

Event Report

China's Maritime Ambitions in the First Island Chain and Beyond CSIS Headquarters Monday, November 18, 2019



On November 18, 2019, at the CSIS Headquarters in Washington DC, the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) and Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) co-hosted a conference on maritime security challenges facing the United States, Japan, and other like-minded countries in the Indo-pacific region. The event brought together leading experts from the United States, Japan, Australia, and Singapore.

Panel 1: East China Sea

On the first panel, panelists discussed current situation in the East China Sea and what efforts Japan is making to respond to the challenges it faces. How Japan and the United States can cooperate as allies were also identified during this session.

Panel 2: South China Sea

The discussion at the second panel covered recent developments in the South China Sea including China's activities. Panelists also touched upon how Southeast Asian countries are viewing such developments and what actions are needed to be taken.

Panel 3: Pacific Islands

The third panel brought the situations of the Pacific Islands into focus. The panelists examined current economic and political status as well as its significance to the Pacific Island countries and the Indo-Pacific region.

Panel 4: Implications for Regional Policy Coordination

Taking the discussion in the first three panels into consideration, the panelists examined how the United States, Japan, and other like-minded countries can realize Free and Open Indo-Pacific from the perspectives of international law and security. The panelists closed the event with a note that although it may take time, constant efforts to achieve stability in the region based on rule of law needs to be made.

<Agenda>

1:00 - 1:15 Welcoming Remarks

Michael J. Green

Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, CSIS; Director of Asian Studies, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Yasunori Nakayama

Director General (Acting), JIIA

1:15 - 2:00 East China Sea

Jeffrey Hornung

Political Scientist, RAND Corporation

Masashi Murano

Japan Chair Fellow, Hudson Institute

Moderator

Bonnie Glaser

Senior Adviser for Asia; Director, China Power Project, CSIS

2:00 - 2:45 South China Sea

Greg Poling

Director, Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and Fellow, Southeast Asia Program, CSIS

Collin Koh Swee Lean

Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Moderator

Michael J. Green

Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, CSIS; Director of Asian Studies, School of Foreign

Service, Georgetown University

2:45 - 3:00 Break

3:00 - 3:45 Pacific Islands

Greg Poling

Director, Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and Fellow, Southeast Asia Program, CSIS

Jonathan Pryke

Director, Pacific Islands Program, Lowy Institute

Moderator

Patrick Buchan

Director, The U.S. Alliances Project, and Fellow for Indo-Pacific Security, CSIS

3:45 - 4:30 Implications for Regional Policy Coordination

Atsuko Kanehara

Professor, Sophia University

Jeff Benson

Military Fellow, International Security Program, CSIS

Moderator

Michael J. Green

Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, CSIS; Director of Asian Studies, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University