

## Closing Remarks

Australia-Japan: Towards a Sustainable Security Community

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1. Japan and Australia came to terms after World War II. Joint initiatives by Saburo Okita and Sir John Crawford were instrumental to forging bilateral ties into multilateral ties in the 1960s and beyond. The ties envisaged were largely economic with a view to the two advanced democracies sandwiching and lifting developing economies to a higher stage. In the dawn of twenty-first century joint initiatives were collectively taken between the two countries by Junichiro Koizumi and John Howard. The picture of Asia envisioned therein is that Japan and Australia share: 1) the need to facilitate the rising Asia to transform itself into a free and democratic zone; 2) the need to jointly facilitate a zone of free trade and navigation; 3) the need to jointly facilitate a zone of mutual respect and benefits. Japan and Australia share the pivotal shared security issues in all this: 1) conflict prevention, 2) responsibility to protect, 3) nuclear non-proliferation, 4) nuclear safety management, 5) anti-terrorism, 6) anti-piracy etc.

2. US alliance has been most conducive in materializing conditions for stability and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region (Inoguchi, Ikenberry and Sato, 2011). After all, since 1945 wars have been on steady decline in occurrence; no nuclear war has taken place; interstate wars have become nearly rare; civil wars have taken place less frequently; deaths related to combats and of civilians have been reduced substantially (Goldstein, 2011). The pivotal importance of US alliance in the Asia Pacific is one of the key sources for the region's increasing peace and prosperity. Yet what is said to be US decline seems to encourage and enable allies to be more creative, more initiative-taking and more risk-taking without disturbing the whole trends.

3. The awareness and preparedness of nuclear-safety management has been recognized as crucial in running power plants which will spread to all over the world, especially in the Asia Pacific including nuclear weapons states; China, India, Pakistan, and North

Korea. Australia, a key uranium-producing and exporting country, and Japan, a key power plant exporting country with experiences of nuclear disaster and management, should take post-Fukushima initiatives on nuclear governance.

4. On the whole Australia and Japan share key values in common, freedom, democracy and capitalism. Differences of perceptions of the rise of China stem from differences of their key sectors, mining and manufacturing. Mining does not migrate whereas manufacturing migrates in both directions. Yet in terms of perceptions they more or less converge. On security related matters they do not like to see China act to reinforce the perception of what Amitav Acharya calls China's Monroe doctrine. On economic matters they see mutually beneficial aspects more positively than before although a massive dose of China's direct investment in key sensitive sectors and areas should be made more difficult.

5. Implications of the presentation are: 1) intensification of bilateral dialogues and joint actions and 2) proposing global and regional initiatives related to global rule- and norm-making in some key issues like running ageing societies (Inoguchi and Fujii, forthcoming) and nuclear power plant management (Kubota and Inoguchi, 2011).

## Reference

Goldstein, Joshua (2011) *Winning the War on War: The Decline of Armed Conflict Worldwide*, New York: Dutton.

Inoguchi, Takashi, G. John Ikenberry and Yoichiro Sato, eds., *The United States-Japan Security Alliance: Multilateral Regionalism*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

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Kubota, Yuji and Takashi Inoguchi (2011) "Facing Calamity with Calmness? 50 Countries' Responses to Nuclear Disaster," presented at the AsiaBarometer Workshop, September 15, 2011, Sanjo Conference Hall, University of Tokyo.