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*Plenary Session: Interculturalism: Exploring Possibilities for a New Culture Beyond East and West*

**New Civilization or No Civilization**

The relationship between South Korea and the United States that has defined the world in which you lived has ended, and will not be restored. You now have the opportunity and necessity of inventing your own futures within the Region and the world on the basis of your own hopes and dreams. Indeed, the lure and power of Western Civilization itself is over, and no new hegemonic culture will replace it for a while—if ever. Disruptive challenges and opportunities racing towards us from the futures, whose initial turbulence already disturb us greatly, are growing in number and intensity. As the Soviet futurist, Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, said, “It is new civilization or no civilization”.