

“Free and Open Indo–Pacific (FOIP) Perspectives of Japan and Austria/Europe”

Co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Austria, and
the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES)

Vienna, 30 June 2021, 16:00-18:00

Via YouTube

https://youtu.be/zB_14_AI60A

AGENDA

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| 16:00-16:05 | Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. MIZUTANI Akira, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Austria |
| 16:05-16:35 | Presentation: “Free and Open Indo–Pacific (FOIP) : Perspective of Japan” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. MURANO Masashi, Japan Chair Fellow, Hudson Institute, Washington D.C. |
| 16:35-17:40 | Panel discussion: “Indo-Pacific: Perspectives of Austria / Europe” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Moderator: Mr. Michael ZINKANELL, M.A., Deputy Director, AIES- Panelist: Ms. Velina TCHAKAROVA, M.A., Director, AIES- Panelist: Dr. Ian SECKINGTON, Senior Principle Research Analyst, Asia Pacific Research Group, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK- Panelist: Mr. MURANO Masashi |
| 17:40-17:55 | Questions from the audience |
| 17:55-18:00 | Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Werner FASSLABEND, President, AIES |

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Concept Note

In recent years, the Indo-Pacific region has received ample worldwide attention from the economical and geopolitical points of view. This is largely due to the international community’s renewed awareness of the importance of that region. In fact, the Indo-Pacific has become the engine of growth for the world economy, comprising half of the world's population and containing essential sea-lanes for maritime trade, connecting Asia and Africa, as well as the west coast of the United States. One third of the world's total trade and 40% of Europe's foreign trade goes through the South China Sea in that region. Against this background, the region has also been considered the key for addressing global agendas such as sustainable supply chains, climate and environmental protection in the most effective way.

In the Indo-Pacific region, there are various challenges such as; challenges against security as seen in the East and South China Seas; challenges against fundamental principles including democracy and human rights; and challenges such as developing countries’ tendency of lower self-reliance due to external debt issues associated with infrastructure development and others.

Ultimately, no single country alone can effectively achieve peace and stability, free trade and freedom of navigation in this region and there is a growing necessity for strengthening bi- and multilateral cooperation frameworks, including joint initiatives and sharing best practice options.

Japan has been promoting the vision of a “*Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)*”, focusing on three pillars: (i) promotion and consolidation of fundamental principles of the international community, (ii) pursuit of economic prosperity including through ensuring connectivity, and (iii) commitment to peace and stability including maritime security, which is an inclusive concept, open to cooperation with any countries sharing the same values and vision.

The EU has begun to work on a common Indo-Pacific strategy as a whole and set out the “*EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*” on April 19th, which is expected to be concrete by September this year.

The UK has also set out the “*2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defense,*

Development and Foreign Policy” which intends to enhance its engagement in the region, including through the “Indo-Pacific Tilt”. The UK has also announced that it will deploy its new aircraft carrier to the region as part of its commitment to strengthening defense and security cooperation with partners in the region, secured dialogue partner status with ASEAN and applied to join the CPTPP.

Mr. MURANO Masashi, Japan Chair Fellow, Hudson Institute, Washington D.C., will first explain the current situation in the Indo-Pacific from the point of international politics and identify the challenges. He will then comment on Japan’s FOIP and present his recommendations for maintaining peace and stability in that region.

In the panel discussion, the renowned Austrian expert Ms. Velina TCHAKAROVA, M.A., Director of AIES and Dr. Ian SECKINGTON, Senior Principle Research Analyst, Asia Pacific Research Group, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the UK, will discuss together with Mr. Murano the following topic: “Indo-Pacific: Perspectives of Austria / Europe”.

Ms. Tchakarova will describes Austria / EU’s current perspectives and efforts toward Indo-Pacific and the background of the “*EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*”. She will also touch upon the future prospects of the EU strategy.

Dr. Seckington will explain the background to the UK’s Integrated Review and Indo-Pacific Tilt. With its emphasis on the importance of the UK developing a strong presence in the Indo-Pacific, he will explore what the strategy might mean for cooperation with partners and allies in the region.

Additional questions from the audience will also be answered by the panelists.