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Panel 2.3: Re-Proposal of the Asia Pacific Center in Okinawa

Communication and Peace in Asia

Now the world has become a smaller, well-connected community, thanks to communication technologies. Being connected and knowing others have been believed to be good, bringing our lives better, more harmonious and collaborative yet it does not turn out as expected: rather, we live in the age of intolerance.

When looking at Asia-Pacific, economies have grown rapidly and more people cross borders to travel, work, study, or live. Yet public diplomacy through people-to-people contact has not gained enough power to make a difference in preventing people from forming chauvinistic nationalistic attitudes, which may fuel conflicts, through mass and middle media such as SNS.

This presentation discusses a role and significance of communication, both mass and interpersonal, in Asia, from the case study of Japanese reconciliation with its Asian neighbors.