

Summary Report
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At the 30th Seminar held on Saturday, 26 May 2018 at Tokyo University Komaba Campus, Ambassador Simona Leskovar explained Slovenia's accomplishments and challenges to Japanese scholars and experts on peace and development. GPAJ members discussed with Ambassador Leskovar how speedily Slovenia gained the independence from ex-Yugoslavia and has been dealing with the mass inflow of refugees and migrants into Slovenia.

Slovenia which has 2 million habitants has been playing a significant role in international peace and security since its admission to the UN in 1992 and EU in 2004. The ambassador emphasized that the cooperation with the international organizations such as the UN is necessary to ensure the global security. Taking the two agreements that the ambassador considers as a milestone: the Paris Agreement and the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration as an example, Slovenia is committed to taking all necessary steps to implement the agreements and to make a real achievement for a sustainable future for around the globe. The government of Slovenia has recognized the importance of ensuring Human Security that leads to protecting human rights, the rule of law, diversity, etc.

However, today's world is facing numerous threats to Human Security such as ongoing very violent armed-conflicts, mass human rights violation, and terrorism. Even in East Asia, the tension around North Korea is getting higher and higher.

The so-called refugee crisis is a burning issue around EU and Slovenia is not an exception. Between the late October of 2015 to the March 2016 (5month), Slovenia faced a mass influx of refugees and migrants with approximately 477,000 people were entering into Slovenia. The ambassador pointed out that this unprecedented influx made some challenges for Slovenia such as increasing of the number of illegal migrants.

Ambassador Leskovar repeatedly emphasized the importance of cooperation and solidarity within the international community including Japan to overcome the increasing

global threats today and to maintain international peace.

The discussant, Prof. Takaaki Mizuno of Kanda University of International Relations, pointed out that Japan also had a similar experience related mass inflow back to 1970 with Indochina refugees. Prof. Mizuno asked that how Slovenia had managed with the enormous amount of people trying to enter Slovenia, especially illegal migrants and how this movement had caused an impact on Slovenia.

Another discussant, Prof. Satoru Kurosawa of Kyoritsu Women's University and former director of JICA Balkan Office in Belgrade, recalled his stay in Slovenia during 2009 to 2012 with JICA. Since then, Slovenia has developed furthermore. In regarding this fact, he asked the result of the independence from former Yugoslavia and joining EU.

The Ambassador answered and concluded that the border controlling was a massive challenge for the state because it was not organized at the beginning and it is necessary to have international cooperation to tackle the crisis. Also, she pointed out Slovenia's political position as "middle-of-the-road" helped to handle the situation. She then clarified joining EU has a definite advantage for the youth generation in Slovenia. Especially, made by the Schengen Agreement and being in the Eurozone. It has accelerated human-mobility, and this leads for youth who will lead the country in the future to experience studying abroad with low cost.

Other participants posed several interesting questions related to mostly the refugee and migration crisis in Europe and the reaction of Slovenia.