

Diplomacy Study Group

After Covid-19 was reclassified to a Class 5 infectious disease, the study group met on May 8, 2023 for the first time in 3 years and 3 months. In order to avoid the “Three Cs” thought to increase infection risk (closed spaces, crowded spaces, close-contact settings), we looked for a larger meeting room that would allow us to space seating further apart, and where the windows could be opened to improve ventilation. We accordingly shifted our venue from a meeting room in the Kajima KI Building to Palazzo Otani, a banqueting room inside the Hotel New Otani. We also decided to hold meetings on a quarterly basis for the time being and watch how the situation with Covid infections developed. Details of the three meetings are given below.

This coming fiscal year, we aim to hold monthly meetings. We also hope to return to the pre-Covid format for meetings, where participants are able to talk face-to-face at a round or rectangular table.

Meeting	Date	Speaker	Topic
617	June 7	Nobukatsu Kanehara (former deputy chair of the National Security Council)	Dramatic Shifts in the International Situation and Japanese Diplomacy
618	November 1	Takashi Inoguchi (professor emeritus, University of Tokyo)	Envisioning Japan’s Strategy in the Near Future: Global Quasi- legislation or Multi-Bloc Competition?

Meeting	Date	Speaker	Topic
619	February 9	Koji Tsuruoka (former ambassador to the United Kingdom)	Japan and International Relations Governed by Emotions