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The floor is yours, Yuichi. I should have mentioned the Quad when I was talking about acronyms, but fortunately Jean-Pierre did and the Quad was a Japanese initiative.

Yuichi Hosoya, Professor of International Politics at Keio University in Tokyo

Thank you very much indeed for having me in this session and also for maintaining the attention on the Indo-Pacific region, which is the most dynamic as well as the largest regions in the world, and that is why we have the largest number of people for this session. Thank you for mentioning the Quad, which as you said, is a Japanese invention as well as a concept for the Indo-Pacific and it is generally regarded as an invention of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

A lot of things have happened in the Indo-Pacific region in the last year as we are seeing two wars, one in Ukraine of course, and the other in the Middle East and we are now asking ourselves if another war will soon take place in the Asia-Pacific or Indo-Pacific region around Taiwan. I would like to focus my initial talk on four points. First, the possibility of contingencies around Taiwan has been repeatedly discussed in the last year, last month the Chinese government sent fighter jets to monitor and warn a US navy aircraft that flew through the Taiwan Strait. Naturally, many observers sensed the possibility of an outbreak of military conflict between the two powers. In Japan, in general we have been saying that there is little possibility of war because China is not Russia, it would be more rationale and more restrained, so the possibility is limited. However, we can still see some elements that could lead to the outbreak of war so we have to be careful about stopping this happening in the region.

On the other hand, both China and the United States have been looking for opportunities to talk at the highest level. It has been reported that President Xi Jinping will soon visit San Francisco to attend this year's APEC meeting, which would undoubtedly be a very good opportunity to ease the tension between the two great powers and so good news.

Third, Japan is the third largest economy in the world and has decided to double its defense budget to enhance Japanese deterrence in the region. This is mainly because the US government has repeatedly asked Japan to do this, and there are so many uncertainties and the regional powers must take more responsibility than before. Of course, the United States is becoming much more inward looking and we do not know who will be chosen as president next year, and that is why Japan must play a larger role in stabilizing the region.

Fourth, it is also important that Japan and South Korea have been improving their relationship, which is good news during a time of great concern and wars. I think this is essential trend, first because the United States' government has been trying to persuade the two governments to improve their relations. This is because US forces in Japan and Korea cannot work effectively without cooperation between the two governments. Finally, the missing part of the puzzle can



be found and the United States can effectively increase deterrence in the region with the improved relations between South Korea and Japan.

The US government has been trying to create cooperation between likeminded partners, of which the Quad is one. At a time when multilateral cooperation is really difficult, we need to rely more on cooperation between likeminded partners and mini-lateralism, which of course means AUKUS and the Quad as well as the G7. I think that by enlarging this type of cooperation we can remedy many of the problems we are now facing and in this sense Japan can provide many elements to bring stability to the region by enhancing deterrence. Japan is also providing inclusive regional concepts, such as the Indo-Pacific, which is a huge, inclusive regional concept based on the free and open Indo-Pacific strategy, which has been driven by the Japanese government, as well as the CPTPP, the largest free trade area in the region. I think that Japan can do something to bring stability to the region with these inclusive visions.

John Andrews

Thank you, very much. It is interesting that in a sense America's policy in the region overhangs everything and one does wonder how policy might or might not change if Donald Trump were to be the next president, though Biden has continued much of Trump's policy towards China. It is interesting you brought up the question of the need for Asian powers to take more responsibility, which is very important.