



SPF USA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

CSIS

U.S.-Japan Commission on the Future of the Alliance

Charter

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The Asia Pacific region is the center of dynamism in the international system, and events there are defining the security and prosperity of the world. Increased economic interdependence and a budding institutional architecture are creating a solid foundation for a vibrant and stable future, but the region also faces an array of challenges that could destabilize the security environment. For over six decades the U.S.-Japan alliance has been the cornerstone of security and stability in the Asia Pacific, and it should continue to play an essential role in shaping the regional order.

The U.S. and Japanese governments are taking important steps to strengthen the alliance and ensure that it remains a lynchpin in maintaining regional stability and prosperity. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) have established a bilateral commission of distinguished policymakers and scholars to develop a strategic vision for the alliance and articulate its continued importance to the publics of both countries.

The commission convened for the first time today in Tokyo and will meet twice a year over the next three years to discuss the future trajectory of the alliance. Topics will include roles and missions that could enhance the U.S. rebalance to the Asia Pacific, how Japan's exercise of the right of collective self-defense might allow for more effective capabilities and strengthen deterrence, more effective consolidation and joint use of U.S. bases in Japan, strengthening bilateral intelligence cooperation, cyber security, the North Korean nuclear and missile threat, trade liberalization, shaping mutually beneficial relations with China, energy security, networking the alliance with other key partners in the region, other measures to ensure the credibility and effectiveness of the alliance in facing the challenges of the 21st Century, and additional subjects to be determined by the commission. The commission will invite scholars to conduct research that will inform these discussions, and it will facilitate public outreach in both countries.

Commission members are as follows:

Richard Armitage, President, Armitage International, L.C.

Aaron Friedberg, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University

Michael Green, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, CSIS and Associate Professor, Georgetown University

Jiro Hanyu, Chairman, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

John Hamre, President, CEO and Pritzker Chair, CSIS

Ryozo Kato, Commissioner, Nippon Professional Baseball and former Ambassador of Japan to the United States

Joseph Nye Jr., University Distinguished Service Professor, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Yukio Okamoto, President, Okamoto Associates

Masashi Nishihara, President, Research Institute for Peace and Security

Koji Tanami, Former Administrative Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance and former President, Japan Bank for International Cooperation