



**Kyoto Peacebuilding Center (KPC)**  
**In cooperation with**  
**Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan (GPAJ)**  
**And**  
**ACUNS Tokyo Liaison Office**

**Presents**  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of**  
**Ukraine to Japan**  
**Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

**Monday, May 2, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. Tokyo Japan**

**Report compiled by: Maciej Witek**

#### **Part 1: Keynote Speech**



**Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Japan**

Ambassador Korsunsky started his presentation by stating that this crisis is a war, a full-scale brutal war that was unimaginable a little more than two months ago. Of course, Ukraine knew that there is a very aggressive neighbor the assault on Ukrainian territory and sovereignty began 8 years ago in 2014, and people always knew that it would be difficult to resolve territorial problems with Russia – who knows better about those issues than Japan? On 24 February a classical war began of military assault on Ukraine, with missiles, planes, and tanks in Ukrainian territory. Since then, for 67 days Ukraine fights against Russian aggression, and definitely in this war is deeply involved in partnerships negotiations and assistance with partners in the world.

For Mr. Korsunsky it is absolutely clear that what happens in Ukraine and Europe, will not stay there. And he specifically mentions that because the day before yesterday he was lecturing at a university in New Delhi, and was surprised by the very short-sighted attitude of professors and students, fully consumed by Russian propaganda, saying this is European conflict, it has nothing to do with Asia. Ambassador was very surprised because India is a democracy with access to all the media and independent sources. Here in Japan of course it is fully covered in a very professional manner by all major outlets, and Ukraine is very grateful for this flow of objective information. If we talk about this thesis, we come to an understanding that first of all Europeans must take care of this because there are 5 million refugees, interrupted energy flow, and security issues. But if you look at Japanese media and talk to experts, it is surprisingly clear how much the Ukrainian crisis affects a much wider specter of issues. First of all, security. Just leave alone the names of countries, but let us imagine there is a nuclear country with a powerful military, which has a seat at the UN Security Council. This country assaults for no reason, unprovoked its neighbor, which is not nuclear, much smaller, cannot match in military power. If we think about this, we may understand that Putin cannot win, we cannot allow it. It would set a precedent that will open a Pandora box, and first of all, it will be opened in Asia. In Europe, there is NATO, an already established security alliance that is very well prepared to face possible aggression. In Asia, since 70 there was no major war, there are the US, security guarantees for several countries, but as well there are many territorial disputes and a major superpower that conducts now very assertive foreign policy in the South China Sea, toward Taiwan. The Ukrainian crisis must be a major break in an internationally maintained security infrastructure. Before the war, there were more than 300 bilateral intergovernmental agreements with Russia, specifically the big agreement on peace and friendship. The first article says that Russia accepts and fully recognizes the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and vice versa. All those agreements were brutally violated. That is why we have to look at this issue from the security point of view.

One of the two major economic issues is energy. Japan has 10% of its gas flowing from Russia, and 3.6% of its oil. We can see how a series of energy crises in Europe when Russia stopped the supply of gas to several countries, and even Germany which was the best Russian friend in energy and security. They now consider a full moratorium on Russian oil, and they will never get Nordstream 2. From now on the world market of energy would be different, and this is exactly where Japan will suffer. That will create an additional push for prices and inflation which we already experienced around the world through the last 2 years of the COVID pandemic.

Another problem connected directly to this war is the food crisis. Ukraine and Russia are two major producers of grains, we will not be able to produce even close amounts of what we were producing. Last year trade with China was 17 billion dollars, and among them, a huge number was specifically for Ukrainian grain. If China does not have food, and Russia will not be able to provide it, there will be a deficiency. As result, we can see a rise in prices and hunger in various parts of the world.

When it comes to the Japanese role in coping with this crisis, Mr. Korsunsky separated two issues: one is bilateral relations Ukraine-Japan, and another is much bigger, Japan's role in the world. On a bilateral issue, Ukraine was smashed on the scale of support from Japan. Literally, on the second day of aggression, there was the first statement from the parliament, then second, there were several waves of sanctions. Then a decision to provide financial and humanitarian assistance, decision to supply Ukraine with non-military products for the army. Then there was an unprecedented decision to open the borders for Ukrainian refugees, and they are extremely grateful for that. Mr. Korsunsky met with almost every member of the government personally and witnessed an unbelievable level of understanding and compassion on every corner. There are now more than 30 universities opening their doors to Ukrainian students who were deprived of their right and will to continue their studies in Ukraine. It was a real dream for every student studying Japanese in Ukraine, to get one or two years of education in Japan, and now they all have those opportunities, doors are open for technical and other specialists. President Zelensky became the first foreign leader to talk about the Japanese diet, and this was an amazing experience. This is something that is not expected on such a scale.

Another side of Japanese possible involvement is the huge importance of Japan in the international arena. Japan plays the number one role in IMF, the second role in World Bank, equal role with all G7 members in IBRD. When Ukraine requests financial assistance from those multilateral institutions, the word of Japan is

extremely important. And right now, we have the Golden Week diplomacy, PM Kishida on a tour to several ASEAN countries. On all those trips, the number one issue on the agenda in Ukraine. Many of those countries abstain from the vote of the General Assembly of the UN when we were considering a draft of a resolution to condemn Russian aggression. Some countries can think about the current situation from the position of the past, but Ukraine prefers to ask the partners in the region to think about it from the position of the future. Vietnam is not happy with the position of China, but it is absolutely clear that if we have a very important watcher in the Russian-Ukrainian war, that is Beijing. They are very much worried that Ukraine already shot down almost 200 of their military planes, those planes that China bought for 2 billion dollars from Russia, they see how more than 1000 tanks of Russia were burned down, and that is exactly those technologies that China acquired from Russia. It is quite an uneasy situation for them. Time is different now, you cannot hide anymore behind the old infrastructure of security, it should be changed at a bilateral, and multilateral level, to eliminate even the smallest opportunity in the future to start such a war. We were thinking that it is not possible, that we have already established a system and we have a body, UN Security Council, which can influence military actions. But it turned out that a member of the council can start a war, go unpunished, and still have veto power. This is unimaginable, so probably we need to reform the Security Council, International Criminal Court, and International Court of Justice. ICJ already issued a verdict that Russia is an aggressor and they demanded to stop the war. What happened? Nothing, literally nothing, and this are unacceptable. We must have a court that would automatically apply to any aggressor, whether in Asia, Africa, or Europe, otherwise each time we will see a situation when a country under aggression should beg for assistance, but it should not be the case. It should automatically apply to an aggressor to eliminate even the smallest desire to attack its neighbor.

If we look at this situation from the point of view of the future, there is a role to play by Japan in reconstruction. As we know, almost 300 billion dollars were frozen from Russian national bank assets. There will be decisions in different countries and courts to provide that money to Ukraine as retribution for destruction. What Ukraine has now is almost 40% of GDP gone, because there are not only destroyed cities, there are people killed, and agricultural equipment is being looted. Russians took Ukrainian grain, and agriculture machinery simply to move it to Russia, that is the philosophy of this country. This is not just about money, Mr. Korsunsky would beg for the participation of Japanese construction companies who can build bridges and roads to halt production in Russia and move to Ukraine. Ukraine is now a full member of a free trade area with the European Union, and if some Japanese companies would like to produce products to sell to Europe, there will be no better place than Ukraine – a friendly democratic country that will never forget what Japan did for them. What his projection is, and this is what Ukrainian intelligence says, is that probably in a month Russia will feel very sick, and experience severe economic problems. In two months they will not be able to fight. They do not have rockets, already used more than half of them. Cannot access international markets, trying to go around the sanctions and seek help in China, but even China is now very cautious. They do not want a secondary wave of sanctions. Probably in a couple of months, we will see Ukraine liberated from Russia, or Putin just disappear, and both ways would be suitable for Ukraine. Afterward, the country wants to become a very responsible and important part of the international logistic network. Partnering with countries like Japan would help a lot.

## Part 2: Discussion



### **Mr. Takahiro Shinyo**

**Councilor of the Kyoto Peacebuilding Center, Professor of Kwansai Gakuin University, and Former Ambassador to the United Nations and the Federal Republic of Germany**

Mr. Shinyo praised Ukraine and paid respect for fighting with different means, for the country and people, stating also that most of Japan are very compassionate towards Ukraine. This country suffered so much from the neighboring countries, Chernobyl, Crimea annexation, and now the invasion. How is it possible to come to reconciliation after this war? There are a couple of people in the western world saying that the west is responsible for the Russian invasion and that western countries might have the responsibility, for not extending NATO. Also, relations with Germany were not perfect, Ukraine did not accept the visit of the president of Germany. What is the actual situation with Germany? What is the future of Ukraine? Many believe that neutrality could be the basis, but what kind of neutrality? A la Finland, Sweden, or Austria? Mr. Shinyo personally thinks that the Austrian type of neutrality might be a model. Regarding the Security Council, and the succession of Russia from the Soviet Union, should the country keep the permanent membership or is it strange that it even happened?

### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky replied that many questions would be answered if we would briefly recall the history when Ukraine became independent in 1991. First of all, there were three republics agreement between Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, who signed the agreement that the Soviet Union should disappear. Right away states recognized each other's borders, and sovereignty, and agreed to live in peace. For Ukraine, it was absolutely clear the country is encircled by friends, countries that have been living together for thousands of years. Why would anyone have an army? The military is expensive, and that was the debate after Ukraine realized the country has a third nuclear potential in the world. Why would Ukraine have it? Against whom? All of the neighbors are friends, there was not a single enemy in the world. That is why in 2014 there was no army because for a long time it was not clear why the country should spend money on it. But then step after step, year after year, a completely different development in Russia has been visible. The first time, this crisis came in 2003, it was still under the rule of president Kuchma, that was the first accident when Russia tried to extend its power to Crimea. Since then it was clear that something is wrong. Then there were speeches and statements from the new leader of Russia, President Putin, and everyone saw how he behaves. Ukraine began to think about security arrangements, and it became absolutely clear that no country in the world will survive without alliances, even US. Then Ukraine decided to deepen its relations with NATO. That was the beginning, then there was the 2004 and 2005, Orange Revolution, and then for the first time Putin decided that it was a western plot to somehow influence his neighborhood. It was not caused by Ukraine, because you could never see any negative or aggressive statements from Ukraine towards Russia, but it was always accusations from Russia against Ukraine. They artificially created the issue of Russian language and culture suppression. Mr. Korsunsky's mother is Russian, he graduated from a school where all subjects were Russian. As he says he grew up with Pushkin in his head, so all those claims were absolute unfair nonsense. There are Russian claims that the US somehow verbally guaranteed them non-expansion of NATO, but then if they believe it is a problem, they should talk to NATO. Why do you assault Ukraine? Why kill and rape Ukrainians when it is a problem with NATO? They cannot afford to talk or fight against NATO, that is why they use Ukraine too – they think – punish NATO. Mr. Korsunsky does not think it was a failure of western powers.

We should recognize that Ukraine's relations with NATO are very difficult and slow. They did not accept Ukraine like other former Eastern Block countries, quickly and almost unprepared. The country was well prepared in 2008, but NATO said Ukraine and Georgia might become members of NATO sometime in the future. Then the war of Georgia came, and that was the opening door for future Putin's aggression. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, Finland will formally apply for membership in NATO. When it comes to Austria, they have

guarantees. Ukraine is currently talking to partners to ensure security guarantees but is rather similar to what Japan and US have. NATO membership is not something the country is fighting for. The Revolution of Dignity in 2013 happened because of European Union accession. At that time only 35% of Ukrainians were in favor of NATO, now we see 70% and this is not occasional, because we see the quality of NATO weapons, response, and huge support from the European Union. Russia did not ask NATO when it was creating the Bishkek Agreement – a military block of former the Soviet Union States, Russia did not care. How about that, if Ukraine was not happy with that agreement, should Russia be bombed? This is a very tricky question. Nobody says that western behavior in many parts of the world was brilliant in the past century, but Mr. Korsunsky cannot imagine this kind of aggression as it is happening now in Ukraine.

When it comes to the UN reform, from a legal point of view it was absolutely clear that Russia was never admitted to UN in the first hand. In a normal procedure, when the Soviet Union disappeared Russia should apply for membership. There is no sign of a signature from Russia under the UN Charter. Russia is an illegal member of the UN, to say nothing about the Security Council. How to change it? Mr. Korsunsky would prefer that we should leave the equality issue, like "those nuclear states should be members of the UN Security Council" because we have other nuclear countries like Pakistan, India, and North Korea. So, should we have those sitting at the Security Council too? As permanent seats and non-permanent seats maybe there should be 7+3, but maybe we should consider other models. There is a decision initiated by Luxemburg, that if a member of the Security Council uses a veto, then the next day, the General Assembly should convene to discuss this issue. This is the first step to questioning veto power in the Security Council, a system that does not work.



**Mr. Tadamichi Yamamoto**  
**Visiting Professor at Doshisha University, Councilor at the International Peace Building Center of the Kyoto University of Arts**

Mr. Yamamoto stated that the role of the EU is very important. At the same time, it became clear there are many issues such as the importance of the values which support the international system, freedom, and democracy, and how this value system is going to be safeguarded in the future is critical. Ukraine has a very important position in the future because it is defending the system with people's blood and the assistance any country can provide. We have to also think of how to move into the future for years to come. It is very clear that the countries of the free world, coming together in stronger solidarity, will send the message to countries like China and the others who maybe have doubted the international system, to think twice before

challenging the fundamental values. We also have to think even beyond that, how to reconcile with Russia. But it is not only Russia, how to reconcile with countries that may entertain different value systems from our own? What is the mechanism? Is the UN good enough? Can Ukraine offer some kind of ideas?



**Ms. Kae Yanagisawa**  
**Director of Africa Society of Japan, and Councilor at Kyoto Peacebuilding Center, Kyoto University of Arts**

Ms. Yanagisawa expressed her sympathy for the people of Ukraine and said that this war is a huge tragedy not only for Ukraine but for the world. She stated that currently nobody knows how and when the war ends, so it was quite encouraging to hear that in two months the war would end with Ukraine's victory. She asked in the case the war is prolonged, what the goal of the war would be? She referred recent analysis of the Economist UK, which projected that while Russian economy would recover in 2025, Ukraine's economy would not recover until 2036. She expressed her concern of the huge economic cost

for Ukraine. She then pointed out that Russian ambassador to the UN mentioned the "special military operation" against Ukraine backed by the US, and that Putin announced a new global order, in which the

multipolar system exists replacing the domination of the US. She asked what kind of global system Ukraine expects after the war.

#### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky responded that the goal of the war is to restore pre-war territory. Before the war, there were predictions that the war will last 3 days. And it was not from Russia, but the US. Today we have 67 days of the war. If someone would now visit Ukraine and the suburbs of Kyiv where hundreds of people were brutally killed and raped, they will see clean streets and people already returning, buildings their homes back. Ukraine will be back quickly. A very important issue is how to live with Russia, what would be the victory, etc. What is the biggest problem of analysis of this war, is to approach it from a rational point of view. This is the biggest mistake. There is no reason for this war, Putin is a mentally ill person with illusions of all the world against Russia. That he is somebody entitled by the highest powers to punish the west for the dissolution of the Soviet Union, reunification of Germany, and humiliation of Russia in the first 10 years of independence. He honestly believes that it is only Russia who won World War II, and if we look at their statements towards Japan, the US, Germany, Europe, and as of today Israel when they said that Hitler was half Jewish. We should not think about this in terms of the normal world. First of all, we must harm their military as much as possible not to allow them to start another aggression in the foreseen future. We have to liberate our territories. Ukraine is not going to burn down Moscow, not planning an assault on their territory, but wants to re-establish control over the eastern part of the country, including Crimea.

#### **Professor Sukehiro Hasegawa**

Professor Hasegawa mentioned that there might have been a misjudgment on a part of western powers and President Zelensky. They did not expect that Putin would actually invade and act so brutally. Professor Hasegawa noted that Ukraine might have a chance militarily with the increased arms shipment from the US and the European countries, but expressed his concern about the impact on Putin's mind if Donetsk and Crimea were ever retaken by the Ukrainian forces. It is possible that Putin call it an existential threat to the Russian people and uses a nuclear tactical weapon.

#### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky agreed that it is possible, and Ukraine is trying to prepare. There are very serious discussions about it with partners, specifically US and UK. Russia can do that, but even with a threat of this caliber, Ukraine has no choice. Whether Ukraine fights until victory or is eliminated. Maybe it is not known in Japan, but there are several articles produced by the intellectual elite of Russia, Putin himself, by his advisors. The message of all this nonsense they put in a very clear manner. A world where Russia is not recognized as an equal global power, should not exist. They will be using nuclear weapons not against Ukraine, but anyone. But there is no choice. If we will not push them back to their territory and inflict them with heavy military losses, they will simply eradicate Ukraine. When the international legal system is built in a manner that there is a court, everyone should follow the court. So if we have a physical person committed the crime and it is in court, and it decides this person is guilty, there is a code saying this person should be in jail for several years. Why there is nothing close to the international court system? There is a decision without any consequences. We saw before the war, we thought about NATO as a major force that will help us protect our territory, and the EU looked very weak. But it turned out that the EU was very quick in organizing and providing assistance, and NATO was very slow. Now NATO is doing well, but at the beginning, Ukraine was disappointed, as Germany said that they will not supply weapons. We see development and it is very important. Mr. Korsunsky sincerely hopes, that before Putin sees the defeat, the Russian, the population will see it. It should not be possible that they cannot realize the scale of the catastrophe. If economic sanctions will take their toll on Russia, probably a lot of Russians will be very unhappy about it. That will change the situation inside Russia, and this is the best-case scenario from Ukraine's point of view.



**Mr. Kazuhide Kuroda**

**Development consultant, Doshisha University Graduate School of Global Studies**

Mr. Kuroda asked about the role that is being played in the crisis by Turkey. How it could help move things forward?

### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky responded that Turkey has very serious economic relations with Russia. From the Turkish point of view, the Crimean occupation and then accession to Russia was unacceptable, because the Crimean Tatars are a part of Turkish kin. Turkey is very unhappy with the military exercises on the Black Sea. Russia always dreamed of having the Black Sea as the Russian sea, fully controlled by the Black Sea fleet. For Turkey it is absolutely unacceptable, deeply inside their hearts they know Russia is an aggressor, and they always try to balance Russia on the Black Sea. In recent years Ukraine built strong economic relations with Turkey, and when the war began they started to supply drones and some other military equipment to Ukraine. Mr. Korsunsky understands that Turkey just went out from the Sudan crisis, which was a very severe toll on them. They spent tens of billions of dollars on refugees from Syria. The threat of terrorism in the southeastern part of Turkey still exists, so for them, another crisis very close to their borders is unacceptable. For Turkey, it is clear that if Russia prevails, and takes over Odesa and all the coastline of Ukraine, that would be a formidable military power. Russia will be a much stronger fleet in the Black Sea and a threat to Turkey. Turkish and European security depends on Ukraine's success. Turkey is trying to play the role of negotiator, Erdogan talked to Putin, talked to Zelensky, and they tried to organize negotiations. For Ukraine, Turkey is a very strategic partner in the region, and we can fully rely on their politics.



**Mr. Ken Inoue**

**Vice-President, Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan**

Mr. Inoue asked what is the relationship between Putin and Russia as a state. Is the problem Putin himself or the Russian state? For example, if we compare it to the relationship between Hitler and Nazi Germany state. If Putin himself like Hitler is a problem, the problem will never be solved until Putin disappears. On the other hand, if the problem is indeed the Russian state itself. We learned that majority of the Russians are now supporting Putin, they also like very strong authoritarian leaders. If that is the case, even if Putin disappears, Russia will never change. In that case, what can we do? Through the Refugee Crisis Study Group meetings in GPAJ, we learned that hundreds of Ukrainian refugees came to Japan, and we would like to support people, how can we do it?

### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky responded and stated that it is indeed an important question whether it is Putin or Russia altogether. We cannot trust their polls. We know there were results of their public polls that 80% of Russians support Putin, but we cannot trust this regime and its figures. In Russian history there was always a strong leader, this is an essence of Russian culture for centuries, they love to have somebody on the top, and everyone will love him whatever he does. We know from history if this leader disappears, then there is a time of turmoil normally, so that would be expected. Instead of the current system based on force, the international security system must be based on law. Russia definitely should be demilitarized and deprived of nuclear weapons, there should be consequences for Russia from this point of view. The post-war world must be based on a special arrangement around Russia. With all due respect to certain feelings in Asia about Chinese behavior, Mr. Korsunsky sees that Russia is much more aggressive in its policy. If China is trying to exercise force in the region, Russia pretends to world scale. Still, he does not see the rhetoric from Xi Jinping that if he is not happy, he will use nuclear weapons to destroy all of Asia. Russian GDP is less than the marketplace of Amazon, it is not a real economy, so there is a completely different approach to this issue.

### **Mr. Tadamichi Yamamoto**

Mr. Yamamoto asked about the relationship between pro-Russian Ukrainians, and the majority of Ukrainians. Is it manageable?

### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky replied that there is a narrative created in Russia that there is a pro-Russian minority in Ukraine, but those territories are exactly where they kill everyone. All those territories are populated with Russian-speaking people. But even in Odessa, Russian-speaking people are so angry, and aggressive on this issue. What Russia is doing now, the atrocities committed in eastern Ukraine, are unbelievable. There are no more pro-Russian Ukrainians. There are 352 political parties in Ukraine, 175 were created between 2015 and 2017. This is ridiculous, there were 23 candidates for president, there is a democracy, and even a pro-Russian faction of the parliament, this is a normal way. People right now realized what this Russian world can bring upon them. If we looked at Mariupol 3 months ago, a nice prosperous city now is fully destroyed. This city was very Russian-speaking populated. Putin already eliminated the pro-Russian mood in Ukraine, he will have Finland and Sweden as NATO members, and he will have Ukraine accelerating membership in the EU, that would be the result.



### **Arbenita Sopaj**

**Teaching Assistant and Ph.D. candidate at Kobe University, Japan**

Ms. Sopaj stated that the Kosovo government is in full support of the Ukrainian people, but there is a big concern right now. Since the Ukrainian crisis started to take place, China's influence in Serbia increased drastically. Last month they supplied military planes. Is it possible that the Ukraine crisis will contribute to strengthening China's position in southeastern Europe, particularly Belgrade, that could contribute to the escalation of the conflict also into the Balkans? Internally, there are still conflicts going on, in Bosnia, and Kosovo, it is not completely peaceful.



### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky replied that Ukraine is very unhappy that Serbia tried to play muscles and weapons against Kosovo and tried to raise this issue again. The situation in Bosnia is why the EU pays huge attention to the Balkans to give future membership to countries. It is China that supplied weapons, but Serbia is involved in it Russia. It is the biggest ally of Russia, if Russia is defeated, Serbia will stay quiet.

### **Mr. Takahiro Shinyo**

Mr. Shinyo mentioned that diplomacy has not been exhausted yet. There is still room for diplomacy that should be played by certain countries, and it could be perhaps useful and necessary that the NATO states will engage in diplomacy. They can negotiate with Russia, they can even invite China. China said they will be ready with other countries to do something, but China alone is not enough. If NATO and China together can get involved, there might be some way out.

### **Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky**

Mr. Korsunsky stated that If we talk about diplomacy, we should remember how many times president Macron traveled to Russia, and how many times he called Putin. Many other countries tried to reason with Putin and visited Moscow and all failed. Literally, all failed. NATO countries can lose their credibility by talking to somebody who does not listen. The very recent trip of Secretary-General Guterres to Moscow, when he announced there is an agreement for the humanitarian corridor in Mariupol, and 2 hours later Russia said there is no such agreement. The next day they attacked with missiles very center of Kyiv when Secretary-General was in the city. That was the response to attempts to negotiate. China is a completely different issue, they can play a very serious role. If there is a country that Putin hates the most, that is the US. If there is a country Putin is afraid of the most, that is China. He knows he cannot win against China, that is why he is doing everything to keep Xi Jinping happy on every occasion. Ukraine already had discussions with China about their participation in a peaceful resolution. China agreed to contribute and contributed around one million yen. Maybe they talked to Russia, but China is very cautious in exercising economic activities in Russia, that is of course because they are afraid of sanctions. Mr. Korsunsky's personal vision is that it would be better if the US would talk to China, and find a way to explain to Xi Jinping, that it is a much bigger interest in China to maintain peace in Europe and the world market. There should be a very comprehensive discussion with China trying to persuade them that peace is in their interest. We already suffered in 2 years of COVID, one more year of war would be devastating for the world and China too.



**Professor Sukehiro Hasegawa**  
**Director, Kyoto Peacebuilding Center**

Professor Hasegawa summarized the discussion and noted that the central message we received from Ambassador Korsunsky is what will happen in Ukraine, will not stay only in Ukraine. It will have an impact on not only Europe but also Asia and the rest of the world. We are all depending on each other, and that is why we have somehow to find a way to stop this aggression as well as tragedy. To do so, we already including Ukrainians, Russians, Americans, Japanese, and Chinese, can perhaps find a way out. And China plays a key role. But we would like the Chinese to perhaps find a way to solve the problem by doing so as a part of the new world order, in which it is not China to replace the

US as a hegemonic power, but the world order in which we can all share the responsibility of governing the world. For that, Japan can instead of trying to always see China as a threat, but as a potential contributor to the peace. Let us find a way, to be engaged from now on, and find a solution, somehow stopping Putin from dropping the nuclear bomb to save his face and show he did not lose.