

Reflections on attending the 56th ISA Annual Convention on Global IR and Regional Worlds: A New Agenda for International Studies

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Participating as a presenter for a panel titled: Building Environmental Governance in East Asia: Issues and Approaches

The panel as well as the discussant for the panel have been studying and working on the above subject for many years, some for more than 10 years. So considering the experience of other presenters and the discussant, it was a great privilege for me to be standing alongside them and talk about my insights on the subject matter. It was very interesting and thoughtful to be able to exchange ideas, gain constructive feedback from subject matter experts such as Professors Suh-Yong Chung and Louis Goodman. They have been exploring the possibilities of realizing international cooperation among three countries: China, Japan, and South Korea. After exploring on several issues presented by the panelists, we have reiterated the need and importance of constructing Northeast Asian governance mechanism once again, and that environmental issues are at center stage.

I have presented as the second presenter of the evening, and gave a talk about the trend of international integration, the distinctive reasons for low-regionalism in Northeast Asia, and the advantages of using environmental issues to enhance regionalism in the context of Northeast Asia. The discussant Professor Goodman was very interested with my presentation and gave me useful feedback on the importance of preserving the regional public good. The audience composed of other graduate students, and field experts who are working on the subject matter attended. The audience was composed of around twenty people. Once critique I got from a Japanese government official was that they did not feel any confrontations when working with their counterparts from South Korea or China, and that we may be over-estimating the forces of nationalism. This was a really beneficial comment from a person who is at the forefronts of negotiations among the three countries. I will be able to take into account such viewpoints on the paper.

By presenting at the panel, I have gained new insights from a experts from a variety of positions. Such real-life comments cannot be found in conventional literature reviews. I would like to take this opportunity to thank CIERP for their kind support, and giving me this invaluable opportunity to hear from such distinguished panelists, discussant, and audiences.