, simultaneously, the region must promote more beneficial partnerships and cooperations in many sectors in order to realize the East Asian Dream.