DIPLOMACY

Vol.90, Mar. / Apr. 2025

Contents of Features

72 Transforming NATO: The Agony and Awakening of Its Independence

The U.S. and Germany are cautious regarding Ukraine's NATO membership. Europe is facing a significant Russian threat, coupled with a more inward-looking U.S., which parallels Japan's strategic environment.

Tsuyoshi Goroku (Nishoqakusha University)

78 Ukraine and Gaza from Indonesia's Perspective

This explains the background of the new Prabowo's active diplomacy as a regional leader. Jun Honna (Ritsumeikan University)

84 Sanctions against Russia and Circumvention

Circumventing exports to circumvent economic sanctions is rampant. The international community urgently needs to detect these circumvention attempts and improve the level of trade control.

Sumiko Ono (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

92 Challenges Continue After "Successful" Japan-U.S. Summit

After the "success" of the summit, the true assessment depends on how the pending issues are handled. Takashi Imai (Yomiuri Shimbun)

98 The Impeachment of the South Korean President and the Future of the "Division"

Korean society is becoming more divided after the "martial law crisis". What will happen to the impeachment and who will be the next president?

Satoru Otani (NHK)

104 German Federal Election: New Merz Government in Distress

The general election set back the centrist parties. How will Merz's new government promote fiscal discipline and security? Yuichi Morii (The University of Tokyo)

110 The Trial of New Syrian Government: The "End of the Honeymoon" with the Syrian People

The new government, established amidst public jubilation, faces internal and external divisions and fissures after 100 days. Will it be able to unify and reconstruct the nation beyond sectarianism? Futoshi Matsumoto (Japan Institute of International Affairs)

118 U.S. Support for Israel Spreads to State Governments

Not only the federal government but also some state governments play an active role in support for Israel through massive purchases of government bonds. This article unravels their political structure.

Hana Umekawa (Komazawa University)

124 The Conflict in Eastern DR Congo as the "Rwandan Question"

Rwandan-backed rebels have occupied and declared rule over the mineral-rich eastern Congo. Why does Rwanda continue to interfere? Analyzing trends and issues for international community.

Kazuyo Hanai (University of Tokyo)

130 Mindanao, Philippines: Elections to Establish a New Bangsamoro Government

Mindanao will hold elections in October. Can it overcome patronage and its decades-long history of conflict and distrust? Miyoko Taniguchi (Miyazaki Liberal Arts)

136 Philippine Politics Shaken by Duterte's Arrest

Former President Duterte was arrested for crimes against humanity. This shakes up the dynastic politics. Wataru Kusaka (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

140 Greenland's Parliamentary Elections Attracting Attention

Center-right party wined the election amid Trump control pledge. Political change is taking place in the region, with a mixture of independence and emphasis on the U.S. Minori Takahashi (Hokkai-Gakuen University)

Special Feature:

Global Economy Shaken by Trump

6 The Dollar, the Key Currency, and the International Order

Consider Trump's policies in light of the influence and strength of the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Japan should promote universal values from a non-Western standpoint.

Katsuhito Iwai (Kanagawa University)

12 International Trade Order Facing the "Trial of MAGA"

The Trump administration also confronts friendly countries and shakes the international trade order. Multilayered efforts are urgently needed and Japan should cooperate to prevent the U.S. from becoming isolated.

Naoko Munakata (University of Tokyo)

18 The "Tug of War" over Trump Tariffs and U.S.-Japan Relations

The second Trump administration's tariff measures are divided into two factions, both pursuing short-term results. How will this affect the world and Japan?

Masahiko Hosokawa (Meisei University)

24 Trump Tariffs Won't Save the U.S. Middle Class

Trump's high tariff policy represents the anger of the middle class, but it certainly destabilizes the economy. Increasing protectionism will ultimately cost consumers.

Masahiro Okoshi (Nihon Keizai Shimbun, NIKKEI)

30 China's Economy Shifting to a Consumption-Driven Economy

The Chinese economy is suffering from the triple trouble: a real estate slump, a drop in consumer confidence, and the U.S.-China conflict. Can China re-emerge under the scenario presented at the National People's Congress? Shingo Ito (Institute for International Economics)

36 Impact of the "25% Tariff" on Mexico

Mexico's economy has had close ties with the U.S since NAFTA. However, the unstable tariff policies of the Trump administration have affected it in many areas. This report analyzes the actual situation.

Taeko Hoshino (Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

42 ASEAN under Trump 2.0

How will ASEAN, which has benefited from the free trade regime, be affected by the protectionism promoted by Trump and the confrontation between the U.S. and China? Can Japan strengthen cooperation? Kazushi Shimizu (Kyushu University)

48 How the European Economy Is Preparing for Trump2.0

Von der Leyen comes out of the Parliament with a stronger mandate, but can she improve relations with China and the United States? What are the policies to strengthen economic power?

Kozo Saiki (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

55 Relations with the Young Continent: The Strategy of the TICAD9

International development assistance is becoming increasingly difficult due to the dismantling of USAID by the Trump administration. TICAD9 will focus on young people and explore a new vision for investment.

Takahiro Fukunishi (Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

FOCUS©The Ukrainian War's Fourth Year of Trial

60 Is the "West" Coming to an End?

Europe is deeply disappointed by the Trump's pro-Russian stance for a ceasefire in Ukraine. Where will the alliance head? Yoko Iwama (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies)

66 The Logic of Trump's Rush to "Ceasefire"

Trump's "America First" policy and policy toward China have also affected the war in Ukraine, and he has shown his pro-Russian stance toward a cease-fire. The international community cannot hide its disquiet.

Satohiro Akimoto (The Sasakawa Foundation)