

## Research Presentations

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Research findings were presented by the following 8 workshops in fiscal year 2024.

- National Power Workshop I & Society of Security and Diplomatic Policy Studies

The following book was published on February 22, 2025.

Title: *Ronten kaisetsu: Nihon no anzen hoshō—Bōei kiban no kyōka to bōeiryoku no jizoku-kanōsei o kangaeru.* (Explaining the Issues on Japan's National Security—Thinking about Strengthening the Defense Infrastructure and the Sustainability of Defensive Capability)

Editors: Kazumasa Oguro, Masahiro Akiyama

Publisher: Nikkei Business Publications, Inc.

- Society of Security and Diplomatic Policy Studies

The following papers were published in April 2024:

"The Israel-Hamas War and the Disruption of the Rules-Based International Order-Viewed from Theories of International Politics"

"The Middle East Question and Japan"

The following papers were published in July 2024:

"The Camp David Summit and U.S.-Japan-ROK Security Cooperation"

"North and South Korea Enter a New Phase of Competition"

"Examining the Yoon Administration's Foreign Policy over the Past Two Years "

"Japan-ROK Cooperation: Not an Option but a Must"

"South Korea's Economic Security Policy and New Japan-ROK Economic Cooperation"

"The 22nd National Assembly Election and South Korean Politics "

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"The Yoon Suk-yeol Administration and the ROK-Japan Relations"

The following papers were published in September 2024:

- " The End of the Soviet-Afghan War"
- " How the Winter War Ended: A "Compromised Peace"
- " The Russia-Ukraine War Viewed from War Termination Theory"

The following papers were published in October 2024:

- " Russia's Prolonged Military Invasion of Ukraine and Ukrainian Public Opinion: Focusing on Perceptions of Negotiations, Territory, and Sovereignty"
- "Economic Sanctions and the Russian Economy"
- " Assessment of Russia's Military Strength, Stockpiles, and Defense Production Base: Evaluating Russia's Capability to Continue Warfare"
- " Russia's War Costs: Military Expenditures and Resource Allocation in "Wartime" "
- " Germany's Arms Assistance for Ukraine: Has Its Culture of Self-Restraint Been Overcome?"

The following papers were published in December 2024:

- "American Democracy and Society Viewed from an Analysis of the 2024 US Presidential Election"
- "Kamala Harris and Factors Behind Her Defeat: Can the Democrats Make a Comeback?"
- "Trump's Victory Factors: Why Trump Wanted to Be President Again"
- "Analysis of the Trump Vote in the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election"

The following papers were published in January 2025:

- "The "FEAR" Returned: The Meaning of Trump's Reinstatement "

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“The Second Trump Administration and Japan-US Relations: Viewed by a Former Practitioner of Diplomacy”

“Foreign and Security Policies of the Second Trump Administration ”

“Healthcare Policy in the Second Trump Administration”

The following papers were published in March 2025:

" From Economic Security to Geoeconomics "

" Progress in Economic Security Policies and Further Strengthening of National Security Policy Integration Amid the Acceleration of "Securitization""

“Considering Social Security and Tax Reforms: What Will Become of Japan's Fiscal Reconstruction? ”

“An Outlook for the Japanese Economy ”

Between April 2024 and March 2025, four issues of *Security Studies* were published.

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- Workshop on Diplomatic Power of Small States

The following book was published on May 21, 2025.

Title: *Kasegu shōkoku no senryaku* (Earning Strategies of Small States)

Author: Kajima Institute of International Peace, Takashi Sekiyama (co-edition)

Publisher: Kobunsha, Co., Ltd.

- Workshop on Reconstructing the Relationship between National and Local Governments

The following book was published on June 27, 2025.

Title: *Jinkō hangen shokku: Chiiki no shin-senryaku—Kashikoku chijimi norikoeru* (The Shock of a Population Reduced by Half: A New Strategy for Regions—The Smart Way to Shrink and Survive)

Author: Hideaki Tanaka

Publisher: Nikkei Business Publications, Inc

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- Workshop on Food, Ecosystems and Land Use to Overcome Global Warming

On July 26, 2024, the final proposal of the FY2022–2023 Workshop on Food, Ecosystems and Land Use to Overcome Global Warming was reviewed and adopted.

The main proposal was as follows.

“Natural circulating water’ maintains and transmits (1) energy from the sun (heat and temperature) and transmits (2) ‘physical energy’ (water itself and the transportation and erosion of soil) and (3) nutritional energy (food and nutrition), and constitutes part of plants and animals, including humans, and soil, etc. In this way, natural circulating water should be recognized not just as physical H<sub>2</sub>O but as an important substance that forms all living creatures on Earth and the basic foundation which upholds them.

Comprehensive and detailed research, and policies should be advanced regarding natural circulating water.

With the understanding that natural circulating water is the common asset of all people, it should not only be used for the benefits and purposes of certain regions or companies. Promptly discharging natural circulating water to coastal areas via rivers from the disaster prevention perspective and water pollution have led to declines in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, the processing and distribution industries, and the food industry, and to a decline in the ecosystem services capacity, so we should take the perspective of further promoting the comprehensive and long-term interests of the entire nation and the improvement of the ecosystem and environment.”

We made explanations regarding this proposal to the following ministries and agencies and requested its implementation: at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Vice-Minister Tsuyoshi

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Watanabe (August 2, 2024), Vice Minister for International Affairs Yoichi Watanabe (August 2), Fisheries Agency Director-General Takeshi Mori and Deputy Director-General Hitoshi Fujita (August 7), International Economic Affairs Division Director Makoto Kondo and International Strategy Division Director Ritsuko Yoneda (August 14), Rural Development Bureau Deputy Director-General Kenji Seiyama (August 16), and Forestry Agency Deputy Director-General Zentaro Kosaka and Conservation Division Director Masahiro Kawai (August 20); at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Water and Disaster Management Bureau Director-General Hiroyuki Fujimaki and River Environment Division Director Masaru Kojima (August 7); at the Ministry of the Environment, Biodiversity Policy Division Director Katsuji Bansho and others (August 6); for the Liberal Democratic Party, Member of the House of Representatives Gen Nakatani (August 19) and Member of the House of Councillors Yosuke Tsuruho (Sept. 4), and for Komeito, Standing Advisor Yoshihisa Inoue; and also to Japan Fisheries Association President Masaaki Edamoto (Sept. 4).

We held press briefings at the Fisheries Agency Press Club (August 5) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Press Club (August 5).

The newspaper coverage included “Bring Back Clean Water – Proposal for Recovering the Natural Capacity of the Land: Komatsu Second Study Group at Kajima Institute of International Peace” (August 7) and *Minato Shimbun*, “Early Introduction of Japanese-version NBS – Kajima Institute of International Peace Final Proposal ‘Making Natural Circulating Water Shared’” (Sept. 3).

In this way, we explained the proposal to government officials and key politicians.

The accurate reporting of the contents of NBS in the newspaper coverage was also an achievement.

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- Workshop on Religion and the Contemporary World

The following articles by the speakers were published in *Voice*, a monthly magazine by PHP Institute, Inc., based on the content presented at the Workshop.

Jun 2024 issue, *Voice*: “Impact and Role of Vatican Diplomacy”

Guest Speaker: Saho Matsumoto (Professor, College of International Relations, Nihon University)

Sep 2024 issue, *Voice*: “The Indian General Election and the Future of Hindu Supremacism”

Guest Speaker: Kazuya Nakamizo (Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University)

Oct 2024 issue, *Voice*: “The Vitality of the Islamic World and Its Hopes in the International Community”

Guest Speaker: Yasushi Kosugi (Professor, Director of the Asia-Japan Research Institute, Ritsumeikan University)

Dec 2024 issue, *Voice*: “The Invasion of Ukraine and the Geopolitics of the Orthodox Church”

Guest Speaker: Sanami Takahashi (Lecturer, Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, Kyushu University)

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Dec 2024 issue, *Voice*: “The Huge Trend of ‘Greater Israel’”

Guest Speaker: Ryoji Tateyama (Professor Emeritus, National Defense Academy of Japan)

Dec 2024 issue, *Voice*: “Norms of Religion and Beliefs in China”

Guest Speaker: Yukihiro Kawaguchi (Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University)

Jan 2025 issue, *Voice*: “Why Is ‘Islam and Gender’ an Issue?”

Guest Speaker: Namie Tsujigami (Professor, Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University)

Feb 2025 issue, *Voice*: “Religious Votes’ That Changed in the U.S. Presidential Election”

Guest Speaker: Saho Matsumoto (Professor, College of International Relations, Nihon University)

Apr 2025 issue, *Voice*: “The Future of the Islamic Supremacy of the Erdoğan Administration”

Guest Speaker: Fumiko Sawae (Professor, Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University)



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- Workshop for Comparing Swedish and Japanese Responses to Climate Change: Legal Systems, Local Governments, and Accounting Standards

This project began from April 2024. It is a collaborative project between Sweden and Japan seeking solutions to environmental problems, global warming, and climate change. The three main pillars of this research are 1) comparative research on the legal systems of Sweden and Japan regarding their constitutions and environmental laws, 2) comparison of the central governments, provincial governments, and local government bodies concerning the drafting and implementation of environmental policies and environmental projects in Sweden and Japan, and 3) comparison of the status of implementing the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and other international sustainability accounting reporting and directives in Sweden and Japan.

Fundamentally, this is a project mainly for Japan to learn from Sweden since there are great gaps between Sweden and Japan. The first year of the project started from April, and a mission of members from Japan went to Sweden in May and September and visited the central government (the Environmental Protection Agency and the Chemicals Agency) and universities to investigate environmental policies, environmental acts, and the Swedish Environmental Code. The members also visited Vallentuna and toured municipal solid waste and wastewater treatment facilities and observed the status of implementation of environmental administration. In addition, the mission held an online meeting and gave presentations regarding Japan's environmental legal system and CSRD and other sustainability accounting.

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A Japanese mission will return to Sweden in May 2025 and advance further investigations and research regarding items 1), 2), and 3) above and adding the Land and Environment Courts, the northern city of Lulea, and the city of Gothenburg to the scope. The findings are scheduled to be presented at an online symposium in February or March 2026 with members from Sweden and Japan.

- Workshop on Natural Circulating Water and Nature-based Solutions (NBS)

The Workshop on Natural Circulating Water and Nature-based Solutions (NBS) held its first meeting in fiscal 2024 on July 26, 2024. After the final proposal of the previous Workshop was adopted, the Workshop leader explained the “research policy of the Workshop.”

The Workshop then entered the examinations of each theme, and an interim proposal (fiscal 2024) is expected to be adopted around May 2025. Consequently, the presentation of the findings will take place in or after June.

However, the Shimanto River NBS International Symposium was held March 4–5, 2025 in Shimanto City and Shimanto Town as a major event of this Workshop. Experts from the US Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and from Underwood & Associates, Japanese scientists, and scientists from Kochi Prefecture participated, made presentations, and held discussions about what NBS (Nature-based Solutions) are and about their introduction and implementation as viewed by US scientists and experts and as viewed by Japanese scientists. This symposium was the first time in Japan that an example

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which could be an NBS model case (a wetland where Satake Farm adopted NBS which facilitate the treatment of wastewater from agricultural land for ginger farming) was introduced and examined. NBS that improve the water quality of flowing water and ecosystems by the removal of dams were also examined.

There was media coverage of Kochi Prefecture Governor Hamada and Workshop leader Komatsu exchanging opinions regarding the holding of the Shimanto River NBS International Symposium (NHK Kochi and RKC Kochi Broadcasting, June 24, 2024), and the *Kochi Shimbun* also printed an article “International Symposium for Regeneration of the Shimanto River: Proposals from Japanese and US Scientists” (February 20, 2025). There was subsequently very extensive media coverage of the symposium including RKC Kochi Broadcasting (February 28), Kochi Sun Sun TV (February 28), *Asahi Shimbun* “Researchers to Discuss Revival of the Last Clear Stream the Shimanto River at International Symposium” (March 2), *Kochi Shimbun* (March 3), TV Kochi (March 4), Kochi Sun Sun TV (March 4), *Kochi Shimbun* “Remove Dam which Served its Purpose” (March 5), *Suisan Keizai Shimbun* “Urgent Need to Improve Japan’s Wastewater Treatment” (March 11), RKC Kochi Broadcasting “What are NBS Projects?” (March 12, 7 minutes), *Minato Shimbun* “In a Summary of the Mr. Komatsu and Others Summarize the Shimanto River International Symposium, Calling for Nature-based Solutions to Resource Recovery” (March 19), and TV Kochi *Gambare Kochi ECO Oendan* “Shimanto River as Viewed from Overseas” (March 23, 20 minutes). This was because the visits and advance briefings to TV stations located in Kochi Prefecture and to the *Kochi Shimbun* and other publications on January 14, 2025 and the briefing on February

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28, 2025 immediately prior to the Symposium (this was to include a US scientist, but because the plane was delayed, it was conducted by Japanese members only) were highly effective.