

Japan at the Crossroads

Changes in Tokyo's Security Policy

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The Japanese nation has undergone a series of serious, almost existential experiences in the last few years. In the field of diplomacy, Japan's relations with important countries generally declined for various reasons. In response there has been more attention for and emphasis on the country's security policy, a field that has been relatively neglected until recently both by the Japanese government and the people. This new development partially explains why the current prime minister Abe Shinzo was able to return to office despite his sudden resignation in 2007.

This lecture will present the situation in East Asia from a Japanese perspective and will analyze how Japan is trying to cope with the changing international environment. It will address Japan's relations with the United States, China, South Korea, North Korea, and other Asia-Pacific countries. The changing context of domestic politics and its impact on foreign and security policy will also be discussed. Although it is very difficult to predict Japanese politics, an assessment of the future of the country's foreign policy and security policy is in order.

Professor NAKANISHI Hiroshi (Faculty of Law, Kyoto University) is an authority on Japan's international relations and security policy of the 20th and 21st centuries. One of his major interests is the historical development of theories on international order. He has published widely on foreign and security policy, both in English and Japanese. His *Kokusai seiji to wa nani ka* won the Yomiuri – Yoshino Sakuzo prize in 2003. Professor Nakanishi is guest professor at IKOS during March 2013.