

# THE PACIFIC REGION IN THE 1980's

—Searching for cooperation in diversity—





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## OPENING ADDRESS

*A symposium, entitled "The Pacific Region in 1980's -- Searching for Cooperation in Diversity," was held at International Christian University on March 6, 1981, under the sponsorship of the Social Science Research Institute and the Graduate School of Public Administration of the International Christian University. The guest speakers at the symposium were:*

*Mr. Ross J. Craig, Minister and Consul-General of the New Zealand Embassy*

*Prof. Sachiko Hatanaka, Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Kanazawa University*

*Mr. Shinsaku Hogen, Advisor to the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency*

*Prof. Kiyoshi Kojima, Professor of Economics at Hitotsubashi University*

*H. E. Mr. Joseph K. Nombri, Ambassador of Papua New Guinea*

*Mr. Rowan F. Osborn, Minister of the Australian Embassy*

*The symposium was chaired by Prof. Kiyotaka Aoyagi, Director of the Social Science Research Institute, and was attended by approximately 150 people. What follows here is a complete transcript (translated in part) of the symposium, including both the speeches and the discussion which followed.*

Aoyagi: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, for coming here today to attend this symposium. The symposium, entitled "The Pacific Region in 1980's -- Searching for Cooperation in Diversity," will now be opened.

One purpose of having this symposium is to acquaint ourselves with the present realities of the Pacific region. Political-economic

geography of the whole region has been changing rapidly. In addition, commercial interest in marine resources and the problem of disposal of nuclear wastes have been aggravating the situation of the region. Also, one prominent reality is that the new-born nations are struggling to establish their own identities.

On January 1, 1981, Honorable Haruo I. Remeliik, the president of the Republic of Belau (formerly known as Palau), in his inaugural address, set the following goals for building the nation: self-reliance, economic prosperity, cultural well-being and political stability. His address aptly summarizes what is happening in many parts of the Pacific region.

The second purpose is to stimulate communication among those who are concerned with the Pacific region. We are, I assume, all concerned with the problem of whom to communicate with, and on what level. A nation, small or large, presupposes for its existence, cooperation, partnership and alliance with other nations on multiple levels and dimensions. We do not espouse isolationism, for it tends to serve only the particular interests of a particular group. We would like to seek cooperation in all aspects of the political, economic and cultural diversities of the Pacific region. Before introducing the members of the panel who will speak to us today on these matters, I have the pleasure of introducing Prof. Kidder, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts of this university, to give us an opening address.

Kidder: Mr. Ambassador, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I would like to welcome you here today on behalf of the President of ICU, Dr. Nakagawa, who is unable to be present but sends his best wishes for the success of this symposium. The very title, "The Pacific Region in 1980's - Searching for Cooperation in Diversity," points up the complexities in dealing with the circum-Pacific area. Despite the narrowing of our time differences through travel, the problems seem to be constantly magnified. Tendencies to retreat behind national barriers are stimulated by trade deficits, local political movements, desire to disassociate from foreigners and so on. But there is no hiding like a mole - only bringing all issues to light and examining

them rationally and constructively in the spirit of mutual cooperation. From the time the Jomon fishermen are said to have landed on the Ecuadorian coast — according to some Smithsonian archaeologists, whether you believe it or not — in the third millennium B.C., through the era of the sailing ships, the clipper planes of the 1930's and the potential Pacific supersonics of today, the Pacific area has become an intricate network of intensifying contacts. And contacts are at the heart of the problems.

I once calculated what the cost in time was of some thirteen trips I made across the Pacific by ship before World War Two and in the early days after, on Canadian Pacific Empress ships, on Dollar Line, and then on American President Line ships, on Nippon Yusen Kaisha ships, and on freighters of several countries. It all came to some six months — six months on the water, one half of a year; and I was only a passenger. No one can afford that kind of time today, though some may dream, of course, of a six-month cruise through the Pacific islands after retirement. Problems somehow seem intensified by the speed of travel, making resolutions more critical.

Let me express thanks to the participants in this symposium and to the organizers. Symposia such as this define the problems and establish more clearly the areas of cooperation. Speaking for ICU, I welcome you to this symposium on the Pacific region in the 1980's, and wish you all possible success, hoping that the impetus generated here will lead to similar meetings in the future. Thank you.

Aoyagi: Thank you very much, Prof. Kidder. And now I would like to introduce the members of the panel. Our first speaker, Prof. Kiyoshi Kojima, is a professor of economics at Hitotsubashi University. He is an authority on the economic issues of the Pacific countries. Mr. Rowan F. Osborn, Minister of the Australian Embassy, will be our next speaker. His talk will be followed by a speech by Mr. R. J. Craig, Minister and Consul-General of the New Zealand Embassy. Then Mr. Joseph K. Nombri, Ambassador of Papua New Guinea, will speak to us. This will be followed by Prof. Sachiko Hatanaka's talk. Prof. Hatanaka, from Kanazawa University, is a cultural anthropo-

logist, and she has travelled widely throughout the Pacific region. Our last speaker will be Mr. Shinsaku Hogen, Advisor to the President of Japan International Cooperation Agency. The Japan International Cooperation Agency, as you may know, is a major foreign-aid organization in Japan. We shall first hear speeches by all six panellists and then have a discussion.