

## **Japan's Path in a Turbulent Global Landscape: Navigating Declining Power Amidst Geopolitical Crises**

Amidst a turbulent global landscape marked by the war in Ukraine and heightened tensions in the Taiwan Strait, Japan faces the challenge of navigating its declining national power. With the United States no longer holding the influence it once had, Japan, as the largest allied nation in Asia, bears significant responsibility. How should Japan act in these uncertain times? Overcoming domestic divisions reminiscent of the Cold War, this keynote speech will explore the need for a pragmatic, realistic national strategy that positions Japan to effectively respond to the current geopolitical crises.

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Nobukatsu Kanehara served as Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from 2012 to 2019. In 2013, he became the inaugural Deputy Secretary-General of the National Security Secretariat, a role which he held until his retirement from government service in 2019. He also served as Deputy Director of the Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office. Mr. Kanehara's role in the Cabinet built on a distinguished career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he served in a number of notable positions, including Director-General of the Bureau of International Law, Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Policy Bureau, Ambassador in charge of the United Nations and Human Rights. He served abroad as Deputy Chief of Mission in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and Political Minister at the Embassy of Japan in Washington. He was decorated by the president of the Republic of France with l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur.