

JFIR's New Research Project on

Japan's Diplomatic Strategy in the Age of "Multilayer Globalism"

In recent years, "liberal globalism," basis of the current international order, has come to be challenged by "non-liberal globalism" pursued by China and other emerging countries. Besides, "techno-globalism" of an unprecedented scale which is capable of fundamentally transforming human society is underway. Under the circumstances, Japan and other developed countries are faced with a challenge of world-historical moment: In this world of ever-increasing connectivity, how to embrace effectively the economic dynamism generated by emerging countries while maintaining the basic tenets of the current international order such as democracy, rule of law, free market economy, etc. With this awareness in mind, JFIR has just launched a three-year research project (FY2020-2022) on "Japan's Diplomatic Strategy in the Age of 'Multilayer Globalism'," which consists of the following six branches.



➤ **China Risk and China Opportunity in the Era of "Indo-Pacific"**

With the rise of China bringing both risks and opportunities to the international community, this branch explores how Japan and the U.S. can enhance policy-coordination toward China in order to minimize its risks and maximize its opportunities thereby realizing a "free and open Indo-Pacific".

➤ **Japan's Diplomacy toward Eurasia amid Ongoing Multi-polarization: From Perspectives of Geopolitics and Geoeconomics**

By clarifying ongoing process of "multi-polarization" of Eurasia driven by China, Russia, the EU and other players, this branch explores a course of action Japan should take toward Eurasia from perspectives of geopolitics and geoeconomics, bearing in mind a long-term goal of realizing a "free and open Eurasia."

➤ **East Asian Regional Cooperation in the Age of "Connectivity" for Sustainable Development and Japan's Contribution**

This branch explores the way regional cooperation in East Asia should be the role of Japan in its process, focusing on two aspects of connectivity: One is "positive connectivity" such as infrastructure development that is to be enhanced and the other "negative connectivity" such as the spread of infectious diseases that is to be reduced.

➤ **Multi-faceted Approach to Reinforcing a Maritime Order in East Asia: Shaping and Rallying Maritime "Public Opinion"**

With the maritime order in East Asia being disturbed by China's maritime expansion, more effective and novel approach is required than the conventional purely legalistic one, etc. Then this branch explores the possibility of fostering international maritime "public opinion," that is, the sharing of incentives among countries concerned to encourage voluntary cooperation in maintaining maritime order.

➤ **Strengthening Japan's Overall Diplomatic Capability: Possibility of Japan as a "Hybrid Power"**

In order to enhance further efficacy of Japan's diplomacy, this branch explores ways to clarify Japan's latent national power by introducing non-quantitative indicators of national power in addition to conventional quantitative ones, thereby seeking to improve Japan's "national brand" as may be called "hybrid power."

➤ **Domestic Factors in China's foreign behavior and Japan's Response**

This branch seeks to clarify domestic factors of China's foreign behavior, particularly its policy-making process, which is considered to be the frontier of Chinese studies, thereby deepening understanding of China's foreign behavior and empowering Japan's strategy toward China.