

A “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”: Approaches to Investment and Infrastructure
April 15-16, 2019
Pacific Forum | U.S. Embassy Tokyo, Japan

AGENDA

Monday, April 15, 2019

8:30 **Registration**

9:00 **Welcome Remarks**

9:05 **Session 1: Dimensions of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific**

This session will focus on the contours of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (concept/strategy)” in the US and Japanese contexts with an emphasis on the economic components. Where do US and Japanese understandings overlap and where do they diverge? What role does FOIP play in the US-Japan Alliance? How do actors in the region, including ASEAN member states, perceive FOIP? What is the relationship between the economic and security aspects of the concept/strategy? How has understanding of FOIP changed since the last meeting (summer 2018), and why has it changed?

Speakers:

Akira Igata

Stephen Nagy

James Brown

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:15 **Session 2: Finance and Investment**

This session will compare approaches to financing of and investment in Indo-Pacific projects to produce quality infrastructure, increase connectivity, and promote economic growth. It will consider the roles of national, regional, and global governmental financial and investment organizations in the region’s development. How do objectives and outcomes of the organizations vary? What have been the experience of recipient countries? What role do partner countries such as Australia and New Zealand play? (Note that subsequent sessions will discuss specific initiatives, such as energy and digital connectivity.)

Speakers:

Robert Feldman

Du Huynh

13:00 **Lunch**

14:00 **Session 3: Physical Infrastructure**

This session discusses initiatives to improve the region’s physical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and ports as well as water and energy infrastructure. It will examine the relationship between the new Better Utilization of Investment Leading to Development (BUILD) Act and longstanding Japanese approaches to the region and recent Chinese-sponsored projects. What are some examples of successful cooperation in building physical infrastructure? In what areas do physical infrastructure and security (both traditional and non-traditional) concerns intersect? What controversies have specific types of projects invoked? How have concerns regarding social/environmental impacts been addressed? What are common concerns expressed by recipient countries and what are some lessons learned regarding consultation with recipient countries?

Speakers:

Courtney Weatherby

Maki Aoki-Okabe

15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:45 **Session 4: Infrastructure for Energy Security**

This session will discuss efforts to advance energy infrastructure and investment, including in the nuclear energy sector; the Japan-US Strategic Energy Partnership to facilitate high-standard investment in projects to supply liquefied natural gas or build LNG infrastructure; and the Asia Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy initiative. It will explore Japan's efforts to develop hydrogen or offshore reserves and its desire to include Africa and the Middle East in FOIP due to its resource and energy concerns. What implications does inclusion of these regions have for the FOIP strategy/concept? Are regional energy grids possible in the Indo-Pacific?

Speakers:

Jane Nakano

Nobuo Tanaka

Gigih Udi Atmo

17:15 **Session Adjourns**

18:30 **Dinner**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

09:00 **Session 5: Digital Connectivity/Infrastructure**

Boosting connectivity in the region has been a major focus of FOIP, and this includes digital connectivity and cybersecurity. How are the US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership, Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership, and China's "Digital Silk Road" approaching the region? What is the future of broadband and 5G networks in the Indo-Pacific?

Speakers:

Crystal Pryor

Motohiro Tsuchiya

10:15 **Coffee Break**

10:30 **Session 6: Opportunities for Cooperation/Challenges**

The concluding session addresses how the United States and Japan (and their alliance) can best support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. It also examines the issue of compatibility between China's investment and infrastructure development initiatives and those being pursued by Japan and the United States. Do countries in the Indo-Pacific feel pressured to choose between the two? Is a more cooperative model feasible or desirable? For example, could China finance high-quality infrastructure built by the United States and partner countries such as Japan? Possible cases for discussion include Japan and China's cooperation on a high-speed railway project in Thailand.

Speakers:

James Kendell

Yee Kuang Heng

12:00 **Lunch**

15:00 **Public Panel (US Embassy Auditorium):** Recap of the discussions.

Moderator: Brad Glosserman

Speakers:

Jane Nakano

Du Huynh

Akira Igata