

Seminar:

Japan's diplomacy and geostrategic goals

By Tomohiko TANIGUCHI, PhD, Special Advisor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's key foreign policy advisor, Dr Tomohiko TANIGUCHI, will be in town soon to discuss Japanese diplomacy: how it has developed over the last 150 years and where it is headed for.

Though he has neither admitted nor denied himself, it is open secret that Dr Taniguchi has been writing most of the key foreign policy speeches Prime Minister Abe delivered in the United States, Russia and elsewhere for more than a decade.

How in the post-WWII world has Japan managed its relationship with the U.S., a former enemy that during the war napalmed and nuclear-bombed Japanese citizens? Why now is Shinzo Abe concentrating his diplomatic assets to forge a long overdue peace treaty with Vladimir Putin's Russia? How has the country's democratic and maritime identity come to be pronounced more and more of late? What national goals has the country pursued ever since it came across with modernity 150 years ago?

On those points and many others, Dr Taniguchi is looking very much forward to discussing with YOU. Pen it in your calendar now, and DO NOT MISS it.



Tomohiko TANIGUCHI, PhD (national security) is Professor, Keio University Graduate School of System Design and Management. He is also Special Advisor to Prime Minister Shinzō Abe's Cabinet.

Between February 2013 and March 2014 he was Councillor, Prime Minister's Office. Then and now his responsibilities have included writing foreign-policy speeches for PM Abe.

LL.B. from the University of Tokyo, he spent 20 years with *Nikkei Business*, a weekly magazine, before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005 as Deputy Press Secretary and Deputy Director General for Public Diplomacy. Until he left the ministry three years later he addressed members of the press and wrote speeches for then Foreign Minister Tarō Asō and other national leaders including then PM Shinzō Abe.

While with the magazine he spent a stint in London, 1997-2000, as the magazine's correspondent. In 1999 the Foreign Press Association in London elected him President, the first from "the East of Suez." He spent sabbaticals at Princeton University as a Fulbright Visiting Fellow, at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, and at the Brookings Institution as a CNAPS Fellow.

For five years till 2013 he was Executive Adviser to the then Chairman of the Central Japan Railway Company, Yoshiyuki Kasai, while holding visiting professorships at Keio and Meiji University School of Global Japanese Studies.

He has authored or co-authored more than 10 books on international affairs. He has appeared live more than 250 times on BBC, Al-Jazeera English, CNN, CNA, etc.