

Stanford Japan Program at S-APARC

The Stanford Japan Program was formally established in November 2011, renewing the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center's commitment to this important field. As an integral component of the Center, SJP facilitates multidisciplinary, social science-oriented research on contemporary Japan, emphasizing both academic scholarship and policy-relevant research. The program aims to become a central platform for Stanford students and the broader community for understanding and engaging with Japan.

Research and Program Activities

Program activities include the Japan Colloquium Series, conferences to further cutting-edge research and address critical contemporary policy issues, and public seminars. The goal of Japan Program is to become an eminent platform to foster intellectual exchange among scholars, experts, top-tier professionals, politicians, and students.



Message from the Director



This is the inaugural issue of the *Stanford Japan Report*. The purpose of this newsletter is to summarize recent activities at the Stanford Japan Program of the Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center (S-APARC) in Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI) for the supporters of the program like you. We will keep you up to date with research by our faculty members and visitors, major projects at our program, and other notable events that we organized and will organize.

Nine months have passed since I joined FSI as the Director of the Stanford Japan Program. During the nine months, we have started some new projects and series of events. We have received a grant from Sasakawa Peace Foundation to create new channels for dialogues between leaders in

Japan and the U.S. on various important issues for both countries. More details of this project are found on page 2 of this report. We have also started Stanford Summer Juku on Japanese Political Economy, which brings together researchers on the Japanese politics and economy to enhance and deepen the network of Japan researchers in the United States (and hopefully beyond in the near future). More detailed report is found on page 3. Another new attempt that we started is the Japan Lunch series. The lunch series provide an opportunity for Japan researchers on Stanford campus (not only in social sciences but also in other disciplines) for informal discussion on their research. I was surprised to meet new Japan researchers on this campus almost every week. Stanford already has a critical mass of Japan researchers on which we can grow.

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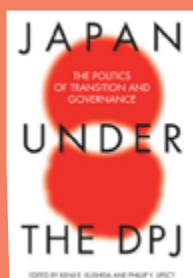
New Shorenstein APARC book

Just a couple of weeks after the defeat of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in the upper-house elections comes the timely publication of *Japan under the DPJ: The Politics of Transition and Governance*, a new book from the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, coedited by Kenji E. Kushida (Takahashi Research Associate in Japanese Studies) and Phillip Y. Lipsky (Thomas Rohlen Center Fellow).

Japan under the DPJ

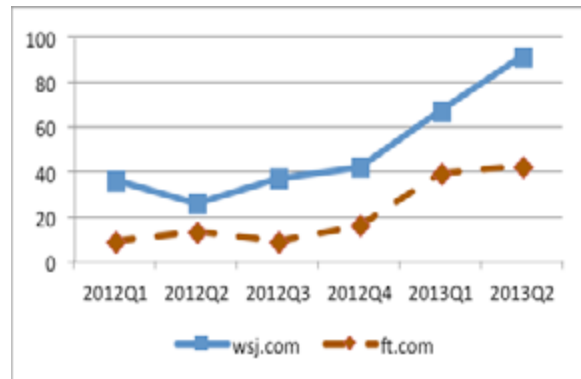
endeavors to explain the DPJ's rapid rise to power in 2009, examines the limited policy change that occurred while the party in power, and analyzes what led to the party's dramatic fall in 2012. The volume consists of 14 chapters addressing electoral structure, party recruitment and partisanship, DPJ domestic and foreign policy, and the DPJ's response to the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Japan under the DPJ is available for purchase now from Brookings Institution Press.



Indeed this is a good time to strengthen the Stanford Japan Program, because Japanese economy and politics has been attracting new attention from the rest of the world, thanks to Abenomics. The attached figure is taken from my recent paper on Abenomics and shows how the number of articles on the Japanese economy in Wall Street Journal and Financial Times increased since the current government started Abenomics. Although it is too early to tell if Abenomics will really succeed in pulling Japan out of stagnation, it has certainly changed the mood in Japan. Let us hope the future is bright for both Japan and our Japan Program.

Figure: Number of articles that include "Japanese Economy"



Source: www.wsj.com and www.ft.com

New Channels Project

Japan Studies Program at Shorenstein APARC has received a grant from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Japan for the New Channels Project.

The Project aims to broaden the dialogue and understanding between the United States and Japan and to reinvigorate the alliance with a focus on 21st century challenges faced by both nations.

Under the multi-year project, the center will lead a new bilateral policy dialogue on U.S.-Japan relations in the 21st century. The annual dialogue will be held alternately at Stanford

and at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Tokyo, between Japanese scholars, entrepreneurs, and policymakers and their American counterparts, mostly from the West Coast of the United States, with an emphasis on engaging the rising experts in both countries.

The dialogue will be supported by creation of a Sasakawa Peace Fellowship in U.S.-Japan Relations at Stanford University, based at Shorenstein APARC. This fellowship will bring top-notch scholars or policymakers to Shorenstein APARC for extended visits with responsibility for organizing

the annual dialogue.

The close U.S.-Japan relationship has endured for 60 years, a tribute to the shared interests and friendship forged in the aftermath of World War II between the two former foes. It now must reinvigorate itself in the new century to face not only the traditional challenges of security but also common concerns that both countries are now facing in the era of globalization. Stanford University and the Shorenstein APARC look forward to taking on the challenge of creating New 21st Century Channels between the U.S. and Japan.



Stanford Summer Juku

From August 18-22, the JSP welcomed scholars of political science and economics for the first annual Stanford Summer Juku on Japanese Political Economy

Scholars and researchers from Stanford University and universities across the country met from August 18-22 at Stanford University to present and discuss their research on Japanese Political Economy.

The main goal of the program is to attract young researchers who will go on to become leaders in the study of Japanese politics and Japanese economy in the near future. The Summer Juku is distinctive by allowing ample time for informational discussions and interactions beyond the standard presentations and discussions. Juku is a word most commonly associated with the modern Japanese cram schools, but here it actually refers to the private schools at the end of the Edo period, which attracted young, motivated students and ended up producing numerous leaders of the Meiji Restoration.

Scholars start each session of the four-day event with stimulating, brief presentations, which are followed by engaging, off-the-record discussion. The first two days focused on political science, while the second two days were on economics.

The presenters for political science were **Yusaku Horiuchi** (Dartmouth College), **Phillip Lipsky** (Stanford University), **Amy Catalinac** (Australian National University), **Kenji Kushida** (Stanford University), **Kay Shimizu** (Columbia University), and **Saadia Pekkanen** (University of Washington). Discussants for these presenters were **Amy Catalinac**, **William Grimes** (Boston University), **Gregory Noble** (University of Tokyo), **Yusaku Horiuchi**, **Saori Katada** (University of Southern California), **Christina Davis** (Princeton University), **Ulrike Schaede** (UC San Diego), **Steven Vogel** (UC Berkeley), **Jonathan Rodden** (Stanford University), and **Christina Davis** (Princeton University).

Following the second day, a conference dinner was joined by both political science and economics segment participants.

The presenter for economics sessions were **Ulrike Schaede**, **Hitoshi Shigeoka** (Simon Fraser University), **Thomas Cargill** (University of Nevada), **Koichiro**

Ito (Boston University), **Satoshi Koibuchi** (Chuo University), and **David Vera** (California State University, Fresno). Discussants for these presenters were **Robert Eberhart** (Santa Clara University), **Ayako Yasuda** (UC Davis), **Helen Poppwer** (anta Clara University), **Ken Kuttner** (Williams College), **Masahiko Aoki** (Stanford University), **Matthew Kahn** (UCLA), **Katheryn Russ** (UC Davis), **Mark Spiegel** (Federal Reserve Bank of SF), **Masami Imai** (Wesleyan University), and **Kelly Wang** (Federal Reserve Board).

Each day, the sessions finished shortly after two o'clock, leaving ample time for informal discussion and networking. Summer Juku participants could be found around Encina Hall and other parts of campus working on collaborative projects, exchanging information, and discussing ideas for future collaboration. We look forward to future collaborations hatched at this event, and are committed to further developing this Stanford Summer Juku as an ongoing activity at the Shorenstein APARC Stanford Japan Program.

APARC Visiting Fellow Alumnus Hirofumi Takinami won the upper house election in Fukui District.

Hirofumi Takinami who won the upper house election in the Fukui Prefecture is a proud alum of Shorenstein APARC. Takinami spent two years (2009-2011) at Stanford as a visiting fellow in the Corporate Affiliates Program at Shorenstein APARC while he was employed in Japan's Ministry of Finance. During his time here, he worked closely with APARC faculty, including former Ambassador to Japan and Shorenstein Distinguished Fellow Dr. Michael Armacost and Dr. Phillip Lipsky, on research that focused on the political economy of the financial crises in Japan and the United States. Takinami also co-authored a paper with Dr. Lipsky comparing financial crises response in Japan and the United States, which is forthcoming in the *Japanese Journal of Political Science*.

In the elections held on July 21, Takinami was voted in as a member of the upper house in Fukui District,

gaining over 70 percent of the votes, which is the largest vote margin in the history of the district.

Takinami is not only the first non-incumbent to be elected in 18 years, but also the youngest candidate ever to be elected in the district.



Recent & Upcoming Events

- **October 8 - Japan Colloquium Series**
“Japan’s energy policy and challenge”
Speaker: Hideichi Okada - 2013-2014 Sasakawa Fellow at S-APARC, Stanford University
- **October 9 - Japan Program & Asia Health Policy Program Seminar**
“Region-based v. Distance-based Information in Emergency Health Risk Communication: Evidence from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster”
Speaker: Hiroaki Matsuura - Departmental Lecturer in the Economy of Japan at Oxford
- **November 13 - Japan Colloquium Series**
“Towards a More Open Japan? TPP, RCEP, and Abenomics”
Panelists: Glen S. Fukushima - Senior Fellow at Center for American Progress
Hideichi Okada - Sasakawa Fellow at S-APARC, Stanford University
Phillip Lipsky - Thomas Rohlen Center Fellow, Stanford University
Moderator: Takeo Hoshi - Director of Japan Program at S-APARC, Stanford University

* Please register for our events at Japan Program website at jsp.stanford.edu *

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