



Japan Foundation



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

ECPD International Round Table
**IMPORTANCE OF RECONCILIATION AND TOLERANCE
 IN ACHIEVING THE HUMAN SECURITY CONCEPT'S GOALS:
 FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND FREEDOM FROM WANT**
 Belgrade, May 24, 2010

CLOSING REMARKS

*by the Chairman, Professor Dr Takehiro TOGO
 Head of the Study Group and President of the ECPD Academic Council*

Dear colleagues,

In closing the International Round Table for preparation of October Conference on “**National and Inter-Ethnic Reconciliation, Religious Tolerance** and Human Security in the Balkans” with subtitle “Implementation of the Human Security Concept” I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your ardent participation and enthusiastic discussions this throughout today.

Our productive discussions touched upon many important issues that should be seriously and continuously analyzed in our Study Group. The basic tone was that the West Balkan situation still has many unsettled issues which will have to be tackled. Heated discussion was carried out on the problems of present and future of the West Balkan Region. Issues raised were the following.

1. Philosophical and religious interpretation of fear was analyzed in depth. Role of youth, education, media, women, international cultural dialogue and religious leaders are great and prerequisite for reconciliation and tolerance.
2. It is widely recognized that economies in the region are most affected by the economic crisis. The region's countries and economies now are looking for solving the crisis. Appropriate assistance, coordinated measures and activities should be taken, and ECPD has a great role in Human Security. Freedom from want cannot be achieved without sound economic solutions.
3. Inter-regional cooperation has to be developed and strengthened in order:
 - a) to help solving the region's social and economic problems
 - b) to facilitate accession to the EU
 - c) to reinforce the position of the region in the EU.

Parallely, accession of each individual country in the West Balkans region should be stepped up in order to achieve human security goals ultimately.

4. Education for people of all ages and from all backgrounds is seen as crucial for promoting the mutual human understanding in which the respect for human security needs to be based.

Suggestions for pursuing this effectively included:

- open conferencing through the internet to promote inter-cultural dialogue;
- special attention to the preservation of important cultural and intellectual capital;
- facilitating cooperation amongst cultural institutions;
- fostering adult education and lifelong learning and taking initiatives to bring together the culturally estranged.

The Round Table discussed the Declaration on Implementation of the Human Security Concept in the Balkan countries, which was agreed in principle at the 5th Conference held in Brioni, Croatia, but it was agreed that further deliberation is necessary. The new version of the Declaration should be presented to the Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia to be held in October this year as the agreed text of the Study Group and further work is needed. I should like to renew my appreciation for all the participants for their commitment to the cause of peace and stability of the Balkan region, as well as to the leadership of ECPD which has been fighting courageously with a forward looking vision and perspective in this difficult time.

I should like to express gratitude again to the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Belgrade for their support and financial aid, although symbolic, for the important Round Table to prepare for our next Conference.

Thank you for your attention.

Belgrade, May 24, 2010