



2021 Japan-US Forum

How should the US-Japan Alliance take leadership to avoid decoupling of the world economy during a time of US-China conflict, and deepening of the confrontation between authoritarianism and democracy?

Tokyo : Tuesday, January 11, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.JST

Washington, D.C. : Monday, January 10, 2022
19:00 p.m. - 21:15 p.m. EST



2021 Japan-US Forum

How should the US-Japan Alliance take leadership to avoid decoupling of the world economy during a time of US-China conflict, and deepening of the confrontation between authoritarianism and democracy?

PANEL 1 :

DETERRENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Both the nature of war and global geo-politics are in transition. Traditional issues of military defense are being supplemented by non-conventional challenges such as cyber and space security. China is replacing Russia as the preeminent challenge to international order, even as economic and political-military issues become increasingly intertwined.

Sanctions are becoming increasingly pervasive as tools of diplomacy, even as major categories of potent weaponry in the nuclear, chemical, and biological realm are proscribed. Important gray areas of “weaponized interdependence” below the level of overt military conflict remain, in areas ranging from cyber security to fishing rights. The chessboard of permissible weaponry in international relations, not to mention the nature of war, are thus changing.

Northeast Asia is replacing Europe and even the Middle East as the fulcrum of international geo-political competition, driven by the rise of China. How and why do the interests of Japan and the United States intersect, as artificial intelligence, 5 G communications, and other recent technological developments bring commercial and defense considerations into increasingly intimate interplay with one another?

What are the global implications of deepening US-Japan cooperation in technology? How does that bilateral cooperation compare in significance with broader multilateral patterns, particularly those in the Atlantic? And what are the appropriate limits on technological interdependence on the part of both the US and Japan with China, as the boundaries of the commercial and the military are increasingly blurred? Is there a security rationale for new regulatory structures, possibly resembling those of the Cold War era?

PANEL2 :

BUILDING A RULE-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER : ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS

Even as global multilateral agreements like the Tokyo and Uruguay Rounds have become more difficult, regional understandings such as CPTPP and RCEP have shown unexpected promise. Some sectors, such as digital trade, have forged important new frameworks of understanding as well. Yet protectionism has intensified in other areas, and tariff levels have significantly risen between some key trading nations, such as China and the United States.

What broader global political-economic forces are driving the changing pattern of international trade competition and cooperation? Is there still scope for meaningful US-Japan cooperation in multilateral contexts? How will American and Japanese domestic politics constrain prospects for cooperation—both bilaterally and in broader contexts—in coming years?

Apart from trade and technology, environmental protection and food supply are crucial areas of global concern. How should one evaluate recent progress toward the global environmental goals laid out in COP-21? And are international efforts at nutritional improvement keeping pace, amidst the covid crisis? What further progress was achieved at COP-26? Is Global Zero a meaningful concept? When and how is it likely to be attained, and with what contribution by major global powers?

There is naturally an important interface between environment and global economic interaction, including food supply. What are the key elements of global response to climate change (CCS, hydrogen energy, nuclear power, solar power, geo-thermal energy, natural gas, energy efficiency, and so on)? And how do those responses relate to the global trading system and underlying issues of human security? In particular, how can global trading and national incentive rules be so configured as to create domestic incentives for pro-environment economic policies, in areas such as the manufacture of solar panels, wind-power equipment, and efficient, high-performance batteries?

09:00 (JST) / 19:00 (EST)

Welcome and Conceptual Introduction

Masakazu TOYODA

Chairman and CEO Japan Economic Foundation(JEF)

Kent E. CALDER

Vice Dean for Education and Academic Affairs, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

09:15 (JST) / 19:15(EST)

PANEL 1

DETERRENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Moderator : Naoyuki HARAOKA

Executive Managing Director Japan Economic Foundation (JEF)

-Panelists / Japan side-

Bonji OHARA

Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Chisako T. MASUO

Associate Professor, Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies,
Kyushu University

-Panelists / US side-

Ambassador David B. SHEAR

Senior Advisor, Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies
Adjunct Professor, Japan Studies, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

Thomas G. MAHNKEN

Director of External Programs for the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies,
Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

09:35 (JST) / 19:35 (EST)

Panel Discussion

10:05-10:15 (JST) / 20:05-20:15 (EST)

Coffee Break

10:15 (JST) / 20:15 (EST)

PANEL2

BUILDING A RULE-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER : ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS

Moderator : Kent E. CALDER

Vice Dean for Education and Academic Affairs, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

-Panelists / Japan side-

Takaaki ASANO

Senior Analyst, Sumitomo Corporation Global Research

Yukari Niwa YAMASHITA

Managing Director, Energy Data and Modelling Center,

Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ)

-Panelists / US side-

Jessica FANZO

Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and International Research Cooperation,

Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

William W. GRIMES

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of International Relations at
the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University

10:35 (JST) / 20:35 (EST)

Panel Discussion

11:05 (JST) / 21:05 (EST)

Closing Session

Masakazu TOYODA

Chairman and CEO Japan Economic Foundation(JEF)

Kent E. CALDER

Vice Dean for Education and Academic Affairs, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

11:15 (JST) / 21:15 (EST)

Adjournment