



## China and the Indo-Pacific: The view from Japan

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Tuesday 28 February, 2017: 6pm for 6.20pm – 7.30pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne



Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, was the first foreign leader to meet Donald Trump after his improbable election victory.

Yet as the region scrambles to adjust to a more unpredictable foreign policy approach from Washington, and to the challenges posed by China's rising power and influence, Japan is evaluating the costs and benefits of its various security initiatives. Policymakers in Tokyo will be looking to keep America's strategy in Asia

anchored in Japan, and will seek early signs of reassurance from Washington that the broader US commitment to the region will be maintained.

Prime Minister Abe's recent visits to the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia and Vietnam were aimed at shoring up relationships ahead of the US Presidential Inauguration.

How is Japan's ongoing move away from its postwar pacifism, for example by becoming more involved in maritime security efforts, and aiding UN peacekeeping missions, likely to evolve? What role can the special strategic partnership between Australia and Japan play in enhancing the trilateral relationship with the United States?

AIIA Victoria is delighted to welcome Dr Seiichiro Takagi from the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIJA) to give his observations on China's external moves in the region, and their vision in the Indo-Pacific, and to suggest how Japan and Australia could and should contribute to stability in East Asia.

*Dr Seiichiro Takagi is a senior research adviser at the JIJA. He obtained a PhD in political science from Stanford University in 1977. Before moving to his current position in April 2011, he was Associate Professor and Professor at Saitama University (1979-97), Professor at The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (1997-99), Director of the Second Research Department at The National Institute for Defense Studies (1999-2003), and Professor at the School of International Politics, Economics and Business, The Aoyama Gakuin University (2003-2011). He is a specialist on Chinese foreign relations and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.*

AIIA Victoria gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne in arranging this event.



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