

Trend 2012

97 **Thailand's major flood**

Will the "world's production base" come back?

Setsuo Iuchi (JETRO)

Thailand has been hit with an unprecedented flood. Vast amount of water that has accumulated over the few months has paralyzed the production activities of businesses of various countries operating in Thailand. The President of JETRO Bangkok, who spearheaded the support of Japanese businesses on site, looks back at the experience.

102 **Turkey earthquake**

The continuation of assistance is necessary to make it through the winter

Yoshiteru Horie and Miyuki Konnai (Association for Aid and Relief, Japan)

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake that has struck Southeast of Turkey on October 23, 2011 has caused many casualties. We have interviewed two personnel from the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan - Ms. Konnai, who has worked on site, and Secretary General Mr. Horie - about the disaster situation and the details of support operations.

107 **Europe under the euro crisis**

the modulation of Franco-German axis

Ken Endo (Hokkaido University)

Amidst the daily coverage of the European debt crisis, all eyes are on the words and deeds of French President Nicholas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. This article looks at the post-war relations between France and Germany, which has been dubbed as a "marriage."

FOCUS

Global Commons

A shared space of international society

115 **How to think about the broadening of the field of security**

Masashi Nishihara (Research Institute of Peace and Security)

The sphere of activity of humanity has broadened due to technological development. However, behind this remarkable success lies a diffusion of considerable security related problems.

120 <Oceans> **Address China's forays by multilateral diplomacy**

Masahiro Akiyama (Ocean Policy Research Foundation)

Ocean has been the trade route and the frontier of resources since ancient times. The rich body of water filling the gap among Asian countries can be both a source of richness and a source of conflict. What are some of the contemporary problems?

126 <Outer Space> **Outer space policy as a security strategy**

Kazuto Suzuki (Hokkaido University)

"The era of space war" as depicted by Steven Spielberg has yet to arrive. However, outer space is beginning to bear the characteristic as the frontier of power struggle on Earth. Can humanity construct a sustainable order in outer space?

132 <Cyberspace> **Loose regulations and the role of the government**

Yasushi Misawa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Attacked by an invisible enemy, the battle over security in cyberspace has no end in sight. However, the meaning of cyberspace itself would be lost if "culture," which has been built up from below spontaneously, is ignored. What can the government do?

138 <Money laundering> **Strained relations with global finance**

Ryoichi Hisasue (Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

It is difficult to grasp the whole picture of the resources of criminal networks that operate over borders. Although the efforts of international society have been developing, the tension with criminals that abuses the international financial system cannot be ignored.

- 12 Special
Interview with **Koichiro Gemba** (Minister for Foreign Affairs)
The time is ripe for the Japan-US-China trilateral dialogue
A Prospect of Asia-Pacific order and Japan's network diplomacy
Japanese diplomacy has entered a new phase with the inauguration of the Noda administration. Foreign Minister Gemba talks about the problems at hand as well as the medium- to long-term strategy of Japanese diplomacy.

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Towards the redesigning of Japanese diplomacy
Hiroshi Nakanishi (Kyoto University)

Special Feature:

2012-The turbulent World and Japan

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The long-term strategy of Japanese diplomacy
Yoshinobu Yamamoto (PHP Institute)
China and India are growing rapidly. The United States is maintaining its involvement in Asia. South Korea, ASEAN and Australia are muddling through between them. How Japan should behave amidst the mixture of various issues such as the economy, security and environment problems.
- 34 Round-table © **Diplomacy in the era of political distrust**
Masami Ono (Asahi Shimbun) Fumiaki Kubo (University of Tokyo)
Ryosei Kokubun (Keio University) Masayuki Tadokoro (Keio University)
How will Japan's diplomacy play out in this year of leadership transition in various East Asian countries? The participants discuss the challenges and strategies.
- 46 **The US as an Asia-Pacific country and the East Asian Order**
James Steinberg (Former Deputy Secretary of State)
Where is the "change" in 2012 headed? The former Deputy Secretary of State talks about the Japan-US alliance, which remains to be the crux of East Asia, and ways to engage with China in order to think about the coming order of East Asia.
- 54 <North Korea>**Leadership in succession - Stability in the short-term, instability in the long-term**
Hisashi Hirai (Kyodo News)
We knew the day would come. Despite knowing this, the world buzzed at the news of Kim Jong Il's death. But those who are most afraid of the destabilization of the situation are the North Korean officials themselves.
- 61 <Russia> **"The modern day Tsar" at the crossroads**
Shinji Yokote (Keio University)
The modern day Tsar had embodied "Strong Russia" and grabbed the hearts of the people. This image of Putin has swayed violently. Where would the call of the people "NO to palace politics" take Russia?
- 65 <France> **Choosing without options**
Shoko Yamaguchi (Journalist)
Fiscal authority awaits, no matter the victor. Each Presidential candidate is working hard to appeal for support amidst the European debt crisis.
- 69 <United States> **Distress of both parties' Presidential candidates that must win over independents of the polarized electorate**
Satoru Mori (Hosei University)
The reelection of Barack Obama has been in doubt due to the economic downturn and the high unemployment rate. However, the opposing Republicans have entered the election campaign without unity. This article analyzes the election campaign that is rendering the candidates to work to consolidate their support base while glancing sideways at the growing number of independents.
- 76 <China> **Aiming for a leadership change by driving carefully**
Yasuyuki Miyake (Kwansei Gakuin University)
From Hu Jintao to Xi Jinping. The forecast of administration change without an election has a difficulty of its own. This article looks back at where things have been and looks toward where things are headed.
- 81 <South Korea> **The target is the "2040 generation"**
Junya Nishino (Keio University)
The interest of the public towards politics is generally high in South Korea. With a sideways glance at the state of North Korea, the leadership selection begins in earnest.