

Bridging Borders: Triangular Cooperation for Regional Prosperity between the Philippines, India, and Japan

01 March 2024 (Friday) | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PHT)
Ballroom 1, Fairmont Hotel Makati

In 2016, Japan introduced the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) concept, which was subsequently adopted as a guiding framework for various Indo-Pacific strategies. The vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific is advanced through global public diplomacy with the objectives of ensuring maritime security while simultaneously establishing a prosperous economic order guided by international law. A dynamic partnership among like-minded partners such as the Philippines, Japan, and India are crucial as the Indo-Pacific is faced with evolving security and economic landscapes.

For Japan, its role as the chief architect of the FOIP positions it as a natural partner in maritime security. Its commitment to strengthening cooperation and promoting maritime security is illustrated in its initiatives under its Indo-Pacific Strategy. Similarly, India has been proactively pursuing regional growth and stability and forwarding a robust economic growth. It has begun to demonstrate commendable leadership in the Global South as evidenced by its stewardship of the G20 last year, the launch of the Indian Oceans Maritime Initiative and the Act East Policy in 2022 and 2014 respectively. Furthermore, Japan's National Security Strategy of 2022 and the Official Security Assistance (OSA) framework extend to strengthen armed forces and deepen security cooperation with ASEAN states, particularly the Philippines.

Security, especially maritime security, stands out as a key domain for cooperation within the Philippine-Japan-India triangularity. Recognizing the importance of protecting peace, prosperity, and geostrategic stability in the Indo-Pacific, it is imperative for the three states to continue exploring avenues for collaboration in both the security and economic domains.

Given the developments in inter-regional cooperation, the Stratbase ADR Institute, in partnership with Japan Foundation Manila, is organizing an international conference entitled, **"Bridging Borders: Triangular Cooperation for Regional Prosperity between the Philippines, India, and Japan."** This hybrid event will be held on **1 March 2024 (Friday)** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PHT)** at **Ballroom 1** of the **Fairmont Makati** and will be available via **Zoom**.

The event aims to engage in insightful conversations, nurture collaborative efforts, and, most importantly, play a vital role in cultivating a peaceful and stable maritime environment within the region. Together, the Institute aims to chart a course towards a more promising maritime future, emphasizing shared goals, cooperative strategies, and strengthened ties among the Philippines, Japan, and India.

PROGRAM

- 8:00 AM - 8:55 AM Registration
- 8:55 AM - 9:00 AM Start of Program/Live Broadcast of Zoom Webinar
- 9:00 AM - 9:10 AM **Introduction**
- Mr. Ben Suzuki (CONFIRMED)**
Director, The Japan Foundation
- 9:10 AM - 9:40 AM **Welcome Messages**
- Mr. Kenichi Matsuda (CONFIRMED)**
*Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of Japan in the Philippines*
- H.E. Shambu Santha Kumaran (CONFIRMED)**
Embassy of India in the Philippines
- Usec. Ma. Theresa Lazaro (CONFIRMED)**
*Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs*
- 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM **Keynote Address:**
India-Japan-Philippines: Is It Time for a Strategic Axis?
- Dr. Jagannath P. Panda (CONFIRMED)**
*Head, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific
Affairs, ISDP
Professor, Department of Regional and Global Studies,
University of Warsaw*

Panel 1: Assessing the Importance of Triangularity in International Relations and Indo-Pacific Security

- 10:00 AM - 10:10 AM **Assessing the Dynamics of International Relations and
Triangularity in the Philippines**
- Dr. Renato de Castro (CONFIRMED)**
*Trustee and Program Convenor, Stratbase ADR Institute;
Professor, International Studies Department, De La Salle
University-Manila*
- 10:10 AM - 10:20 AM **Japan's Strategic Role in Enhancing International
Security in the Indo-Pacific**
- Mr. Hiroyuki Akita (CONFIRMED)**
*Commentator on Foreign Affairs and International
Security, Nikkei*

10:20 AM - 10:50 AM **Panel Discussion**

Panel 2: Exploring Prospective Avenues for Enhanced Economic and Cultural Cooperation among the Philippines, Japan, and India

10:50 AM - 11:00 AM **Navigating Economic Challenges and Cultural Opportunities between Japan, India, and the Philippines**

Dr. Prabir De (CONFIRMED)

Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

11:00 AM - 11:10 AM **Beyond Bilateral: Visions for Trilateral Economic Connectivity**

Mr. Ryohei Kasai (CONFIRMED)

Visiting Associate Professor, Center for South Asian Studies, Gifu Women's University, Japan

11:10 AM - 11:20 AM **Triangular Cooperation: Advancing the Blue Economy Agenda in the Philippines**

Dr. Ronald U. Mendoza (CONFIRMED)

Committee Member, United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA); Senior Economist, Ateneo Policy Center

11:20 AM - 11:50 AM **Panel Discussion**

11:50 AM - 12:00 PM **Closing Remarks**

Prof. Victor Andres Manhit (CONFIRMED)

President, Stratbase ADR Institute

Host & Moderator: Joyce Ilas-Reyes

Communications and Advocacy Director, The Stratbase Group