

# Ways to Promote “Cooperation and Coexistence” -Beyond “Power and Interdependence”- Symposium Concept

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To begin the symposium, as the organizer, I would like to briefly talk about the theme concept.

In planning the 7th Peace Forum, we had no choice but to consider the current state of the world, where divisions and conflicts are deepening. The last time Soka University hosted the event in 2020, it was forced to be held online amid the coronavirus pandemic. When Chinese Culture University hosted the event in 2021, it was also held online, and during this time we have tried to use the pandemic crisis as an opportunity to change the status quo and consider the possibility of building back to a better world.

However, last year, Russia began its invasion of Ukraine. In this context, last year's Peace Forum, hosted by Kyungnam University and held at Hyflex, examined the impact of the US-China conflict on the deterioration of the international environment.

In the face of a human crisis, now is the time for all countries and peoples to work together to take on the challenge of solving problems, but we have entered an era in which it is extremely difficult to expand human solidarity. The current dire situation in the Gaza is exacerbated by divisions and conflicts.

The modern international community has deepened its interdependence among nations. While the deepening of interdependence between nations has the function of strengthening mutual cooperative relationships, there is also a growing tendency to exercise "dependence" as

one's own power.

Nearly 50 years have passed since Keohane and Nye published "Power and Interdependence", suggesting that increasing interdependence could lead to a decline in the importance of military power.

As globalization progressed with the end of the Cold War, it was increasingly criticized as a neoliberal system of domination led by the United States. China claims that this is a Western-style international order and that it is unjust to universalize it, and it is promoting the construction of a different international order led by China.

As seen in the rise of China and Russia's opposition to the West, has the "post-Cold War" period ended, and has we entered a new era of a multipolar world in which conflicts intensify while interdependence strengthens?

Keohane and Nye also showed that interdependence does not mean mutual assistance and examined the reality of states exercising "dependency" as their own power. One example of using "dependence" as a weapon is "economic sanctions," but as seen in the economic sanctions against Russia, such sanctions are also a "double-edged sword" that causes considerable damage not only to the sanctioned party but also to the sanctioning party.

In the increasingly interdependent international community, using "dependence" in order to pursue the supremacy of power will increase the risk of confrontation and conflict between nations. What is needed to develop dependencies into mutually supportive cooperation without falling into this trap of interdependence? We would like to consider how to address the challenges to promote cooperative relations beyond "interdependence."

This time's keynote was given by Professor Luckhurst from our university. Professor Luckhurst will use remarkably interesting concepts such as "contested pluralism" to show how to understand the current state of the world, and from there he will suggest how to move toward a world of cooperation and coexistence.

In the second session, Professor Kim of Kyungnam University / University of North Korean Studies will give a presentation in response to our research topic as "How should we address economic security challenges in Asia?" And then, Professor Kuo of Chinese Culture University provided research results related to a research topic as "What should be done to further promote multi-layered cooperative relations in Asia?" Today, Professor Lin will give a presentation on behalf of Professor Kuo.

In addition to these excellent keynote speech and presentations, distinguished scholars will serve as discussants. Although today's time is limited, I hope that we will be able to have an extremely meaningful discussion.

I would like to express my deep gratitude once again to today's panelists for their contributions. And I would like to thank everyone who participated.