

“Adapting Alliances, Partnerships and Security Architecture” Workshop
Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
Honolulu, Hawaii
07 – 10 February 2023
Concept Paper

Background

The U.S. formal treaty alliances as well as its regional network of partners and organizations continue to be defining features of the security architecture of the Indo-Pacific region. Insofar as the “hub-and-spokes” U.S. alliances in the region is concerned, much has changed since this was forged in the first two decades after World War II ended, with the circumstances during the inception of these alliances differing markedly from today’s geopolitical environment. If the U.S. alliances are to constitute a relevant pillar for regional stability as well as a conflict deterrent, they will need to undergo some adjustments to reflect new strategic realities and the legitimate shared interests of the allies in the 21st century.

In the same vein, the United States needs to seek more avenues for engagement with its partners and regional organizations. This is an urgent and compelling task to undertake, central to the strategic interests of the nations involved, but also--given the centrality of these relationships in underpinning a principled, rules-based international order--critical to the maintenance of peace and order essential to continued global prosperity.

Concept/Format

This 4-day workshop will bring together senior officials from the United States, its treaty allies, key partners and regional organizations (See list below).

Primed by a pre-workshop survey, participants will share their perspectives and assessments of the major tensions and security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region particularly in the light of evolving 21st century geopolitical developments and national strategic interests. Discussions will explore innovative mechanisms and potential paths forward for the United States, allies, partners and regional organizations to collectively address these concerns, adapting to the changing security landscape while affirming a rules-based international order.

Drawing on key insights and recommendations from these discussions, DKI APCSS will draft an informal workshop aide-memoire to summarize key points of consensus among participants, innovative ideas that are worthy of further discussion, and specific priorities for follow-up actions.

The scope and depth of the topics discussed leaves the engagement open to the possibility of a series of follow-on events that will allow more opportunities to address the issues in full measure.

Workshop Output

- A workshop aide-memoire to summarize key points of consensus and challenges, and specific priorities for follow-up actions.

Workshop Outcomes

- Assess the evolving strategic environment in the 21st century and identify major tensions and security challenges in this environment.
- Explore cooperative mechanisms that can best address these tensions and challenges.
- Develop recommendations to adapt alliances, partnerships, and security architectures in order to ensure a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Participants

- Two representatives from each nation (senior-level officials from the most relevant agencies) and one from each organization

Treaty Allies: United States, Australia, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand

Partners: Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Vietnam

Regional Organizations: ASEAN, EU, PIF, SAARC

Duration, Date and Place

A 4-day workshop to be conducted in DKI APCSS, Honolulu HI, 07 – 10 November 2022

Academic Leads

Lead: Dr. Virginia B. Watson

Co-lead: Dr. Alexander Vuving

Team members

Country leads – Faculty SMEs

Regional Engagement Office (REO)

Ms. Lynne Yamashita