## API 10th ANNIVERSARY



Thank you for participating in today's event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Asia Pacific Initiative (API). Your support over the years has allowed us to continue in our activities, and for that, we would like to express our gratitude.

In September 2011, following the tragedy that occurred in Fukushima six months prior, our organization started as the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation (RJIF). At that time, the organization only had one purpose : to assess Japan's response to the Fukushima disaster from an independent perspective. Our first report, The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Disaster: Investigating the Myth and Reality, was then subsequently published in February 2012, a year after the incident. Following that, we started multiple projects and conducted many more studies on the topic of "Risk, Governance, and Leadership", publishing our findings in a series of books. As of today, more than half of our collection has been translated into English, allowing us to share our findings with the rest of the world.

After more than five years of research, study, and advocacy, the RJIF ushered in a new chapter in 2017 for the organization by rebranding itself into the API that we know today. Expanding its scope beyond the borders of Japan, API now aims to address issues in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. API has since entered a new phase, focusing its efforts on promoting a framework for a free and open international order as an incubator in the fields of governance, geoeconomics, and innovation.

Apart from conducting research, API also serves as a platform for discourse across the multiple disciplines of public policy. This role is becoming increasingly important amidst the growing uncertainties facing our society. In order for dialogue to progress in a constructive manner, there is a need for industries to overcome their differences and find a common goal. This has become the purpose of our forums. Taking the initiative, we have invited experts and leaders across various industries to discuss the questions of our time. With this foundation laid, the industries will be able to

## Message

work together, bringing their unique knowledge and resources when challenges arise. With that purpose in mind, API has established the Innovation Platform together with entrepreneurs and policy entrepreneurs in Asia (Asia Pacific Initiative Forum) and Silicon Valley (Silicon Valley - Japan Platform). Also, in a bid to reinforce Japan-U.S. relations, API has also formed and hosted the Military Stateman' s Forum.

Over the past 10 years, we regard our role as a facilitator as our greatest achievement, bringing together passionate public-minded individuals and creating an environment allowing for robust communication and networking. All this would not have been possible without the researchers and practitioners that partook in our events, the media outlets that covered our activities, and the staff and interns that help connect everything, allowing us to think freely and creatively for the sake of bettering our society. This is the community that we have made together. In the Policy Entrepreneur's Platform (PEP), we aim to further foster this feeling of community, connecting the younger generation with local leaders and policymakers.

On July 1st, 2022, our organization merged with the International House of Japan. This move will bring about exciting changes. From here, our new direction will be built on the values that we have held close to our hearts since our founding : people, independence, and globalization. API will become a hub for communication and knowledge, representing the Asia Pacific and working towards becoming a truly global think tank.

The theme of 10th anniversary ceremony is "Dialogues for our Future Initiative." Through dialogue with various people, we will think about what we should do to improve society, share ideas, make friends, and put plans into action. Civil society is formed by the accumulation of initiatives started by individual citizens, and new initiatives are constantly being born. We hope to continue working together with everyone to build a society full of that energy. Thank you all for your unending support.

Yoichi Funabashi



## Asia Pacific Initiative

The Asia Pacific Initiative (API) is a private, independent think tank and forum dedicated to pursuing peace and prosperity and creating a vision for a free and open international order in the Asia Pacific region. It aims to form an intellectual community in the region - including Japan - to promote joint research and networking and form a platform for advocacy, dissemination, and dialogue as well as to discover, develop, and collaborate with the next generation of leaders.



## **Mission Statement**

- Liberalism : Towards a society and world that values freedom, openness, and individual initiative.
- Innovation : Advancing society through innovation.
- Policy Entrepreneurship : Improve policy entrepreneurship skills by fostering a focused and creative mindset for the public good.

Name : Asia Pacific Initiative (API)

Establishment : July 2017 (evolved from the Rebuild Japan Initiative launched in September 2011) Location : ARK Hills Front Tower RoP 11F. 2-23-1 Akasaka. Minato-ku. Tokyo 107-0052

API considers the role of think tanks to be that of an "editor." To gather, organize, integrate, and finally, create, is the essence of editing. Public policy issues are often so complex and intertwined that it is difficult to grasp the big picture, hence it is often necessary to consider things not just from a long-term perspective, but also from a global one. As an independent think tank, we are able to bring together project members and other collaborators to attempt new things to shape the future for the better. This is the underlying principle behind API's activities.

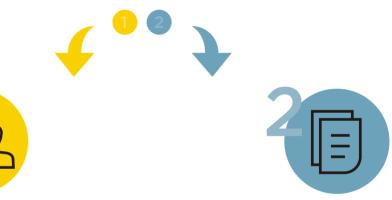


## As an editor of teams

At API, we actively find and take on the most difficult problems facing society. In order to make the biggest strides, we seek people that are not bound by existing academic disciplines or mainstream theories to join our projects. Working backward from our goals, we form "ensembles of people" regardless of their reputation for the purpose of solving complex problems. Once gathered, these individuals of diverse backgrounds and ideas will be able to engage in discussions in a free and open manner, regardless of their affiliations or positions.

## What is AP

## **API** as an editor



## As an editor of content

API also serves as a producer. Putting together teams of researchers and practitioners, we aim to produce high-quality content through repeated debates and discussions. Peer review is also employed to allow for more perspectives, so as to bring new ideas and understanding to the table. Once the content is ready, API will then consider methods to disperse the information to society, finding ways to propose them as a policy where appropriate.



## **Our Activities**

API conducts surveys, research, policy proposals, and exchanges in three areas: governance, geo-economics, and innovation. By doing so, we aim to enhance civil society by creating a place where knowledge and people gather.

### Governance





API's governance research covers many aspects. Scrutinizing diplomatic and security policies, crisis management systems, and the policymaking process, we have done research on events such as the Fukushima nuclear accident and the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying the best policies and remaining issues to learn from and improve on. We also employ scenario planning to analyze terrorism, cyber-attacks, diplomatic emergencies, sovereign debt crashes, and energy crises, among others. In the field of domestic politics, we have done research on past events such as the peaceful transfer of power to the Democratic Party of Japan, and ongoing ones such as the ways of Japanese conservative politics. In the form of stand-alone projects, we are looking into Japan's Lost 20 Years taking into account political systems. finance, labor, education, population, globalization, macroeconomics, and microeconomics. Another project is the analysis of Japan's role in the Japan-U.S. alliance and the maintenance of the international order. All of this research is done for the purpose of reviewing and exploring how Japan should be governed.

Geopolitics is a field that analyzes the structure of nations and the relationship between nations based on geographical conditions, population size, history, ethnicity, religion, and the distribution of natural resources. However, in recent times, economies are being leveraged for the purpose of achieving geopolitical agendas. This new approach combining international economics and geopolitics led to the creation of geoeconomics. Geoeconomics also poses risks in direct and significant ways not only to countries but also to non-state actors such as corporations and individuals operating globally. In fact, several markets and technological advances are already being affected by the spreading geoeconomic struggle such as AI, 5G, cryptocurrencies, and driverless vehicles. The world is moving, and sanctions and cyber terrorism are becoming economic weapons, raising uncertainty in the 4 pillars of geoeconomics: technology and innovation, global supply chains, the international order, and climate change. At API, we seek to understand such changes in their early stages, assess their importance, and analyze how Japan can react in accordance with its interests.

## Innovation

The wave of digitalization is sweeping into every corner of society, having a profound impact on all businesses. Additionally, the development of advanced technologies, such as AI and autonomous vehicles, is changing the structure of society and people's lives. As such, aside from doing research on the implementation of such technology in society, API is also in the process of building a platform for innovation leaders to connect and communicate.

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# **Critical review**

Through its research activities, API has developed its own research method. In the process of doing research on historically significant events that took place - some of which are capable of changing the course of history we have done interviews with those at the frontlines of the action, getting their opinions on who was involved, why the incident happened, what were their responses, and their reasons for their actions. We then compare these accounts with data such as official records, pitting them against each other to produce a clearer picture. Keeping a clear discernment between the act of fact-finding and evaluating, we also seek to piece together and explore the mechanisms that underpin such events, the powers involved, as well as the underlying historical and structural factors. As this procedure differs from the scientific method of testing a hypothesis using data, we have termed our method of inspection as the "critical review" process.



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## The Independent Investigation Commission on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident



### - I thought Japan was on a path of no return—

Yoichi Funabashi

On March 11th, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake caused an accident to happen at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, causing questions to be raised about Japan's crisis response strategies. Dr. Funabashi, feeling a sense of urgency, founded the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation in September 2011 and started its first project : an independent investigation into the Fukushima Nuclear incident. The aim of the project was not simply to seek the direct causes of the accident, but also to find the underlying problems that enabled the incident to take place from a private and independent standpoint. Under the guidance of a six-member panel of leading Japanese scientists, lawyers, and energy experts, approximately 30 young and mid-career researchers, journalists, and lawyers were involved in the interviews and data analysis. Unlike the investigations that were led by the government or the Diet, our team was free from any existing organization or framework, allowing us to ask guestions from an independent perspective. Participants of our interviews also varied, including politicians, bureaucrats, TEPCO officials, and other relevant parties. As a result of our unique position as a civilian initiative, many were keen to share their experiences and opinions with us while they remained fresh.

On February 28th, 2012, the media made a report on the results of our half-year-long inspection process, bringing our research activities to prominence. In the following month, on March 11th,

our studies were compiled into books and sold publicly, allowing more people access to what we have uncovered. This approach of teaming up with external members, forming an inspection committee to conduct surveys and research, and then publishing the results in a commercial format became the model for subsequent RJIF/API research projects. This was also the beginning of the outreach process. By translating reports into English, co-hosting symposiums with domestic and international think tanks and research institutions, and publishing articles in foreign media, we hope to prevent such incidents from occurring elsewhere in the world. As a result of our international efforts, the world resonated greatly with our findings, and RJIF soon found itself ranked 24th in the world - and 2nd in Asia - in the Policy Research and Reporting category of the Global Think Tank Rankings in 2012.

Even during the 10 years after our initial findings, RJIF-API continued to follow up on areas that were found to require more attention. We made sure that guestions that came up as a result of our studies were also answered, such as whether the approach to nuclear safety was fundamentally correct, if the safety evaluations and checks were done systematically and properly, or if the state sufficiently fulfilled their responsibility of protecting their people such as by providing an effective evacuation plan.

Our first follow-up project started in September 2014, after further revelations were made during the interview with the late Yoshida Masao, the Plant Manager of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant during the disaster. In the resulting report, Anatomy of Yoshida testimony, multiple perspectives were taken into

account in the review of the crisis response and crisis management of the incident. Analyses were made on the Incident Command System, operations, crisis governance, crisis leadership, safety and security, and evaluation processes. During the project, a visit was also made to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant with the former Chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Our second follow-up project was concluded and published in 2017, the report was titled Personal networks and social resilience: The evacuation of hospitals in the Fukushima sheltering zone. The project revolved around the emergency evacuation activities that took place during the Fukushima nuclear incident. The report touched on topics such as the issues that were faced when evacuating vulnerable evacuees such as hospitalized patients and nursing home residents, medical institutions in times of crisis, logistical constraints, and the risks of choosing exposure over evacuation or vice versa.

The third follow-up project was The front-line of Operation Tomodachi - Lessons Learned from the Fukushima Nuclear Accident for Improving Japan-US Cooperation. The Fukushima nuclear accident was a serious disaster that, if handled incorrectly, could have had serious repercussions on the nation. The US military deployed up to 16,000 personnel, 15 naval vessels, and 140 aircraft for Operation Tomodachi. Based on a series of interviews with government officials and others. The project revealed how Japan and the US worked together to confront the crisis and provided an image of what an ideal security and crisis management system and alliance mechanism should resemble for Japan. In



November 2019, this book was awarded the 5th Masamichi Inoki Special Prize of the Japan Society for Defense Studies.

In March 2021, Japan marked the 10th anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident. The 10-year Investigation Commission on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident (Second Independent Investigation Commission) was an investigation into the government's nuclear safety regulations, the governance of TEPCO and other electric power companies, crisis management at the Prime Minister's Office, cooperation among the JSDF, police, fire departments and other operational units, risk communication in response to rumors and misinformation, the decommissioning and reconstruction efforts, and the lessons learned over the last 10 years by the government and society. The resulting report, the 10-year Investigation Commission on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident : Final Report by Investigation Commission on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident published in February 2021, received the 18th Society and Environment Division Award for Outstanding Presentation from the Society and Environment Division of the Atomic Energy Society of Japan.

With all that has been done, it is important to remain vigilant and active in inspecting our progress repeatedly. After identifying the issues and the lessons learned from them, it is essential to regularly check how they are reflected in actual policies and crisis prevention measures. Although 2021 will mark the end of our inspection of the Fukushima nuclear accident, which was the starting point of the RJIF/API, we will always be conscious of the importance of reviewing our inspections even as we continue to advance our think tank's research.



### Japan-U.S. Military Statesmen Forum (MSF)

In this era of strategic rebalancing, and in an increasingly volatile international environment in East Asia, the need for constant and intense policy dialogue between the U.S. and Japanese governments is becoming ever more pressing. Since the first meetings in Tokyo in 2014 and Washington in 2015, the MSF has had its annual meetings in either Tokyo or Washington (or online since 2020) with experienced commanders and chiefs of staff of the Indo-Pacific Command, as well as senior officials from the U.S. military, the Ministry of Defense, and the Japan Self-Defense Force to discuss the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance

### **Silicon Valley Japan Platform** (SVJP)

The Silicon Valley Japan Platform (SVJP) organizes and manages a variety of events and programs based on two pillars, the Corporate Program, and the Entrepreneur Program, in order to create opportunities to build close and trusting relationships and deepen collaboration among executives and entrepreneurs from leading companies in Japan and Silicon Valley. The Corporate Program aims to promote technological collaboration between Japan and the U.S. and accelerate the digitalization of Japanese companies. The Entrepreneur Program aims to create a community of top-class Japanese and U.S. tech entrepreneurs and to support the global expansion of Japanese startups.

## Developing initiatives for community building

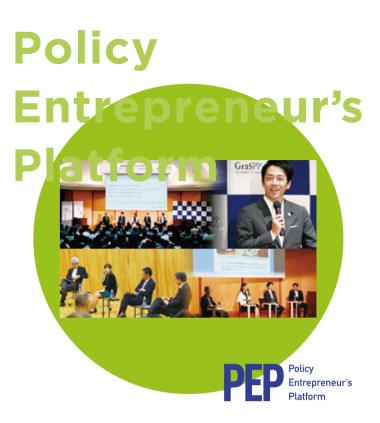
## Asia Pacific Initiative Forum (APIF)

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The APIF is a forum where business leaders from Japan and other Asian countries gather to envision the future (vision) of Asia 20 to 30 years from now and create a new innovation ecosystem. From large corporations to start-ups, corporate executives, government officials, and opinion leaders who are implementing innovative endeavors in Asian countries will gather to exchange knowledge on the latest social, economic, business, and technological trends and their impact, to generate new ideas and synergies among participating companies, and to provide an opportunity for innovators in Asia to share their ideas with the world. Asia now accounts for half of the world's population and is once again leading the world in economic power. The flow of goods, services, capital, information, and labor through the region has doubled in the past 15 years, as it has become increasingly important not only as the "world's factory" in the global supply chain but also as a marketplace where diverse needs are emerging. The region's connectivity is the driving force that has strengthened economic integration and spurred economic growth. As the Fourth Industrial Revolution progresses, emerging Asian countries, including India, are introducing related technologies and implementing transformative digital services in society. In response to these major shifts in industrial structure and geoeconomic conditions, this forum aims to deepen business-led economic integration in the Indo-Pacific region, which is a driving force of the global economy.





### **Policy Entrepreneur's Platform** (PEP)

The PEP is a community of policy entrepreneurs who will create the policies of tomorrow. On March 25th, 2019, our Chairman, Yoichi Funabashi, published What is a Think Tank - The Age of Policy Entrepreneurship. The book describes how the complex policy issues of our time cannot be solved by politicians and bureaucrats alone and that a new era of open policy creation, governance, and innovation is required. Building on that, API believes that an environment in which politicians, the government, the private sector, academia, NGOs/N-POs, and others cooperate across boundaries, bringing together all the wisdom and power of society to address complex issues. In November 2019, we established the PEP. Managed mainly by its core members, it conducts various activities with the following three missions: to present a vision of who policy entrepreneurs are, to broaden the base of policy entrepreneurs, and to create a foundation in which policy entrepreneurs can play an active role.



### The Fukushima Daiichi **Nuclear Power Station Disaster : Investigating** the Myth and Reality

Fukushima Daiichi Nuusing a "proximate cause, and distant minded standpoint, we conducted a compreof the accident by people, including poli-TEPCO staff who were in charge of the crisis response at the time of

### Japan in Peril?: 9 Crisis Scenarios

The Fukushima nuclear highlighted the fragility book presents potensidering 9 crisis scenarconflicts, pointing out areas in which the cur-

#### The Democratic Party of Japan in **Power : Challeng**es and Failures

The DPJ administraety of perspectives. including policy, governance, and party manand others involved, in response rate of over be applied to Japanese politics in the future.

### **Quiet Deterrence~** Building Japan's New National Security Strategy

Building on the Nationwe proposed a new would incorporate the private sector. In the midst of the geopolitical upheaval of the 21st ancing strategy and the strengthening of

### Anatomy of the Yoshida Testimony - The Fukushima Nuclear Crisis as seen through the Yoshida Hearings

Yoshida, the Manager of the Fukushima Nuclear Plant during the since the accident in terms of the Incident leadership, safety and

### Examining Japan's Lost Decades

Since the bursting of Japan suffered from what was well known as the Lost Decades. Japan also faced many challenges in the areas national security during this period. The rapid aging of Japan's popuchanges in the labor shared by many other countries. This report various perspectives and offers prescrip-

### **Japan's Population** Implosion : The 50 **Million Shock**

- Survey Report of the Private Ad Hoc Commission on Population Issue

are affecting the vari-Tokyo by analyzing the infrastructure, public finance, and the economy, presenting the ulation issue. The popfor maintaining and improving living stan-



ous aspects of Japan's to here alludes to both dards in the process.

### Is post-war conservatism over? The crisis facing the LDP \*

After the war, the Liberal Democratic Party LDP has a broad base and has conducted pol-Under such a structure, that position has weakened, and the entire ment is becoming ideothe party. We discuss

#### **Bond-forged Resil**ience : How the medical institutions of Fukushima overcame the Nuclear Disaster

km of the Fukushima the difficult decision of evacuating or staying in place when the accithat formed the foun-As a result, the medical institutions had to form come the shortages

### Reinventing Japan : New Decision in Global Leadership

How can Japan escape from the lost decades? new challenges that gathered eleven leadtell the story of Japan's role, and its contribution to the world from



### The Modern Geoeconomics of Japan : The Era of Geoeconomics and its 13 risks \*

In light of the changes in the international stratefocused on 13 geopolitiof the changes that we focused on was the revival of geopolitics: the study of a nation's politiits geography, as exemplified by China's actions in the South China Sea and East China Sea. The ical and diplomatic realize geopolitical interests through economic difficult to deal with as it exploits the weakness of

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Why Veterans Should Not Be Politicians: A Thought on the Relationship **Between the Government** and the Military \*

Hironaka, was previously in a unique position that allowed him operation of the Self-Defense Force as the Director of Operations of the Joint Staff Office during the Great Based on his experidemocracies in the US and the UK. and made tionship between political leaders and commanders of the Self Defense Force in the

The Article II Mandate: Forging a Stronger **Economic Alliance** between the United States and Japan.

ect with the Center for tional Studies (CSIS) of in Third World Countries. We studied four Vietnam, India, and works – regional trade could play a leading introduced 10 recomwhen interacting with the Indo-Pacific.

Japan's Choice Between the Military and **Politics : A Historical** and International Observation \*

a growing need to consider what a pacifist state should look like in the 21st century. In this book, we classified the rity and how they vided security, security from the military, and achieve an appropriate What is a Think Tank? The Era of **Policy Entrepre**neurism

the United States. their Building our research we describe the transformation and evolution of think tanks in trends of the 21st century, including the rise of populism, the inforrevolution. The book lacking in think tanks.

At the Frontlines of Operation Tomodachi : Lessons for the Japan-U.S. Alliance from the Fukushima Nuclear Incident \*

Director of the Defense Planning Department of the Joint Staff Office Defense at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and was Fukushima nuclear Tomodachi" and presThe Crisis of Liberal Internationalism-Japan and the World Order

tional Liberal Internaorder from two peralso examine Japan's mestic issues such as populism and journal-

This book is a prod-

#### The Independent Investigation Commission on the **Japanese Government's** Response to COVID-19 : Report on Best Practices and Lessons Learned

This book is a result of review of the Japanese six-month period from confirmed, and covers a variety of specific response to the Diadeclaration of a state of istering of the PCR test and its alternatives, and where improvements could be made.

### Equipped for the **Future : How Technol**ogy is Revolutionizing Society \*

gy project, we examined the social implein Japan and the challenges, proposing a framework for better includes a number of specific case studies menting such technology in society, such as contact tracing apps, and telemedicine

**10-year Investigation Commis**sion on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident : Final Report by Investigation Commission on the **Fukushima Nuclear Accident** 

or failed to learn in the Fukushima nuclear sion summarized the dent and the remaining nuclear safety regulament at the Prime Min-



Investigating the Abe Ideology : Ruling through Conservatism and Realism \*

### The Theory of National Security \*

This book critically examines the governance and policies of the second Abe administration (the longest administration in Japan's constitutional history, lasting seven y ears and eight months) and drew lessons from it. It analyzes the second Abe administration in nine areas: Abenomics, election and public opinions, leadership, diplomacy and security, TPP and trade, historical issues, party control, womenomics, and revision of Article 9 of the constitution.

has been shaken by the escalation of the U.S.-China tensions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the widening gap between the U.S. bloc and the Russo-Sino bloc due to the Ukraine crisis. In times of national crisis, how should states and societies adapt from peacetime its practices to better protect its citizens, to have its citizens actively participate in crisis response with a sense of ownership, and to work together to recover quickly after the initial shock? In this book, by introducing a concept of resilience into Japan's security and crisis management, we imagined new ways in which a nation can provide security guarantees and many more Future Initiative