



26 October 2026

Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan (GIF Japan)

ONLINE SEMINAR

Comparing Security Risks to Undersea Communication Cables: How Do Experts Assess Three Cable Systems in the Indo-Pacific?

Seminar Announcement

Undersea communication cables that support global communications have become an increasingly important security concern in recent years, amid growing international rivalries and concern about grey-zone activity at sea. Yet there has been relatively little empirical research into how experts assess the risks of deliberate interference with different cable systems, and how those assessments may vary with circumstances.

In January 2026, the internationally respected academic journal *Marine Policy* published a paper addressing these questions: [“Mapping undersea cable risk from bathymetry to geopolitics: Evidence-based rankings and tailored resilience strategies.”](#) The study was supported by GIF Japan, and GIF Japan interns also contributed to the paper. The researchers compared experts’ assessments of the risks of deliberate interference with three undersea cable systems connecting Japan and the United States, Guam and Hawaii, and India and Singapore. Of the 29 experts invited to complete a survey, 17 responded, and seven of those respondents participated in follow-up interviews. How do geopolitical tensions, different maritime zones, seabed topography, surveillance arrangements, and the availability of alternative communication routes influence experts’ risk assessments? And what similarities and differences emerge in their assessments of the three cable systems?

In this seminar, Dr. Brendon J. Cannon of Khalifa University, one of the paper’s authors, will explain the background, methods and findings of the research in a way that is accessible to non-specialists. What can we learn from the experts’ assessments, and how can these insights inform policies to protect undersea cables? He will offer his perspective on interpreting the findings and on practical measures involving cooperation among governments, private operators and neighbouring countries. Even those who have already read the paper will have an opportunity to hear directly from the author and ask questions. We welcome everyone interested in global infrastructure, international relations, security, telecommunications and international cooperation.

Event Details

Date and time	Wednesday, 25 November 2026, 2:00–3:30 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)
Format	Zoom webinar (online seminar)
Admission	Free; open to everyone
Registration	Please register in advance using the link below.
Registration URL	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_S3cYXfCMSja4-re3jqheWQ

Important Information

- The presentation will be delivered in English. Those who would like to follow it in Japanese may use Zoom’s automatic translated captions (English to Japanese). Questions for the speaker may be asked in Japanese.

- After the presentation, participants will be sent an English transcript of the lecture and a Japanese translation, both prepared using generative AI.
- Please note that when names are entered in Japanese, Zoom may reverse the given-name and family-name order in the registration confirmation email. We apologise for any inconvenience.
- Even if you cannot attend live, please feel free to register. Registrants will be informed afterwards about the availability of the recorded seminar.
- If you require a certificate of attendance, please request one using the post-seminar questionnaire.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Brendon J. Cannon



Associate Professor, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates

Dr. Brendon J. Cannon is Associate Professor of International Security at Khalifa University of Science and Technology (Abu Dhabi). He specializes in international security, geopolitics and emerging technologies, with particular expertise in the Indo-Pacific, the international structure of power, and the security of critical infrastructure such as submarine communication cables. He leads policy-relevant, externally funded research and contributes to international Track 1.5 and practitioner engagement.

His work has appeared in *International Affairs*, *Marine Policy*, *Geopolitics*, *Global Policy*, *The Pacific Review*, *Third World Quarterly* and *Asian Security*. He is co-editor of *Indo-Pacific Strategies* (Routledge, 2022) and *Conflict and Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific* (Routledge, 2020). Dr. Cannon holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Utah (2009) and is affiliated with the Balsillie School of International Affairs, the Institute for Security and Development Policy (Stockholm) and the Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan (GIF Japan).