

International Seminar
Securing the Seabed, Shaping the Seas: Undersea Infrastructure and the Geopolitics of Maritime Order in the Indo-Pacific

Organized by

Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), The University of Tokyo
Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan (GIF Japan)

This seminar explores how undersea infrastructure, naval strategy, and transformative technologies are reshaping Indo-Pacific security amid intensifying great power rivalry. Presentations offer novel research on when, where, and how critical seabed assets may be targeted during periods of tension, the strategic use of joint naval exercises, and the foreign policies of Japan and like-minded states. Additional topics include China and the maritime Global South, as well as India's maritime security strategy through the lens of "Securitizing" Growth and "Growing" Security. Join us for timely insights into the evolving contest over the seabed, and how polarity in the international system and competing visions of regional orders are redefining security on the high seas.

Date and Time: Thursday, April 24, 2025, 15:00 to 17:00

Venue: Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), The University of Tokyo, 4-6-1 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-8904, Japan

Provisional Agenda

15:00 - 15:10 | Opening Remarks

Prof. Satoshi Ikeuchi, RCAST, The University of Tokyo

15:10 - 15:25 | Keynote Presentation

Dr. Brendon J. Cannon, Associate Prof., Khalifa University and Mr. Kazuki Matsuo, Visiting Fellow, GIF Japan: "Mapping Threats to Undersea Cables"

15:25 - 16:10 | Expert Presentations (15 minutes each)

15:25 - 15:40 | Dr. Dattesh Parulekar, Assistant Prof., Goa University: "Maritime Security from a Strategic Indian Perspective"

15:40 - 15:55 | Dr. Jagannath Panda, Head, Stockholm Center for South Asian & Indo-Pacific Affairs, ISDP, Sweden; Prof., University of Warsaw: "Global South and Maritime Security by 2030"

15:55 - 16:10 | Dr. Yee-Kuang Heng, Head, Security Studies Unit (SSU), Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI) / Prof., Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP), The University of Tokyo: "Japan's Joint Naval Exercises"

16:10 - 16:50 | Panel Discussion and Q&A Session

Moderated by Prof. Satoshi Ikeuchi

Panelists: Speakers and Dr. Keizo Kitagawa, Captain, JMSDF (Ret); Prof. at the Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University

16:50 - 17:00 | Concluding Remarks

Dr. Mikiyasu Nakayama, CEO, GIF Japan; Prof. Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

17:00 | End of Seminar