

Event Report

June 24-25, 2015 Venue: The Canon Institute for Global Studies (CIGS)

Global Allies: Comparing Alliances in Europe and Asia

Co-Organizers: CIGS/Australian National University

Sponsor: Public Diplomacy Division, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

This project aims for envisioning regional security order both in Europe and in Asia, through comparing alliances in both regions. It examines alliance perceptions, expectations, dynamics and management from the point of view of eight allies of the United States – four in Europe, four in Asia. It builds a comparative and comprehensive picture of the current status and future prospects of these alliances by bringing together leading analysts of security and alliances in each of the eight countries examined: Germany, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Australia.

As previous wartime adversaries transforming into core components of postwar U.S. alliance strategy, Germany and Japan are key examples of how the challenges related to Washington's strategic management of global structural change have evolved and are evolving. Poland and Thailand are 'frontline states' in NATO and the United States' Asia-Pacific alliance network in Southeast Asia, respectively, and both represent unique examples of how allies with complex domestic political situations affect overall alliance perceptions and identity. The geography of Denmark and Norway are increasingly critical to NATO's response to the intensifying strategic dynamics in the Baltic region while South Korea remains the critical fulcrum to the San Francisco system's viability in Northeast Asia. Australia (along with Japan and South Korea) is a Major Non-NATO Ally that has become a major lynchpin for the United States' re-balancing and Indo-Pacific strategic initiatives.

The project's aim is to explore the implications and potential impact of what contemporary events attest, but what allied European and Asian governments often ignore: that the health of any particular alliance is increasingly affected by dynamics within other alliances operating in other regions. By calibrating the result of the First Workshop in Tokyo, participants will bring the final draft of their respective chapters to the Second Workshop to be held in Berlin, Germany in early 2015.