

## PUBLIC LECTURE



## Dr Yoshihide Soeya

Professor of Political Science  
Director, Institute of East Asian Studies, Keio UniversityChair: Assoc Prof Darryl Jarvis  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Date: Wednesday, 9 March 2011

Time: 5.15 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. (Light refreshments will be provided after the lecture)

Venue: Seminar Room 3-1, Level 3, Mannaseh Meyer  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
469C Bukit Timah Road Singapore 259772Admission is free.  
Free seating.  
Seats are limited.To enable us to gauge  
attendance, please email us to  
indicate your interest at  
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# THE U.S. - JAPAN ALLIANCE AND JAPANESE DIPLOMACY IN EAST ASIA

## SYNOPSIS

The U.S.-Japan alliance is the supporting pillar of a "liberal international order." The reforms and open-door policies, together with the spectacular economic growth achieved by China from the 1970s and on, have been the fruits of the "liberal international order" underpinned by the U.S.-Japan alliance. The role of Japan within this framework is to use the U.S.-Japan alliance as the basis for determining responses to numerous problems, thereby working to prevent the surfacing of a latent structure of rupture between the developed democracies and the newly emerging countries. In that nuance, the significance of the U.S.-Japan alliance must be redefined from a global outlook, while comprehensively building up diplomacy with China. In a period of uncertainty of a global scale, it is the agreement of the countries of East Asia that the U.S.-Japan alliance is actually one of the few stabilizing elements. Accordingly, the work of genuinely redefining the U.S.-Japan alliance must be accompanied by close consultation with the countries of East Asia, particularly ASEAN and South Korea. For the time being, however, efforts to use the U.S.-Japan alliance as the basis for constructing a "liberal international order" will likely be seen in the eyes of the Chinese as an attempt to curb the emergence of China itself, leading to heightened friction and discord. There will thus be a need to adopt proper precautions on this front, while at the same time continuing to press on with perseverance toward the goal.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Yoshihide SOEYA is Professor of political science and international relations at the Faculty of Law of Keio University. He also serves as the Director of the Institute of East Asian Studies of the same university. His areas of interest are politics and security in East Asia, and Japanese diplomacy and its external relations in the region and the world. He received Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1987, majoring in world politics. Dr. Soeya currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Japan Association of International Studies, and the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS) in Tokyo, and is a member of the Advisory Group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the International Council of the Asia Society in New York. In 2010, he served as a member of the Council on Security and Defense Capabilities in the New Era, appointed by former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama. His book titled *Japan's Middle-Power Diplomacy* (Tokyo: Chikuma-shobo, 2005) has attracted a wide range of attention both in and outside of Japan, whose translation in Korean appeared in 2006, and the English translation is in progress. His major publications in English include "Japanese Domestic Politics and Security Cooperation in Northeast Asia," *Council on Foreign Relations* (December 2009); "US and East Asian Security under the Obama Presidency," *Asian Economic Policy Review*, Vol. 4, Issue 2 (December 2009); "Changing Security and Political Contexts of Japan-Taiwan Relations: A View from Japan," *NBR Analysis*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (October 2005); "Taiwan in Japan's Security Considerations," *China Quarterly*, No. 165 (March 2001); and *Japan's Economic Diplomacy with China, 1945-1978* (London: Oxford University Press, 1998).