

## PRESS RELEASE

### Experts discuss social resilience as the next step forward post-crisis

4 March 2010 (Tokyo) – Experts gathered in Tokyo for a two-day (4-5 March 2010) workshop to discuss measures to strengthen social resilience in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting was convened by the Japan Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation and the opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Koichi Takemasa, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Experts and officials discussed how to make the region's societies more robust and resilient against economic crises. The workshop consisted of five main sessions including macroeconomic analysis, pension system, medical/ health care, unemployment insurance system, and carbon reduction.

Launched in 2009, this 'PECC international project' is the first attempt by the APEC/PECC members to discuss social policy in the Asia-Pacific region in depth. "Looking beyond the economic crisis, the time has come for individual PECC economies to address domestic social policies in earnest and to discuss the sense of security of those persons who underpin liberalization and brisk domestic demand as well as social safety nets for them," said Ambassador Yoshiji Nogami, President of the Japan Institute of International Affairs and chair of the Japan National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation.

In a regional annual survey undertaken by PECC in 2009, expenditures on social priorities were ranked as the most important driver of growth for the region over the next five years. "At their summit in Singapore last year APEC leaders committed to helping individuals overcome short-term difficulties while providing the incentive for long-term effort, with a focus on the most vulnerable in our economies; this work by PECC will help APEC to think about the most appropriate policies and systems for achieving this goal," said Mr Jusuf Wanandi, co-chair of PECC.

The results of the workshop series will be documented and finalized in time for the APEC Summit scheduled for November 2010 in Yokohama.

For the program agenda and related information, please refer to: [www.jiia.or.jp/en/pecc/](http://www.jiia.or.jp/en/pecc/)

<b>For further information on the program:</b>	<b>For media enquiries:</b>
Mr. Nobuhide Hatasa, JANCPEC/ JIIA	Ms. Jessica Yom, PECC International Secretariat
<a href="mailto:hatasa@jiia.or.jp">hatasa@jiia.or.jp</a> , Tel. +81 (3) 35037744	<a href="mailto:jessica.yom@pecc.org">jessica.yom@pecc.org</a> , Tel. +65 67379822 ext 19

The **Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)** is Japan's premier center for generating and disseminating views on international relations. As an academically independent institution affiliated with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JIIA is a source of authoritative interpretations of Japanese foreign policy. Building on its work of publication, international scholarly collaboration and policy recommendation, JIIA is a forum for informed public debate. [www.jiia.or.jp/en/pecc](http://www.jiia.or.jp/en/pecc)

The **Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)** is a non-profit international organization and network committed to the promotion of cooperation and dialogue in the Asia Pacific. Founded in 1980, PECC is a tripartite network of 26 member committees comprising individuals and institutions dedicated to this shared mission. As the only non-governmental official observer of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), PECC provides independent business and research input for the regional policy-making process. [www.pecc.org](http://www.pecc.org)