

Study Group on Geostrategic Hotspots

Subject & Overview

This study group started in April 2021 as a collaborative project between the Kajima Institute of International Peace and PHP Research Institute, a policy thinktank, based on a shared understanding of the issues in the field.

With increasing great power competition, there is growing interest in the field of geopolitics. In many cases, however, “geopolitics” is used merely as another term for political risk, and at present discussions in Japan often fail adequately to reflect the military perspective. This study group invites prominent speakers in the field to give presentations, which provide a basis for case studies of important aspects of geopolitical hotspots from a diverse range of viewpoints, particularly military and geographical perspectives.

The results of our meetings are widely disseminated to the general public through publication in the monthly magazine *Voice* (published by the PHP Institute, Inc.) and other outlets. Our aim is to improve the quality of the assessments of current situations on which the country’s foreign policy and the global strategies of Japanese companies are based, and to help to build the intellectual foundations indispensable for public discussions on peace and prosperity.

In fiscal 2022, after case studies were conducted focusing on key geopolitical points worldwide, study group meetings were held to summarize how Europe, China, and the United States view the world from a geopolitical perspective.

Period	April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023
Meetings held (FY2022)	<p>A total of ten case study meetings were held, at which guest speakers were invited to give presentations. In addition, two core group meetings were held with core members only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventh Case Study Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date and time: April 11, 2022 (Mon.), 16:00-18:00 Topic: Cyberspace Guest Speaker: Tatsuhiro Tanaka (the 33rd Commanding General of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Signal School, Major General (retired), JGSDF) *Published in Voice, August 2022 “Cyberspace as a ‘Battlefield Without Weapons” • Eighth Case Study Group Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date and time: May 30, 2022 (Mon.), 16:00 to 18:00 Topic: Middle East Guest Speaker: Yasuki Nakahata (the 16th Commander of Maritime Materiel Command, Vice Admiral (retired), JMSDF) *Published in Voice, September 2022 “Middle East Geostategy from the Perspective of Anti-Piracy Measures”

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- Meetings held
- Ninth Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: June 24, 2022 (Fri.), 16:00 to 18:00
Topic: Nuclear Issues
Guest Speaker: Sadamasa Oue (Asia Pacific Initiative Senior Fellow, and the 24th Commander of Air Materiel Command, and Lieutenant General (retired), JASDF)
*Published in Voice, October 2022
“Nuclear Issues and Japan’s Options”
 - Tenth Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: July 15, 2022 (Fri.), 16:00 to 18:00
Topic: Europe
Guest Speaker: Jun Nagashima (Senior Research Advisor, Nakasone Peace Institute, and Lieutenant General (retired), JASDF)
*Published in Voice, November 2022
“NATO and Russia’s Longstanding Rivalry over Europe”
 - Eleventh Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: August 29, 2022 (Mon.), 16:00 to 18:00
Topic: India
Guest Speaker: Mikio Nakamura (Member, Kaikosha National Security Study Group, and Lieutenant General (retired), JGSDF)
*Published in Voice, January 2023
“India as a Key Player in the Indo-Pacific”

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- Meetings held
- Twelfth Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: October 6, 2022 (Thurs.), 10:00 to 12:00
Topic: The Arctic Ocean
Guest Lecturer: Takahiro Ishihara (Instructor, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Command and Staff College, and Commander, JMSDF)
*Published in Voice, February 2023
“The Arctic as a Playground for Great Power Competition”

 - Thirteenth Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: November 8, 2022 (Tues.), 16:00 to 18:00
Topic: South Pacific
Guest Speaker: Takashi Sekiguchi (former Associate Professor at the National Defense Academy of Japan, Reserve Colonel, JGSDF)
*Published in Voice, March 2023
“The South Pacific Determines the Fate of Maritime Nations”

 - Third Core Group Meeting
Date and time: December 15, 2022 (Thu.), 10:00 to 12:00

 - Fourth Core Group Meeting
Date and time: January 30, 2023 (Mon.), 16:00 to 18:00

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- Meetings held
- Fourteenth Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: February 2, 2023 (Thurs.), 16:00 to 18:00
Topic: Europe's Geopolitical Strategy
Guest speaker: Tomonori Yoshizaki (Director, National Institute for Defense Studies)
*Published in Voice, May 2023
"The Value of NATO: Not Just Military"
 - Fifteenth Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: February 20, 2023 (Mon.), 16:00 to 18:00
Topic: China's Geopolitical Strategy
Guest speaker: Yoshikazu Watanabe (Director, Watanabe Institute for Security Studies, and Lieutenant General (retired), JGSDF)
*Published in Voice, June 2023
"China's Unrestricted, All-Domain Warfare"
 - Sixteenth Case Study Group Meeting
Date and time: March 30, 2023 (Thurs.), 10:00 to 12:00
Topic: U.S. Geopolitical Strategy
Guest speaker: Masanori Yoshida (Vice President, Sojitz Corporation of America, the 40th Commandant of Sasebo District, Vice Admiral (retired), JMSDF)
*Published in Voice, July 2023
"The U.S. Superpower: Upheaval and Resolution"

Members

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Chief Research Officer, PHP Research Institute

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