What would be the international conference?

A Memorandum of Dr. Hirohide Konami, 2015

This is a memorandum of Dr. Hirohide Konami based on the meeting of Kokushikai Group, the group of the firstly appointed deputy directors of the each department of National Land Agency that was established in 1974 and merged to the Ministry of Construction in 2001.

The group met on November 27, 2015, at the Hotel New Ohtani in Tokyo with the members of So Akagi, Akira Yoshimura, Morihiko Kawarazaki, Hideo Kayahara, Masaru Yanagisawa, Kenichi Ogasawara and Hirohide Konami.

Main topic was the report by Hirohide Konami on the EAROPH Regional Seminar held at Ureshino City, Saga Prefecture in Japan on June 1, 2 and 3, 2015. As we got some valuable findings and proposals during the discussion, then I decided to upload the summary of the discussion on my homepage with the title of "What would be the international conference".

What is the significance of international conference? We found six targets as follows:

1) To heads up the human being and nations on some specified topic,

2) To promote the exchange and the competition of the members on the common theme,

3) To brush up the capability of participants,

4) To expect the economic benefit and the global propaganda of the region,

5) To deepen the understandings of the participants on the culture, geography and history of the region, and

6) To make the young generation aware of the foreign culture, especially for the primary school pupils. If we could make them participate in the conference, the memory and the stimulus in such young age would last long and become the power to grow the global human resources.

We could also point out the problems as follows:

1) Language

English itself differs from county to country. We may need some Standard English or to install good software that will prepare the favorable language for all participants through earphone or smart phone.

2) Religious problems

Customs and food have some restrictions for some religions. But we must overcome these problems by effort and understanding.

3) Conclusions and publications

We must get the good conclusions and the good publications by means of good preparations.

4) Finance of the conference

EAROPH still keeps the inexpensive entry fee such as one or two hundred US dollars but the other international conference requires expensive fees such as five or six hundred of US dollars. In order to keep the cheep entry fees, the sponsorship of the governments or private organizations is vitally important.

5) Evaluation of the participation

Japanese society including governments usually puts small importance on the participation for international conference. They somehow consider the participation as the same as the recreational tourism.

6) Itinerary of the tour

Japanese governments and companies usually prohibit having the additional recreational or family tour at the same time of the international conference. They say that we should differentiate the private and official time. But it is stupid to extinguish the chances of participants to see the foreign worlds. At least a few additional holidays should be attached to them then the participants would be able to concentrate on the conference.

Finally we discussed the outlook of EAROPH as follows:

1) Japanese government is not aggressive for the EAROPH activity and we need to find out the private sponsors.

2) EARPH head quarter in KL is not necessarily satisfied in financial situation and we need some help for them.

3) China was positive before but is not participating in these years.

4) It may be another discussion to find a comfortable hometown for EARPH head quarter.

Overall, we could have a time to discuss on the matter of ranking of universities. Japanese researchers are usually not so good in English because we can read almost all of the necessary papers through Japanese translation. Then it is natural that the number of English papers of Japanese researchers is not so big and they lose the chance to be accessed by the foreign researchers. Therefore we need to establish the National Translate Organization to translate the distinguished Japanese papers into foreign languages by free of charge. This may promote the Japanese researchers and students to participate in international activities.