

Northeast Asia Regional Young Leaders Security Symposium
Exploring vital questions for the future of Northeast Asia
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Bio list



Mr. John Jonghwa AHN (ROK) is a Korea Foundation Non-Resident Fellow at the Pacific Forum. He currently researches on South Korea's security policy and influence of domestic constraints. He worked as a consultant at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. He holds his MA in international relations and security from Korea University. Before pursuing his studies in international security, he served as an infantry officer of the ROK Army in the demilitarized zone of the Korean Peninsula and United Nations peacekeeping operation. His research interests include Northeast Asian security, South Korea's security policy and North Korea.



Mr. Jia CHEN (PRC) is a PhD candidate of Zhejiang University who will finish his thesis defense in this summer. His research topics are nuclear security from non-traditional security perspectives and the nuclear non-proliferation policies of the US.



Ms. Janelle FUNTANILLA (USA) was born and raised in Honolulu and is a licensed social worker and has worked in the field of youth development for over a decade. After receiving her Master of Social Work from University of Hawaii at Manoa, she entered the Peace Corps. Prior work experience includes working at the Hawaii State Legislature, in the public schools as an educational paraprofessional, and at the UH Manoa GEAR UP program. She has a breadth of experiences abroad including a semester abroad in London, an intensive practicum in Baguio, Philippines, and most recently as a Clinton Fellow for the American India Foundation.



Mr. Craig KAFURA (USA) is a research associate for public opinion and foreign policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a Pacific Forum Young Leader, and a Security Fellow with the Truman National Security Project. At the Council on Global Affairs, he writes reports and briefs on public opinion and foreign policy issues, coordinates the Council's public and elite opinion research, and is a regular contributor to the public opinion and foreign policy blog Running Numbers. His writing has appeared in Foreign Affairs, The National Interest, and The Diplomat, among others,

and he is most recently the coauthor of “Foreign Policy Beliefs Among Leaders and the Public” for *The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy*, 7th edition. Kafura holds an MA in political science from Columbia University and a BA in political science from Yale University.



Mr. Gibum KIM (ROK) is an associate research fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses. He was formerly a research associate at the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Center for Foreign Policy and National Security of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies (AIPS) in Seoul. Prior to joining AIPS, he was an intern researcher at the International Policy Studies Institute Korea. He had also worked as a professional researcher at the Research Institute for Language and Information (RILI) at Korea University. Mr. Kim has been a member of the Pacific Forum Young Leaders Program since 2014. He earned both an MA and BA in Political Science at the College of Political Science and Economics, Korea University. His research interests include issues related to extended deterrence, nuclear strategy, the ROK-US alliance, East Asian regional security, multilateral security cooperation, and human security.



Ms. Saeme KIM (ROK) is a PhD candidate in International Relations at King’s College London, United Kingdom. She received her MSc in International Relations at the London School of Economics (LSE) and BA in International Studies at Ewha Woman’s University in South Korea. She previously worked as a researcher at the Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU) in Seoul. Her research interests include East Asian regionalism, regional architecture, and middle power diplomacy.



Ms. Sea Young (Sarah) KIM (ROK) is a research associate at the East Asia Institute in Seoul, South Korea. She is also a Korea Foundation non-resident fellow at Pacific Forum. Her research interests include security of the Korean Peninsula and different identity perceptions between North and South Korea. Ms. Kim has worked at Center for Strategic and International Studies Korea Chair as a research intern and South Korea’s National Assembly as secretary of policy to the speaker. She holds a MA in Asian Studies from Georgetown University and a BA in International Studies from Ewha Womans University.



Mr. Amane KOBAYASHI (JPN) is a Research Fellow at the JIME Center of the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ). His expertise includes politics and economy of Libya and the North Africa, security and terrorism in the North Africa and the Sahara Region, and energy geopolitics. Kobayashi has previously worked at the Japan Institute of International Affairs, and the Energy and National Security Program of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the U.S. He received his M.A. in Media and Governance and B.A. in Policy Management at Keio University. Currently Kobayashi is a Ph.D. candidate (Media and Governance) at Keio University.



Ms. Annie KOWALEWSKI (USA) is a Foreign and Defense Policy Research Associate at the American Enterprise Institute focusing on near-peer competition, US defense posturing in the Indo-Pacific, and Chinese PLA modernization. Prior to joining AEI, she worked with the Defense Strategies and Assessments team at the Center for a New American Security and as a Parliamentary Assistant at the Scottish Parliament. Annie received her MA in Security Studies from Georgetown University and her LLB (Hons) from the University of Edinburgh.



Mr. David LANG (AUS) is the Founding Director of the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue, a non-profit which builds knowledge and networks among future leaders from Australia and Japan. Between 2017 and 2018 he served as an adviser to the former Foreign Minister of Australia, the Hon Julie Bishop MP. From 2014 to 2017 he worked as an analyst and managing editor of *The Strategist* at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a defence and security think tank in Canberra. He has also served stints with the National Institute for Defense Studies in Tokyo and the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. David is a young leader with Pacific Forum and has been a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Community and a delegate to the Australian American Young Leadership Dialogue 2016–17. His work has been published in *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian Financial Review* and *The Japan Times* and *The Diplomat*, among others. David holds a Bachelor of Business Management and a Master of International Relations. He is based in London.



Mr. Kendrick LEONG (USA) is a Master's student in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. His current research involves how various urban finance mechanisms affect corporate decision making in Japanese real estate development firms. Kendrick holds an undergraduate degree in International Politics from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, where he focused on US-Japan relations. His undergraduate career also brought him to Tokyo, where he studied for one year at Waseda University as a Global Leadership Fellow in the School of International Liberal Studies. While in Tokyo, he was also a contributor to UCLA's Urban Humanities Initiative, an interdisciplinary research program that investigated changing urban landscapes in Tokyo and Los Angeles.



Mr. Fale Lesa (NZ) is a programme officer at UNESCO and a senior fellow at the Asia Europe Foundation. He studied sociology at the University of Auckland and conflict resolution at the US Institute of Peace in Washington DC. He has lived in China, Japan and Korea but is indigenous to New Zealand and Samoa. He is also a human rights correspondent for Reuters.



Mr. HAO Nan (PRC) is a master student on public policy at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, where he also led the only security studies related student group. As a scholarly practitioner, he once worked in intergovernmental on ASEAN-China cooperation. As a practical scholar, he has authored several papers and book chapters on international relation topics and public policy issues.



Ms. Julia OH (ROK) is an Associate with the Political and Security Affairs group at the National Bureau of Asian Research, Washington D.C. based think-tank in the United States and a senior project officer at National Democratic Institute. She worked for the Korean government in London for the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA). Ms. Oh interned for one year in separate research roles for the Korea Economic Institute of America, in Washington D.C., and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in New York City. While completing her MA, Ms. Oh also contributed to the Centre for Science and Security Studies in London and NK News. Ms. Oh holds a BA in Communications from the University of Delaware and an MA in International Relations from the Department of War Studies at the King's College London, where her thesis focused on the role of North Korea's nuclear weapons program in domestic propaganda.



Mr. Takashi SETO (JPN) is a Research Associate at Asia Pacific Initiative. Prior to assuming this post, he also served as a Young Junior Fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs from 2017 to 2018. His recent research interests include covert(deniable) military operations as a tool of escalation control, proxy warfare, and civil-military relations, as well as conflicts between India and Pakistan. As part of the Acceptable Intelligence with Responsibility research group in Japan, he wrote the following works: "AI applications for Defense and National Security Overseas," and with Arisa Ema, "AI applications for Security and Public Order in Japan," in Arisa Ema eds, *Perspective on Artificial Intelligence / Robotics and Work / Employment*, published by the National Diet Library in July 2018.



Ms. Zephanii SMITH EISENSTAT (USA) is an advocate for Sustainable Development, Human Rights, and Social Innovation who has served in leadership positions across government and civil society. Zephanii is Vice-Chair of the newly created Partnerships & Collaborations Committee of the United Nations Association - USA. With a BA in Government and MA in Educational Administration and Leadership, Zephanii has served as a member of the NAACP's National Board of Directors, working to develop advocacy campaigns that address unresolved issues of civil and human rights. While at Claremont McKenna College, Zephanii studied abroad in Jordan, England, and South Korea.



Mr. Liam THOMAS (NZ) is a Double Degree Masters of Public Policy Student from the University of Tokyo and the Australian National University. His areas of interest are in Asia-Pacific political economy and cross-country collaboration on economic and infrastructure development. Alongside his studies, He interns at the Asian Development Bank Institute and also is pursuing joint research projects on economic inequality, labor market issues, and social redistributive programs.



Mr. Daichi UCHIMURA (JPN) is a Tokyo-based Young Leader at Pacific Forum. He is also currently serving as an Associate for global risk management consulting firm. Prior to his current position, he was a political adviser at Japanese Embassy. He obtained MA in War Studies from King's College London, University of London. Previously he several times joined Young Leaders Program, particularly focusing on US-led alliance in the region and maritime security in East and South China Sea, as well as Korean Peninsula.



Mr. Amane YAMAZAKI (JPN) is Research Fellow at the Research Institute of Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU). He was Research Fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA). He received M.A degree in International Politics from the AGU. He is Ph. D. student at the AGU.



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