

Panel: China and Japan (Lilac & Tulip Room)

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 / 12:45-14:00

Talking Points for: Wang Dong, Assistant Professor, Peking University

China tends to perceive the reinvigoration of the US-Japan alliance as aiming at constraining, if not containing, China's rise. The biggest questions to ask are: how the strengthening of the US-Japan alliance could avoid deepening mistrust in China? What can Beijing, Washington, and Tokyo do to alleviate the simmering security dilemma between China and Japan, and to a lesser extent, between China and the United States? The US-Japan alliance should balance its deterrence and hedging logic with the imperative of engaging China. At the minimum, Washington and Japan should reassure China that the alliance is not against China. On the Chinese side, Beijing might need a more realistic assessment about what the alliance is and what it is not, and look more critically at some of its exaggerated fears of Japanese and US intentions. A trilateral dialogue mechanism between Beijing, Washington, and Tokyo would be important in removing mutual misperceptions, building strategic trust, and addressing the challenges and obstacles in bringing about regional peace and stability. China, US, and Japan, together with other key players in the region like South Korea, need to envision a regional security order that is not premised on power politics or an ideological divide, but one that will reduce strategic mistrust and might lead to a security community in East Asia.

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