

Goals of the Takeo Fukuda Fellowship

As a part of its effort to develop and enhance democratic governance in Japan and around the world, the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies established the GRIPS Senior Fellowship. This initiative promotes intellectual exchange and the formation of a global policy community. In commemoration of our 10th anniversary, GRIPS is now creating the Takeo Fukuda Fellowship as part of the Senior Fellow initiative. The Fellowship honors Mr. Takeo Fukuda, who contributed greatly to the development of a regional diplomatic framework within Asia, the promotion of intellectual exchange, and the realization of stability and prosperity in East Asia. The Fellowship will endeavor to invite world leaders worthy of Mr. Fukuda's contributions, especially those from Asia, and to foster future leaders, promote intellectual exchange, and establish a policy community committed to democratic governance.

Mr. Takeo Fukuda was born in 1905 in the town of Kanekomachi in Gunma District (now Takasaki City) of Gunma Prefecture. He graduated from Tokyo Imperial University's Faculty of Law and joined the Ministry of Finance, which sent him to the United Kingdom as a junior finance official at the Japanese Embassy. His career steadily advanced thereafter and he rose to become Director of the Budget Bureau. In 1952, Mr. Fukuda was elected to the House of Representatives from District 3 of Gunma Prefecture, and his subsequent political career would include important positions in both government and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He chaired the LDP's Policy Research Council in 1958 and became the Party's Secretary General and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry the following year. In 1960, during the term of Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda, he served as the LDP Policy Research Council Chairman. Under Prime Minister Eisaku Sato he served as Minister of Finance, LDP Secretary General, and Minister of Foreign Affairs; under Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka he was Minister of Finance; and under Prime Minister Takeo Miki he was Deputy Prime Minister and Director General of the Economic Planning Agency. From 1976 to 1978, Mr. Fukuda served as the 67th Prime Minister of Japan. After retiring as Prime Minister, he founded the "OB Summit" in 1982, a collective opportunity for former presidents and prime ministers to issue recommendations toward the resolution of various global problems. He was nominated as the second President of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population in 1979 and founded the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in 1982.

Mr. Fukuda's achievements were extremely diverse. In the realm of economic policy, he was a staunch proponent of fiscal austerity. During the 1970s, he countered Mr. Kakuei Tanaka's plan to remodel the Japanese archipelago and promote high economic growth via an aggressive fiscal policy with a balanced budget-oriented approach aimed at stable economic growth. In fact, he was nominated as Minister of Finance in the aftermath of the oil crisis in the hope of reversing the economic problems caused by the aforementioned plan. Mr. Fukuda was able to overcome the crisis

by curbing inflation with aggregate demand-control policies.

Yet, in retrospect, Mr. Fukuda's greatest achievements were clearly in the realm of foreign affairs.

The Asian landscape changed dramatically during the 1970s. Two memorable Nixon "shocks" occurred in 1971 – President Nixon's declared intention to visit China and his ending of the convertibility of dollars into gold – followed by the first oil crisis, anti-Japan boycotts and riots in Southeast Asia, and the victory of Communist forces in Indochina. Mr. Fukuda countered these events by implementing two critically important diplomatic initiatives: the Fukuda Doctrine, put forth in 1977, and the signing of the Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty in 1978.

The Fukuda Doctrine had three key objectives. The first was a commitment to prevent Japan from becoming a military superpower, a commitment that has been honored to this day. The second was for Japan to support ASEAN as an association for regional cooperation, strengthening ties between the two. The third was for Japan to bridge the divide between ASEAN and communist Indochina. Under the Fukuda Doctrine, ASEAN came to replace "Southeast Asia" as Japan's standard regional perspective and Japan-ASEAN relations have grown into an important pillar of Japanese diplomatic relations, second only to that of Japan-U.S. relations. With the end of the Cold War and the arrival of peace in Cambodia, all ten Southeast Asian nations have now joined ASEAN, which functions as a hub for regional cooperation in the name of East Asia community building. Japan and the ASEAN nations have developed a strong, deep-rooted trust in one another.

The Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty and the beginning of Japanese economic cooperation with China, both of which Mr. Fukuda brought to fruition, were events of high strategic importance. Deng Xiaoping rose to power in 1977, marking a major turning point for China toward economic reform and liberalization. The Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty was signed in 1978 and Japan began its economic cooperation with China the following year. The underlying decision was that integrating China into the world economy, which enabled its people to benefit from economic growth, would be the key to stability and prosperity for China, Japan, East Asia, and the entire world. Due in part to economic cooperation with Japan, China has achieved great progress and is now deeply tied to the world economy and integrated into a regional economic partnership in East Asia.

As detailed above, Mr. Fukuda's diplomatic achievements defined the framework for Japan's Asian relations since the 1980s, and the stability and prosperity of East Asia today have been built upon those foundations. We at GRIPS will endeavor to invite fellows worthy of Mr. Fukuda's achievements to the Takeo Fukuda Fellowship and to contribute to the promotion of democratic rule in Japan and throughout the world.