

ICHIRO FUJISAKI

Chairman of the Institute of International Relations, Sophia University, Japan,
Former Ambassador of Japan to the United States

Jim HOAGLAND

Our next speaker is the former Ambassador of Japan to Washington, Mr Ichiro Fujisaki.

Ichiro FUJISAKI

I've always said that the United States presidential election is a bit like a Christmas present. On Christmas Day, you might shout, "It's just what I wanted!", right? It wasn't exactly like that but in any case Mr. Abe was the first foreign leader to meet with Mr. Trump. They talked about the economy, their views of the world and relations with Russia, China, Korea, the Philippines and India. I think it was very important to bring Asia's point of view directly to Mr. Trump as early as possible. I think they will build a trusting relationship. Mr. Trump said on Twitter that this was the beginning of a great friendship.

I will now continue in English. I think Mr Trump's election was very different from all other elections I have seen before. That was a menu in short. There are so many different things on the menu. One wants to lose weight but one has a rich dessert. It does not add up. *The Economist* and *The Financial Times* have written that it is not logical. However, the important thing was that ordinary people do not read those magazines and those newspapers. It did not matter at all. He was able to sing a song; music that was good to each people.

Now it is time for him to cherry pick. I think that there will be three groups of policies.

- A. He will have to do it.
- B. He will have to modify and do it.
- C. He will postpone it.

Of these three groups, I do not know what will be in the first group. The second group, we are already seeing the wall is changing to fence, 11 million changing to two million. Maybe we could do that. Also about Obamacare, maybe that is going to be second group. We will have to see which one would go to group A, group B, group C.

As for foreign policy, maybe I am too optimist but I think relations with Russia and China will not change fundamentally. Even if there is a personal chemistry, the countries' relations are more important than personal chemistry. This does not change fundamentally. If you levy China, it is not only against the World Trade Organisation (WTO), your American consumer price would go up, American competitiveness would go down. You cannot do that so easily. As for Russia, you have more than 15,000 nuclear arsenals in both countries. You cannot just hug and forget about it.

In that case, on that premise, alliance is important to the United States. It is better to cope with others, not only by Americans but with allies. I think he is already indicating the importance of NATO, Korea, Japan to all those countries. We are going to continue to go along. There could be the discussion of burden sharing that could come up but the fundamental relations will not change.



Then what will happen? On three fronts, policy may have to be watched in the following areas: environment (as people already say), trade and the Middle East. More specifically, relations with Iran, accord with Iran, relations with Syria and Islamic State (IS) may change. I am personally watching these three elements, which are not that predictable at this juncture.

Regarding the whole system structure, I am a little bit optimistic. It will not collapse, shake or tremble as a lot of people now like to say. Of course, we still cannot paint a clear picture. However, I think we can be counting on his businessman's instinct or sixth sense saying which is better for America. I think the answer is obvious. Thank you very much.

Jim HOAGLAND

Mr Ambassador, thank you.