

Panel: China and the ROK-US-Japan “Virtual Alliance” (Orchid Room)

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

Talking Points for: Nishino Junya, Associate Professor, Keio University

We know the relationship between the two countries is difficult at present. However despite the recent tension between Tokyo and Seoul over the territorial issue, Japan continues to feel pressure for security cooperation with South Korea.

Then, what is the path for Tokyo and Seoul going forward? First of all, both sides must be aware of the inflammatory nature of historical issues and must avoid unnecessarily politicizing them in nationalistic ways. Second, Tokyo and Seoul must make more efforts to share one vision of a common regional future. The two countries can play central roles jointly for peace and stability in the region as industrialized democracies. Finally, Tokyo and Seoul must work closely with Washington, because Japan, South Korea and the U.S. trilateralism will enable Japanese-South Korean security cooperation to function more feasibly and effectively. At the same time, through close consultation with Washington, Tokyo and Seoul must attempt to handle tasks which ensure their security cooperation meets their national interest.

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