

"Japan's National Security Policy: New Directions, Old Restrictions"

Monday, April 11, 4:30-6:00 pm

Venue: TODAI-YALE INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

Room 05, Rosenkranz Hall, 115 Prospect Street

Abstract

In 2010, two important documents on Japan's security and national defense policies were released under the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) government in Japan. One report is entitled "Japan's Vision for Future Security and Defense Capabilities in the New Era: Toward a Peace-Creating Nation," which was issued in August by the Council on Security and Defense Capabilities in the New Era, the Prime Minister's private council on national security and defense capabilities which is chaired by Shigetaka Sato. The other is the "National Defense Program Guidelines, FY 2011-" that was issued by the Japanese government in December (2010 NDPG). The former is a blueprint of Japan's national security and defense strategy, the latter addresses the formal Japanese defense program guidelines for the next ten years. While the Japanese government is not legally bound by the Sato Report, since it is not the Japanese version of a National Security Strategy, a formal document issued by the US government, the 2010 NDPG does contain actual guidelines for building the defense capability of Japan. The overlap between the two documents represents the new directions of the Japanese security and national defense policies, and the gap between them illustrates the old restrictions that remain. Besides, the impact of devastating crisis caused by the earthquake on Japan's national security policy will also be discussed.

Speaker: Yasuhiro Matsuda (Associate Professor, Institute of Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo)

Discussant: Koji Yoda (Senior Research Associate, Harvard University, Former Commander of the Self-Defense Fleet)

Professor Matsuda is a specialist in the political and diplomatic history of Asia, the politics and foreign relations of China and Taiwan, and Cross-Strait relations. Before joining the Institute of Oriental Culture at the University of Tokyo, he spent sixteen years at the National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan Defense Agency/Ministry of Defense as a Senior Research Fellow. Professor Matsuda has also served as a visiting research fellow at the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong, the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii, the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington D.C., the Division of Strategic and International Studies, Taiwan Research Institute in Taipei, the US-Asia Institute in Washington D.C., and the Center for Japanese Studies, Fudan University in Shanghai.

Retired Vice-Admiral Koda spent over thirty years with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and has served at sea and on shore with the Maritime Staff Office, and has accumulated a wealth of military and scholarly accomplishments. His most senior appointments prior to his retirement from the Japanese defense force included serving as the Director General of the Operations and Plans Department at the Maritime Staff Office, Commander of the Fleet Escort Force, Director General of Joint Staff Office, Commandant of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Sasebo District, and Commander-in-Chief of the Self-Defense Fleet at Funakoshi, Yokosuka. Vice-Admiral Koda coordinated overall JSDF operations in Tsunami hit Sumatra, Indonesia as DG JSO in 2004 and in earthquake hit Kobe, Japan in 1996 as Director for Operations at MSO. Vice-Admiral Koda has published a host of articles on Japanese military history and security. His current research at Harvard focuses on the future direction of the US-Japanese alliance and the impact of China's growing maritime strength.

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