

Independent Essays

86 Japan Must Seek to Become a "Master" with its Infrastructure Exports

Tadashi Maeda

Given the reality of a declining birthrate and aging society, Japan still has one path to follow. Tadashi Maeda, a respected flag bearer of public-private economic diplomacy, states necessity of infrastructure exports as Japan's survival Strategy.

90 Disaster Assistance: Utilizing the Strengths of Rural Areas, Receiving International Assistance

Yasuhide Nakamura

To date, Japan has provided reconstruction support and assistance to victims of disasters around the world. However, by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the tables have turned and now Japan is the benefactor of a wide range of international assistance. This essay explores the methods for boldly reconstructing Japan, given the warm assistance provided from around the world.

Association for Asian Studies Keynote Speech:

95 A New Asian Order and the Role of Japan

Shinichi Kitaoka

China's recent actions have served to create a new tension in the Asian region. This essay explores the reasons and principles behind these actions as well as advocates a vision of a new Asian order grounded in human rights and laws.

Focus

What Role Will Concert of Major Nations Play?

102 G7 Joint Currency Intervention That Saved Japan in the Aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Yoichi Takita

The yen rapidly appreciated further against major currencies following the Great East Japan Earthquake. Left unchecked, the soaring yen could have brought unfathomable damage to Japan's economy. However, the G7's joint currency intervention spared Japan from this nightmare scenario. This essay examines the usefulness of the G7's strategy, getting to grips with the political purpose of the intervention.

109 The G8 Re-envisioned as "Pearl of Wisdom"

Naoki Fukuhara

France's President Nicolas Sarkozy is a staunch supporter of expanding the G8. The most recent Deauville Summit, which was at one time almost shelved, actually showed solid results and played an important role.

114 The Mirage of the US-China G2

Richard C. Bush III

Some experts propose so-called U.S.-China G2 and cause ferment overseas. Is G2 trusted and sustainable system in world politics. This article points the overstimulation of G2 and advocate the efficiency of concert of major players.

126 The Role of Value in Japan's Diplomacy Roundtable Discussion:

Akio Watanabe

Shotaro Yachi

Toshihiro Nakayama

Yuichi Hosoya

How should Western democratic nations and Japan share their vision of human rights and democracy to other parts of the world? How can they cooperate to spread it? This discussion looks at Japan's international diplomacy, while looking back on Japan's advocated belief of the "Arc of Freedom and Prosperity."

Nuclear Energy After 3.11

12 **A Changing Energy Situation and Japan's Responsibilities**

Tsutomu Toichi

The shockwaves from the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant accident have reached far beyond the shores of Japan. This article provides recommendations for the future of nuclear power in Japan, while taking a closer look at world-wide policy changes.

22 **Three-way Conversation: How has Japan treated nuclear power?**

Tatsujiro Suzuki / Toru Takeda / Noriyuki Mizuno

How has Japan attempted to coexist with nuclear power? This conversation looks back historically on Japan's feelings toward nuclear power, such as cultural acceptance and denial, mutual distrust between scientists and ordinary citizens, information disseminated from the media and the situation concerning nuclear power safety and monitoring.

32 **The United States-Japan Relationship over the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy**

Akira Kurosaki

Japan, led by the United States, has focused on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, despite being the only country to ever suffer a nuclear attack. This essay looks back on the historical trail of nuclear power in Japan from the perspective of international politics.

36 **Japan's Production System of Nuclear Energy— "Privately Run National Program"**

Takeo Kikkawa

Japan's nuclear power sector has long been operated by private sector companies, while warmly patronaged by the government. It is high time to re-examine the structure of the nuclear power sector in Japan, which requires government involvement in a variety of facets.

<How has the world changed?>

40 **France: Its Social Acceptance of Using of Nuclear Energy**

Yoshiharu Fukuzawa

France has firmly pressed forward with its nuclear energy policy under a conservative government. Why does France's stance toward nuclear power differ from its neighbors? Has there been any change in its approach? This essay looks at nuclear power in France today by looking back on its history from the angle of the nation's social structure.

46 **Germany: Odds Favor a Move Away from Nuclear Power**

Jürgen Trittin

Alliance '90/The Greens of Germany have tackled environmental issues head on. This article takes a look at the path Germany should follow as advocated by Alliance '90/The Greens, which made a leap forward in the spring 2011 local elections.

52 **China: Unchanged Commitment to Nuclear Power**

Li Zhidong

The nuclear energy policy of China remains relatively unknown. What type of nuclear energy policy should China take in order to meet the nation's growing demand for energy?

59 **India: Moving Forward with the Japan-India Nuclear Pact**

Kumao Kaneko

Not party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, India has taken a standalone approach to the use of nuclear power. This article looks back on the historical background of this rivaling major power's policy and considers the way how Japan should go along with it.

65 **The Soft Energy Path of the 21st Century**

Amory B. Lovins

In the aftermath of the nuclear accident at Fukushima, natural and renewable energies has gathered considerable interests as a resort to overcome the risks and inefficiencies surrounding nuclear power. Given this, how will the United States respond? An international authority on environmental and energy issues speaks out.

74 **Chernobyl 25 Years Later**

A memory never fades. This article looks at the many events held around the world to commemorate and learn from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.