



Remarks by Prime Minister ABE Sinzo

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Tokyo Global Dialogue summary

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On December 2-3, the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) hosted an international symposium to discuss the current challenges and future prospects for the international order. The inaugural Tokyo Global Dialogue (TGD), was attended by a range of prestigious experts, scholars and former officials all looking at the question: “Is it possible to build an international order based on free, fair and transparent rules?”

## Event Report



Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu

Indeed, the rules-based liberal international order now faces serious challenges on a number of fronts: the rise of protectionism and widespread authoritarianism, growing skepticism about liberal values and the malfunctioning of international institutions. As outlined by several panelists at the conference, these concerns are symptoms rather than a cause of the current stress on the international system. In the developed economies, there has been a widening gap of income disparity and consequential disenfranchisement from citizens who are not benefitting from the financial successes of globalization. This has partially led to the growth of populist rhetoric and new political voices aimed at securing this “lost” part of the electorate in a range of countries in the West and beyond.

# Event Report



Keynote Speakers

These economic tensions and dissatisfaction with the inequities of current institutions has been inflamed by simultaneous challenges in the geopolitical landscape, with growing strategic rivalries and the marginalization of international law as a means of solving disputes. Helping to magnify these divisions even more is the rapid growth of digital tools and the intentional misuse of these capabilities – such as social media or cyber tools being used for misinformation campaigns, influence and interference operations.

Advances in digital technologies have radically improved convenience across all aspects of society, from state administration and industry to individual lifestyles, and they have already reached an irreversible level. At the same time, however, negative phenomenon such as cyberattacks against various targets, fake news, interference in the elections of other countries,

# Event Report

and national surveillance and data hoarding by authoritarian states have been adversely affecting the international order. During the Dialogue, participants insisted that the only way forward was for the international community to construct common rules compatible with advances in digital technologies.

Moreover, the international rules-based order is also adapting to a rapidly evolving security environment with a host of territorial disputes, growing strategic rivalries and managing the development of cutting-edge military technologies. The Indo-Pacific, in particular, is facing a host of shared security challenges, from maritime piracy and crime to heated territorial disputes. In this vast maritime space – stretching from East Africa to the Pacific Island chains – the foundations of regional commerce and security are secured through the freedom of navigation and secure sea lines of communication.



Plenary Session 1: Challenges to democratic political systems and the liberal international order

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Chief among these concerns in the Indo-Pacific region is the growth of US-China strategic rivalry and its regional implications. Delegates at TGD had a range of views on the matter, and – while most agreed that the growth in strategic competition between Washington and Beijing was a long term trend with no easy resolution – there was no consensus on whether this situation would lead to a second Cold War scenario or whether it would be managed competition.

The TGD examined these issues throughout the symposium and also examined region-specific challenges, with breakout sessions on the US, China, Russia, the Middle East, the Korean peninsula and Europe. In addition, panelists explored areas threatening the rules-based order that transcend regional borders and touch on core tenants upholding that order. Such discussions included a discussion of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, the non-proliferation regime, territorial disputes and the rule of law.