



Japan's foreign policy evolution, Global South aspirations and Malaysia's perspective

Malaysia-Japan relations forum

**Tuesday, 10 December 2024 | 0930-1200hrs
Auditorium, Level 2, ISIS Malaysia**

For decades, the US-Japan security treaty has been the cornerstone of Tokyo's foreign policy. Recent geopolitical and geoeconomic shifts have led to Japan taking gradual steps towards normalising its military, recognising the importance of self-reliance in countering external attacks. Japan has embarked on enhancing economic, social, defence and security cooperation with other nations to create a stable, rules-based international order. Japan's National Security Strategy (NSS) and Global South engagement are examples of such initiatives.

Malaysia has enjoyed warm and stable relations with Japan with a recent upgrade to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership status and as one of the early recipients of the NSS Official Security Assistance. However, divergences exist in perceptions of some key issues.

As Malaysia assumes the ASEAN chair in 2025, both nations are seizing the opportunity to align their strategic interests. Pursuing a harmonised Global South strategy and exploring avenues of cooperation will lead to a stronger ASEAN.

Programme

0930 Registration

1000 Opening remarks

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman
ISIS Malaysia

1010 Opening remarks

HE Noriyuki Shikata

Ambassador
Embassy of Japan in Malaysia

1020 Forum session

Moderator

Angeline Tan

Analyst
ISIS Malaysia

Speaker 1

Prof Tosh Minohara

Chairman
Research Institute for Indo-Pacific Affairs (RIIPA)
Japan

Speaker 2

Prof Dato' Dr Zakaria Ahmad

Pro-Chancellor
HELP University Kuala Lumpur

1115 Discussion and Q&A

1200 End

Profiles



Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman
ISIS Malaysia

Datuk Prof Faiz leads the institute's policy development and Track-Two diplomacy, including through the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC). He is also the Malaysian representative to the ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF EEP) meeting and Co-Chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). His diverse career spans media, law enforcement, education, corporate law and public interest litigation, as well as strategic and international affairs advisory to federal and state governments. He is the founding dean of Selangor Business School (UNISEL) and the author of books on jurisprudence, public policy and strategic management.



HE Noriyuki Shikata

Ambassador
Embassy of Japan in Malaysia

Prior to his present appointment, Ambassador Noriyuki served as Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office under Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. He had served in Japan's embassies in the US and UK as Minister as well as Deputy Chief of Mission in China. He possesses extensive experience in Japan-US relations, covering a broad range of security and economic issues. He is the former director-general of Economic Affairs Bureau and deputy director-general of Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Prof Tosh Minohara

Chairman
Research Institute for Indo-Pacific Affairs (RIIPA)
Japan

Tosh is the Professor of International Relations and Security Studies at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, Kobe University, where he holds a joint appointment with the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies. He is also the founder and chairman of the non-profit organisation RIIPA. He serves as a senior adviser to KREAB Japan, external adviser to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is a lecturer at the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, Command and Staff College, and the Global Tekijuku, Kansai Association of Corporate Executives. He recently published the Handbook of Japan's Foreign and Domestic Policies During the Decade of Abe.



Prof Dato' Dr Zakaria Ahmad

Pro-Chancellor
HELP University Kuala Lumpur

Zack is a Distinguished Fellow of the Malaysian Armed Forces Defence College and the Malaysian Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR). He has taught at Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, National University of Singapore, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and University of Ohio, where he was the Tun Abdul Razak Chair holder between 2000 and 2003. At UKM, he was Dean of Social Sciences and also headed Political Science and Strategic Studies. He has published extensively on politics and international affairs of Malaysia, ASEAN and Asia-Pacific.



Angeline Tan

Analyst
ISIS Malaysia

Angeline's research covers East Asia's international relations, with a particular focus on China. She is interested in China's foreign policy, Japan's strategic approaches to Southeast Asia and the impact of the US-China tech rivalry on the region. She contributed to "Focus in Continuity: A Framework for Malaysia's Foreign Policy for a Post-Pandemic World" published by the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 2021. She was a visiting research fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) in 2023.

