

Coping with the Difficulties facing China Hiroshi Ohno (USA 1956)

Biography

Mr. Ohno graduated from Northwestern University Business School in 1956 and during this time he received a Fulbright & Smith-Mundt Scholarship. In 1958, Mr. Ohno received an MBA from the University of Texas in Austin. A few months later, Mr. Ohno accepted a position as manager, international division for Sekisui Chemical Co. Limited. Less than one year from his start at Sekisui Chemical Co. Limited, Mr. Ohno served as president for the US Sekisui Chemical Co. In 1991, Mr. Ohno retired from Sekisui and joined Tosa Women's Junior College. Just nine years later, Mr. Ohno moved up the ranks to become president of Tosa Women's Junior College. Earlier this year, Mr. Ohno was named secretary general for the Japan-United States Educational Exchange Promotion Foundation which includes the Fulbright Foundation.

Background

China's future depends keeping the majority of its 1.3 billion people reasonably happy. The country's annual increase in exports seems to be tapering off, partly because of the U.S. sub-prime loan crises and the global surge in prices for oil, food, and rare metals. The EU has followed a lenient policy allowing the rapid surge of Chinese imports to member countries. Japan is also contributing to the increase of Chinese exports by installing manufacturing bases and providing up-to-date marketing information as well as new production technology. The newest trends in Japan, however, may be categorized in two ways.

Reluctance to produce in China as opposed to returning to Japan to build new factories featuring the most advanced technology; and; restructuring to focus on the rising BRICs (Brazil, India and China), especially Vietnam. Determining how to cope with huge world-wide financial problems is very crucial.

Discussions Questions

1. What are the most urgent problems facing Post- Olympics China?
2. How are imbalances in income created between Chinese people in coastal and interior areas?
3. The policy of taxes from the rich in urban regions transferred to the poor in rural areas has been successful in Japan. How effective would this policy be if applied in China in the future?
4. What is the key for change from low-productive farming to high-productive manufacturing industries?
5. What results can be anticipated after the passage of a law from this year that mandates all rural educational institutions free of charge?