



JAPAN'S LEADERSHIP BEYOND THE



Over the past two years, Japan has emerged as a global leader in forging ahead with multilateral trade agreements, and as such taking on a greater role in ensuring that free, fair, and open markets prevail. Washington's reluctance to remain committed to a multilateral



international trade and regulatory reform advisor at USAID. Although panelists broadly agreed on opportunities for greater Japanese cooperation with the United States in Southeast Asia in light of greater competition with China, the fact that Tokyo did not necessarily see eye to eye with Washington on governance issues was raised. Specifically, the role the private sector plays in driving investments into the region, and their focus on opening up new opportunities for growth by focusing on similarities rather than differences was noted in particular. At the same time, Southeast Asia is creating more opportunities for Japanese start-ups in particular too to flourish, allowing entrepreneurs that may not necessarily be able to take on a similar scale of risk back home. As Southeast Asia's market continues to expand on the one hand while Japan's domestic market faces greater demographic constraints, the allure of ASEAN will likely continue to grow for businesses regardless of size.

scale and market focus. That makes it easier not only to finance, but also to generate a stable cash flow. Meanwhile, interest among institutional investors to diversify their income source and seek alternative sources of investments continues to rise, especially in the current low interest rate environment in both Japan and the United States. Opportunities are abundant for the private sector to make further headway in the Indo-Pacific, but at the same time, geopolitical risks including risks stemming from the uncertainties of trade regulations and other changes in the rules of engagement are increasing the need for government support. As such, Japanese and U.S. cooperation is not only encouraging, but also mitigating some of the risks facing the private sector in doing business in Southeast Asia, would be a step forward as well.

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Among the priorities of the Program are:

- human development, resource constraints, and environmental security in Pakistan and India
- domestic and foreign policies of Japan, and the U.S.-Japan partnership
- social, political, and economic affairs in Taiwan
- the rise of new Asian power centers in China and India
- the threat to the region and to American interests posed by terrorism and extremism
- U.S. policy implications for Asia

About the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

The Center for Global Partnership (CGP) was established within the Japan Foundation in April 1991 with offices in both Tokyo and New York. CGP is dedicated to strengthening the global U.S.-Japan partnership and cultivating the next generation of public intellectuals necessary to sustain this partnership. It promotes cooperation between Japan and the United States with the goal of fulfilling shared global responsibilities and contributing to improvements in the world's welfare. To this end, it seeks to enhance dialogue and interexchange between Japanese and U.S. citizens on a wide range of issues, thereby improving bilateral relations.