The East-West Center in Washington, Hokkaido University’s Global COE Program, and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA invite you to a public conference:

Regional Security and Okinawa in the U.S.-Japan Alliance

The U.S.-Japan Alliance has weathered many storms in its fifty-year history, yet remains strong today. Several issues, however, have continued to cause debate between the two countries, including the dilemma of how to best ensure regional security and contention over U.S. bases in Okinawa. In a public conference sponsored by the East-West Center in Washington, Hokkaido University’s Global COE Program, and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Japanese and American experts on regional security and Okinawa base issues will discuss these pressing challenges and the impact they will have on the U.S.-Japan Alliance as it moves into the next fifty years.

Tuesday, March 9
9:30 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.
Cosmos Club, Powell Room
2121 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
This event is free and open to the public.

Panel One: Regional Security and the U.S.-Japan Alliance (9:30 A.M.-11:00 A.M.)

Presenters: Professor Shinichi Ogawa, Visiting Professor, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
Professor Eiichi Katahara, Professor and Deputy Director of Research, National Institute for Defense Studies

Discussant: Ambassador Rust M. Deming, Adjunct Professor, Japan Studies, SAIS, The Johns Hopkins University

Moderator: Dr. Satu Limaye, Director, East-West Center in Washington

Panel Two: Okinawa and the U.S.-Japan Alliance (11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.)

Presenters: Professor Manabu Sato, Professor, Okinawa International University
Mr. Tomohiro Yara, Editorial Writer, Okinawa Times
Dr. James E. Auer, Director, Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation, Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies

Discussants: Dr. Sheila A. Smith, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

Moderator: Professor Akihiro Iwashita, Professor and Director of the Slavic Research Center at Hokkaido University, Japan

Keynote Speech and Luncheon (12:30 P.M.-2:00 P.M.)

Speaker: Mr. Derek J. Mitchell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian & Pacific Security Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense

Please RSVP to Loren Hoekstra by email (RSVPDC@EastWestCenter.org), fax (202) 293-1402, or telephone (202) 327-9751.

Please include your name, title, organization, address, phone number, email, and country of citizenship. All personal information is for East-West Center use ONLY and is not circulated. Please note that seating for this event is limited.
James E. Auer is the director of the Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. He served 20 years as a Naval Officer, commanding a frigate homeported in Japan and attending the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Staff College. Dr. Auer also served as the Special Assistant for Japan in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for ten years.


Akihiro Iwashita is a professor and director of the Slavic Research Center at Hokkaido University, Japan. Previously, he was a visiting fellow at the Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies at The Brookings Institution (2007-2008). He was awarded the 2007 JSPS Prize and the 2006 Osaragi Jiro Prize for Commentary. Professor Iwashita’s publications include Toward a New Dialogue on Eurasia: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Its Partners (Slavic Research Center, 2007).

Eiichi Katahara is professor and deputy director, Research Department, at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) of the Japanese Ministry of Defense. Prior to joining NIDS, he was professor of international relations at Kobe Gakuin University; a visiting fellow at Stanford University’s Asia-Pacific Research Center; and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California’s Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC).

Satu Limaye was named director of the East-West Center Washington in February 2007. Previously, he worked with the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria, VA as a member of the research staff. He served as director of the Honolulu-based APCSS’ research and publications division from July 1998 to October 2006. Dr. Limaye was an Abe Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy’s International Forum for Democratic Studies, and a Luce Scholar and head of programs on South Asia at the Japan Institute of International Affairs in Tokyo.


Shinichi Ogawa has been teaching at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University since April 2009 as a visiting professor. He served as the director of Research Department of the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan’s Ministry of Defense, until March 2009. He started his career as a research assistant at the National Institute for Defense Studies in 1978. His publications include “Obama Seiken no Kaku-Gunbikanri Gunshuku Seisaku no Yukue” [A Prospect for the Obama Administration’s Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament Policy], Kaigai Jijyo [Journal of World Affairs], vol. 57, no. 10 (October 2009).


Sheila A. Smith is senior fellow for Japan Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Smith also directs the CFR’s New Regional Security Architecture for Asia Program. Dr. Smith joined CFR from the East-West Center in 2007, where she specialized on Asia-Pacific international relations and U.S. policy toward Asia. She was also recently affiliated with Keio University in Tokyo, where she researched and wrote on Japan’s foreign policy toward China and the Northeast Asian region on an Abe Fellowship. She has been a visiting researcher at the Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Research Institute for Peace and Security, and at the University of Tokyo and the University of the Ryukyus.

Mr. Tomohiro Yara, currently editorial writer at the Okinawa Times, was a visiting fellow at the East-West Center (Hawaii) from 2007 to 2008. His most recent book is The US-Japan Alliance on Sand, Okinawa Times (2009, Japanese).