

**Assoc. Prof Naohisa Murakami** – Department of Management and Information Systems Science, Nagaoka University of Technology

**“The recent Japan-China spat is casting a long shadow on East Asia Community plans modelled after European integration”**

The former Japanese government led by Mr. Yukio Hatoyama was enthusiastic about fostering an atmosphere conducive to the realization of East Asia Community plans encompassing Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand and the 10 ASEAN countries. And a rush to conclude a FTA or an EPA among them was helping to create a favorable environment for such a community. But now the recent flare-up of animosity between East Asia's two giants over the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea seems to have changed all that optimism. Moreover, the rest of the prospective East Asia Community members are now concerned about Beijing's way of allowing its anger to go far beyond the diplomatic sphere and also about its growing assertiveness over its far-flung maritime interests, especially in the vast Pacific Ocean and its adjoining waters. This paper aims to rethink the feasibility and probability of the proposed 16-nation East Asia Community, presumably on the model of the European Union. I would like to question that if the proposed community still appears realizable, what kind of institutions could be imagined, compared with those of the EU? If not, the paper will try to explore the possibility of alternative choices for Asian integration, such as beefing up the APEC or expanding the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).