



New research theme of “technology and the international order” is launched

The 21st Century Public Policy Institute has long researched the future of the international order from multiple perspectives, including political, economic and science and technology viewpoints, and disseminated those research results through, for example, the holding of seminars and symposiums and publication of pocketbooks.

The Institute has now welcomed Kazuto Suzuki, Professor of the University of Tokyo’s Graduate School of Public Policy and Director of the Institute of Geoeconomics at the International House of Japan, who has shared his highly respected opinions and advice on various occasions in the past, to serve as an Executive Visiting Research Fellow at the 21st Century Public Policy Institute and launched new research from October 2023 on the theme of “technology and the international order.”

Understanding technology and thinking of economic security

Under the new research theme of “technology and the international order,” the 21st Century Public Policy Institute will advance research with a focus on economic security while deepening the understanding of technology that has achieved remarkable breakthroughs.

The world around us faces mounting uncertainty due to the geopolitical risk and supply chain disruptions that have emerged from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the Gaza conflict as well as complicated US-China relations. At almost the same time, the importance of “economic security,” or achieving national security through economic measures, has once again been



Kazuto Suzuki, Executive Visiting Research Fellow, The 21st Public Policy Institute/Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo/Director, Institute of Geoeconomics, International House of Japan

recognized. Japan, too, is promoting the development of policies and laws to this end.

Why is economic security called into question in the current era? How will corporate competition in the markets evolve amid conflict between nations? We hope to hear many suggestions from Professor Suzuki on topics that warrant the attention of the economic community in relation to challenges stemming from the development of technology such as artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors and space development.

About future activities

The 21st Century Public Policy Institute is planning to hold online seminars on multiple occasions as an opportunity to share Professor Suzuki’s research results with you. The content of his reports will be documented and disseminated broadly. We will strive to contribute to your business activity, so hope you will look forward to future developments.

(Yasuhiro Iwasaki, Senior Fellow)

First seminar in a series on “business portfolio restructuring aimed at the sustainable growth of Japanese companies” is held

On 12 October, the 21st Century Public Policy Institute and the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI) jointly held an online Brown Bag Lunch (BBL) Seminar as part of a series on the theme of “business portfolio restructuring.”

What is the “business portfolio restructuring” seminar series

Amid calls about the need for carbon neutrality and digital transformation and arguments that the very structure of the economic community will undergo major change, there is also a demand to transform business strategy. The traditional business model of holding multiple businesses and pursuing profits in each segment is not enough. Going forward, it will be essential to revise existing businesses from the ground up under the clear vision and strong leadership of management and to be strategic and bold in transforming business portfolios in order to achieve sustainable growth and earning power.

At this seminar, the management of companies that have actively and resolutely taken on the challenge of such business portfolio restructuring and achieved results will be invited on stage to speak about their specific efforts at restructuring and the mindset necessary to succeed.

First seminar: Toshiaki Higashihara, Executive Chairman, Representative Executive Officer and Director, Hitachi, Ltd.

The first seminar held this time around welcomed Toshiaki Higashihara, Executive Chairman, Representative Executive Officer and Director of Hitachi, Ltd., who also serves as Vice Chairman of the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren). Drawing on his experience of utilizing multiple large-scale M&A to restructure the company’s business portfolio and thereby strengthen its earning power, Mr. Higashihara

offered an encouraging message and closed the event on a high note.

This series will be disseminated exclusively on YouTube Live and archived on a subsequent date (see above URL). We will send an email to all Keidanren members (organizations/companies) with instructions on how to apply in advance, so we hope you will be able to watch future seminars in real time and await any questions you have for the speakers.

Speaker, etc.

Speaker: Toshiaki Higashihara, Executive Chairman, Representative Executive Officer and Director, Hitachi, Ltd./ Vice Chairman, Keidanren

Moderator/commentator: Katsuhiro Sato, Consulting Fellow, RIETI/ Professor, Graduate School of Business and Finance, Waseda University

Commentator: Norio Sawabe, Business Administration Chair and Professor, Graduate School of Management, Kyoto University

Commentator: Takashi Yoshimura, Director, The 21st Century Public Policy Institute, Keidanren (Secretariat)

(Titles as of October 2023)



What is a BBL seminar?

BBL seminars are seminars held during lunch hours where participants bring their own lunches – a format that has long been utilized at US universities and research institutes. The name comes from the practice of putting a purchased lunch into a brown bag. In Japan, RIETI actively works to hold seminars in this format. The seminar held jointly with RIETI this time around also took this format.

(Kota Aono, Senior Fellow)

Archive (Japanese language site)
<https://www.rieti.go.jp/jp/events/23101201/handout.html>



Current events commentary on the “Biden administration’s first half and outlook going forward” is posted

The 21st Century Public Policy Institute’s US research project (Principal Research Director: Fumiaki Kubo, President, National Defense Academy) publishes the current events commentary of its researchers on the Institute’s website.

With the Biden administration having entered the second half of its term following the November 2022 interim elections, our researchers analyzed the trend in the administration’s major policies during the first half and the current state of US democracy and commented on the outlook for the coming US presidential election in 2024.

Research area/US (Japanese language site)
<http://www.21ppi.org/theme/usa/index.html>



Writer	
1	 Fumiaki Kubo, Principal Research Director (President, National Defense Academy)
2	 Kazuhiro Maeshima, Deputy Research Director (Professor, Dean, Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University)
3	 Ryuji Fujimoto, Research Fellow (Associate Professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts Department of Sociology, Teikyo University)
4	 Yusuke Nishizumi, Research Fellow (Concurrent Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Chuo University)
5	 Takeshi Umekawa, Research Fellow (Professor, Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, Faculty of Law, The University of Tokyo)
6	 Ayako Sugino, Research Fellow (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Musashino University)
7	 Kota Matsui, Research Fellow (Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Kyorin University)
8	 Hana Umekawa, Research Fellow (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Komazawa University)

Symposium on “US foreign relations and domestic affairs focused on Russia, China and the Middle East” is held

On 14 November, the 21st Century Public Policy Institute held a symposium on “US foreign relations and domestic affairs focused on Russia, China and the Middle East” as part of its US research project (Principal research director: Fumiaki Kubo, President, National Defense Academy). During the first half of the symposium, Chiaki Akimoto, Director of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) Japan, delivered a speech on the topic of “Ukraine war – current conditions and mechanism of escalation.” During the second half, a panel discussion was held with the three panelists (Mr. Akimoto, Principal Research Director Kubo and Deputy Research Director Maeshima) exploring the future direction of US foreign relations and domestic

affairs amid the tense international situation. The remarks of the three are summarized below.

Mr. Akimoto

It is a mistake to discuss the Israel/Gaza conflict in parallel with the Ukraine war. Although it could develop into a major war depending on the situation going forward, it might currently be described as historical fate and a Middle East conflict triggered by terrorism. The Ukraine war, on the other hand, is Russia attempting to destroy the foundation of the international order established by nations after WWII under which large nations respect the sovereignty of small nations without limitation and resolve any problems based on international law rather than



From left: Deputy Research Director Maeshima, Principal Research Director Kubo, Mr. Akimoto

changing the status quo by force. It can also be described as a war related to Japan’s security. A recognition shared by Western nations that “the war cannot end in a way that benefits Russia” is one guideline for reaching a resolution. The Ukraine side has introduced military AI and drones into its military system. In modern war, humans cannot comprehensively process all the information that floods the battle field. It has reached a situation where AI takes charge of the analysis and evaluation hitherto

conducted by humans and even proposes the strategic options that should be followed next, with humans only making the final decisions.

US support for Ukraine is important in the sense of US cooperation for European security, and the UK plays the role of a bridge between the US and Europe. And considering the Russia/China situation going forward, the UK’s involvement in the Indo-Pacific will strengthen. Japan is deepening its relations with the

UK by, for example, advancing plans for the joint development of next-generation fighter jets. Through broad cooperation in such areas as security cooperation, anti-terrorism, anti-cyber warfare and hybrid warfare, Japan-UK relations should be viewed as an effective alliance.

Principal Research Director Kubo

The international order is in great danger and at a historical crossroads. The main cause is Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but for the international community, there are also great doubts about the state of China in recent years. If there is a strengthening interpretation that unilateral invasion will be allowed and succeed without resistance from the international community, the situation could also turn serious for the international order in East Asia surrounding areas such as the East China Sea and Taiwan Strait. Instability factors within the US and the nation's increasingly inward-looking orientation are also sources of concern.

In this context, the result of the US presidential election taking place in November 2024 will be a

major factor influencing the outcome of the war. In the event that Trump becomes president, US support for Ukraine would likely cease. The possibility of a second Trump administration cannot be ruled out and is thought to be around 50%. For Japan, appealing to and boosting its attractiveness and value as a partner to the US will be important.

Deputy Research Director Maeshima

Since the outbreak of the Israel conflict, the Ukraine problem has been put on the back burner in the US. For both Democrats and Republicans, the point is how to compile a budget to support Ukraine in Congress. If the US presidential election ends up being a battle between Trump and Biden, it could be a 50-50 result depending on several battleground states. Japan will also need to assume a scenario where Trump wins and thinks seriously about seceding from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Regardless of the administration that forms after the US presidential election, Japan will need to firmly communicate through, for example, the Japan-US-Korea framework that US neglect of Japan is not possible option.

(Hiroyasu Hatayama, Senior Fellow)

Publications introduced

The 21st Century Public Policy Institute holds symposiums, seminars and dialogues as appropriate. It then compiles the contents into pocketbooks and videos for later release. The day's speeches, Q&A and panel discussions are recorded so those who could not attend can relive the events and utilize the archive of past discussions. The entire text is published on the website.

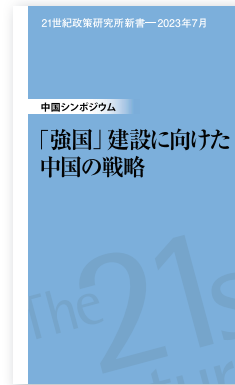
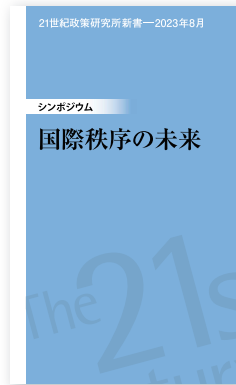
Booklets/Videos



Research area/philosophy, liberal arts (Japanese language site)
<http://www.21ppi.org/theme/philosophy/index.html>



Pocketbooks



The 21st Century Public Policy Institute pocketbooks (Japanese language site)
<http://www.21ppi.org/theme/pocket/index.html>



The 21st Century Public Policy Institute renews its logo

The 21st Century Public Policy Institute renewed its logo in January of this year.

The institute designed the logo to make its concept of “challenging domestic and overseas issues as an open think tank” easy to understand and to enhance its visibility with a clear impression.

The concept of the emblem is “unleashing the energy.” It envisages energy packed with various research results and information as a sphere and expresses this sphere eventually reaching a full state and being released toward the creation of the future. The overlapping red and blue represent the fusion of the business world and academia and the sphere is structured to overlay one part of the English acronym for The 21st Century Public Policy Institute.

New logo



Publishing/editing

THE 21ST CENTURY
PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE

The 21st Century Public Policy Institute, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
1-3-2, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 - 8188 Japan
TEL +81 (0) 3- 6741- 0901



<http://www.21ppi.org/english/index.html>