



# RICHARD COOPER

Professor of International Economics, Harvard University

It has obviously been a long day, and we have only the hardiest souls still before us. We had a session just before on terrorism, which is one aspect of much of the violence that takes place in the world. Some countries have civil wars. Thinking about the prospects of interstate conflict around the world today, three places come to mind. One is Syria, where there is in fact a proxy war going on at the present time. A second is Kashmir, over which tensions arise between India and Pakistan from time to time. The third is East Asia, with three large powers surrounding the Korean Peninsula and a remote power, the United States, having an alliance with two countries, and a very peculiar country, North Korea, in this midst of this surrounding territory.

We have three experts, each one representing one of those countries, to talk about political and economic stability in the East Asian region, looking forward not to next year, but a longer horizon, if they can stretch their minds both as to what the unpleasant possibilities and any solutions to the unpleasant possibilities might be. I will start with the ambassador from Japan, who will give us the Japanese perspective on this region.