

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

# CHINA CHALLENGES AND THE INDO-PACIFIC

## Changing Regional Perspectives

Friday, 12 September 2025

3 pm - 5 pm

Room 301, Building No. 6, Seikei University



**Professor Rory Medcalf**  
National Security College,  
Australian National University



**Professor Jagannath Panda**  
Institute for Security & Development  
Policy / University of Warsaw

The Collaborative Research Project, 'China challenges and the Indo-Pacific: The prospects for a "free and open international order (FOIO)"', will organise an international symposium on Friday, 12 September 2025. Titled '**China Challenges and the Indo-Pacific: Changing Regional Perspectives**', this symposium will feature keynote speeches by Professor Rory Medcalf and Professor Jagannath Panda, internationally renowned scholars of Indo-Pacific strategies. The keynote speeches will be followed by a Q&A session, moderated by H.E. Mr Reiichiro Takahashi, the former Ambassador of Japan to Australia.

This symposium is supported by the Japan Association of Global Governance (JAGG) and the Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies (YCAPS).

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# Analysing changing regional perspectives in the Indo-Pacific and beyond

China's rise under President Xi Jinping has eroded American supremacy, placing enormous stress on the existing rule-based international order. As competition for hegemony and leadership in global governance intensifies, numerous initiatives are gradually shaping the future of the international system. Japan and other Indo-Pacific states have enacted strong countermeasures to uphold the international rule of law and respond to authoritarian challenges. Japan's vision for a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)' and a 'Free and Open International Order (FOIO)' exemplifies its resourceful response in addressing its concerns in a turbulent world.

Amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, this symposium—the second in the series—analyses changing regional perspectives in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Along with the war in Ukraine and the renewed Middle Eastern crisis, the post-Covid-19 period has witnessed an increasingly fluid international environment in which emerging players from the Global South have acted with a greater autonomy. The advent of such players in the global arena, however, has made it challenging for the Indo-Pacific Quad members to generate a coalition of like-minded states to counter and mitigate Beijing's hegemonic attempts. The arrival of Trump 2.0 seems to make this task even more difficult.

Delineated by unstable polarisation, current global settings pose both challenges and opportunities to advance Indo-Pacific strategies. What are the perspectives of Indo-Pacific states such as Australia and India? What strategic issues are at stake and what kind of regional and global prospects should we foresee? Where can the Quad members find trusted and resilient partners? With China's hegemonic ambition continuing unabated, is there a prescription for addressing a growingly uncertain world? This symposium will explore these and other pressing issues.

## REGISTRATION



To register for the symposium, please access the QR code. The seats are limited.

## VENUE

Building No. 6  
Seikei University

