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We will have a session on security in Asia in a historical perspective, and the word 'historical' is very interesting. It can mean really historical, a century-long vision – 110 years ago the famous naval Battle of Tsushima took place, and we have representatives from Russia and Japan here – but it can also be taken in a more limited sense. Two years ago, for example, at the World Policy Conference, we were discussing the topic and there was some kind of obsession with whether Asia was on the eve of a terrible catastrophe, whether Asia at the beginning of the 21st century was the equivalent of what Europe was in the 20th century. However, things have not really improved, but they have become so much worse in other parts of the world that suddenly the tension that may exist, that still exists and that in some ways is reinforced in Asia looks nearly superficial.

Discussing this topic of security in Asia in a historical perspective, we have five participants from Korea, India, Japan, Russia and China, and in fact there is one key actor in terms of Asian security who is not here on the panel, and you may ask why, which is the US, so I will be the Western voice. We will start with Kim Hak-Joon, who is the President of the Northeast Asian History Foundation and the Chairman of the Asia Journalist Association.